

Sunday Gathering

Someone Else, Exodus
4:1-17 - Bradley Bell

June 11, 2023

Exodus: Wooded in the
Wilderness

Call to Worship - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

The week sometimes has a way of beating us down, doesn't it? We leave the Sunday gathering with our faces lifted up, really believing that God is proud to be our Father. But within a few days—sometimes a few hours—our heads are hung low again, feeling like God is ashamed of us.

So listen to these words, written by Paul, but breathed out by your heavenly Father:

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Church, it is not the weak, empty-handed person who is shamed in the presence of God. It is the person who is too strong and wise to need God. Take a moment and open your hands. Look and see that they are empty. Now hear this simple and yet profound call to worship:

Bring your nothing.

Father, we come to you with empty hands, ready to be filled.
We come to you with downcast faces, ready to be lifted up.
Remind us of your calling. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.

Look And See

Confession - Psalm 25:2; 31:1; 71:1

Brothers and sisters, the shame of rejection that comes from other people can be hard to outrun. Sometimes harsh words that are spoken to us become the harsh words that we speak to ourselves:

"Who do you think you are?"
"What is wrong with you?"
"Why can't you be more like..."

But when we come to the Lord, acknowledging our shame, admitting that we are on the run again, he picks us up and puts us on his shoulders as a loving Father.

There is a refrain sang over and over in the book of Psalms. As an expression of running to our Father, let's make it our prayer this morning:

O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame.
Psalm 25:2; 31:1; 71:1

Jesus Strong And Kind

Only A Holy God

Sermon - Exodus 4:1-17

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

All I Have Is Christ

Benediction - Hebrews 11:16; Isaiah 6:8

You may be seated. Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus.

Family Groups - We invite you to visit one of our Family Groups, which meet in homes throughout the week. We describe them as "intentional environments to be transformed by the gospel through relationships. If you would like to join one of them, there is info in the hallway, or talk with one of us, and we'll make a direct connection for you.

Giving & Visitors - Also, now is our time for giving—ushers, please come forward. If you are a visitor with us this morning, please grab a visitor card from the basket so we can get to know you more. You can give it to someone with a lanyard or leave it in your seat.

Antioch members, remember that giving is part of how we participate in God's mission. If you prefer to give digitally, visit our website or find us on GivApp.

Announcements

For everyone, here are a few ways to take the following steps:

- 1) Grenada Team Giving - This summer we are sending a team to support the ministry of Jason and Kari Crigler in Grenada. Rather than having a fundraiser for this team, we are asking the church to donate to the team fund. You can do that through GivApp or by check.
- 2) Food Pantry - Food Pantry is this Saturday. This is a great opportunity for families and family groups to serve our neighbors. Please arrive by 9:30.
- 3) Records - We are looking to update our records (many of you have info that is very outdated). Please fill out our form via this QR code, or on Facebook, or by email.
- 4) Youth camp - Finally, our youth are headed to camp this Friday. For our benediction today we want to invite the congregation to join in praying for them.

[prayer]

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

You are sent.
