

Friday, February 9, 2018

Called

Genesis 13-14

... There Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Genesis 13:4b

Genesis continues to reveal the life of Abraham and that as his relationship is developed with God, so is his character. In times of great decision, where do I go? Abram shows us a great example of where to go for wisdom and guidance. He calls on the name of the LORD. As he returns to the land that God said would be his, he returns to the place he first worshiped and He once again seeks the LORD.

Abram's faith and knowledge of God is growing. He is learning who God is. To call on the name of the LORD is to turn to Him for direction. It means I recognize all that God is and all that He stands for, and that I release my agenda to His. As I call on the name of the LORD, I am consciously submitting my will to His (remember Jesus, in Luke 22:42). I am stopping to allow Him to lead and guide. There will be major events that happen in Abram's life. He will move under God's blessing (14:19) because he recognizes God as Most High (14:22). This moves me to find regular times and places to call on the name of the LORD Most High, and submit my will to His.

Dear Lord, please help me to call on Your name often and regularly. Take my will and make it fully Yours. Help me to surrender all that I am and all that I have to You and to watch for Your leading and guiding amidst the daily distractions of my life. Amen.

February 5 - 10, 2018

Saturday, February 10, 2018

Sees

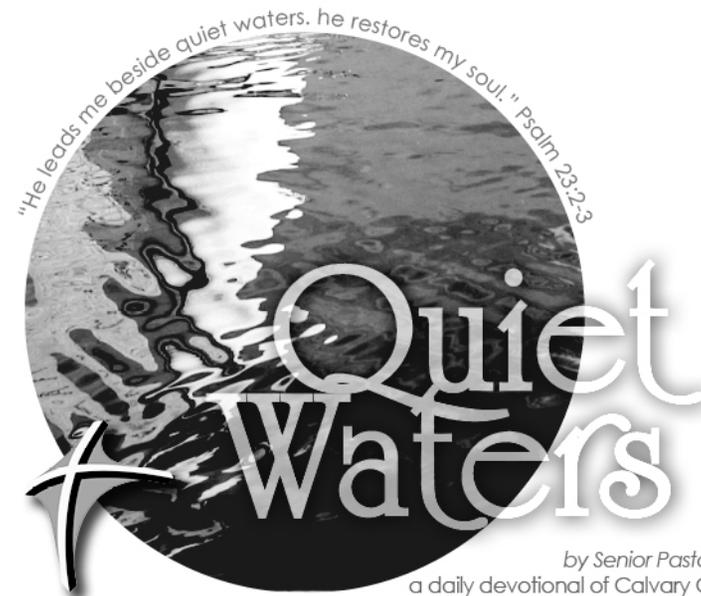
Genesis 15-16

She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."

Genesis 16:13

God sees Hagar in her moment of deep despair. She gives Him a name that has brought comfort to countless people since then. EL-ROI: God of seeing. The God who sees me. God sees me. God sees the circumstances in Hagar's life. She is a maidservant—a slave. She is one who must obey what she is told. I cannot even begin to imagine all the emotions in the lives of Abram, Sarai, and Hagar. I try to imagine all that was happening (beyond the obvious) that would have caused Hagar to despise Sarai. Eventually, all began to feel hopeless. Decisions had been made that caused angst and conflict and there was no apparent resolution. Hagar fled in despair. God saw the entire situation as it unfolded. He saw every tear, every thought, every inclination of every heart involved, and He saw how it would fit into His plan. God revealed Himself to Hagar and let her know that He had seen what was happening. He did not "fix" the issue. He just let her know that He saw it, and told her that He was sovereign over it. That brought her peace. I must learn to rest in the fact that God sees everything that is happening in my life and He is working it out for His good. He sees me.

Dear Lord, please bring peace into my life knowing that You see me—and every other person, situation, and circumstance. Remind me often of Your sovereignty. Amen.



by Senior Pastor Chuck Cervenka
a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, February 5, 2018

Well-pleased

Genesis 5-6

Enoch walked with God; and then he was no more, because God took him away. Genesis 5:24
Enoch walked with God for 300 years. The Septuagint translates this as “well-pleasing.” For 300 years, Enoch was well-pleasing to God. The same is said of Noah in 6:9. Both men were recognized specially by God because they were well-pleasing to Him.

Enoch was so well-pleasing to God that God just took him away! No indication whatsoever is given that Enoch or Noah had any sort of motive for being well-pleasing to God other than an understanding of who He is. They were well-pleasing to God in an era when that would require great faith. They stand as stellar examples for me. I long to be well-pleasing to God. I long to know Him well and to quickly serve Him when He leads. I want my life to be all about Him so that He is my every breath and thought. I want Him to know that He can count on me. If He needs me to stand for Him when no one else will, I will do everything just as God commands me (6:22). I wonder how many others have been “taken away” just because they were well-pleasing to God? Sometimes we have a hard time understanding the working of our mighty God, but I trust that He is caring deeply for each of His adopted children.

Lord, please help me live in such a way that I am well-pleasing to You. Please see the desire of my heart to be walking closely with You in every moment of the day. Amen.

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Offerings

Genesis 7-8

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood.”

Genesis 8:20-21

The sacrifices that Noah offered moved the heart of God. Perhaps it would be better to say that the heart with which Noah offered the sacrifices moved the heart of God. God judges motive. The first thing Noah did when he left the ark was to build an altar and offer sacrifices to the LORD.

Romans 12:1-2 calls me to be a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is the offering I am called to bring—myself on the altar. It allows me to demonstrate that I trust myself fully to God. I recognize that He is in control. My heart belongs to Him. I give it to Him freely and fully. This is the type of offering I can bring that will move the heart of God. This is true worship. That is why many times, as I contemplate the privilege of bringing this offering, I burst into songs of praise to my Rock and my Redeemer. He is exalted, the King is exalted on high. I will praise Him with my offering.

Dear LORD, how I praise you for your unfailing and never-changing love for the creation You have made. Thank you for considering my offerings as a sweet aroma. I pray that You find my heart given over fully to You in my offering of praise. Amen.

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Covenant

Genesis 9-10

And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come. I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

Genesis 9:12-13

God made this covenant. It is a promise, based upon His faithfulness, that He will never again destroy the world by a flood. It is a reminder for Him—but also for me. When I see a rainbow, wherever that may be, I am reminded of the faithfulness of God. I am reminded that He has made a promise—initially to Noah, but all humanity is included. God will never again destroy all life by a flood. But also, I am reminded that God judges sin. God does not say that the rainbow is a reminder that He is no longer concerned about sin. Indeed, He is—so much so, that He sent His Son to take that penalty. God’s promise reminds me that He values His created ones. By His grace and mercy, He reaches out to us. By His righteousness, holiness, and justice, He requires repentance and obedience. The rainbow reminds me of both. The rainbow also calls me to remember that there will come a final day of judgment that will purify all creation. It impacts how I live. It is not a license to sin, which would be a misunderstanding of God’s promise; rather, it is a reason for respect and awe.

Dear God, thank You for Your promise. Thank you for being a God who is trustworthy. Thank You for demanding holiness and for giving the means for that to happen. Amen.

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Worship

Genesis 11-12

... “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the earth.”

Genesis 11:4

So, here is the issue of worship at its core. God calls me to worship Him and my flesh wants only to worship myself. The tower was being built to directly oppose the command of God. He had said that the people should spread out. They were building the tower so they would not have to obey. They were worshiping their own thoughts and desires. They were looking to make a name for themselves, when the only name that matters is the name of the LORD. How many times I am tempted to make a name for myself instead of placing the spotlight on the name that is above all names. How will I worship God? How will I worship Him alone? How many times have I started building a tower of my own thoughts that are in opposition to God. What are my towers of disobedience? I must tear them down so that I can worship my sweet, precious God in spirit and in truth and in obedience.

Dear Lord, please show me all the areas in my life that place me in opposition to You. Show me the towers of disobedience in my life and lead me to the beautiful adoration of You for which I have been designed. You alone are worthy of my praise and my worship. Amen.