

Sunday Gathering

Father and Son, Exodus
4:18-31 - Bradley Bell

June 18, 2023

Exodus: Wooded in the
Wilderness

Call to Worship - 1 John 3:1

Happy Father's Day! This is a special day because—no matter if you are a father or not—we have all been impacted by biological and spiritual fathers in our lives. They are a living picture of the strength, protection, and leadership of God.

To the fathers in our midst—we give thanks for you today! You are gifts from God. Your impact is immeasurable.

We also want to acknowledge that this can be a difficult day for some of us. It can be a reminder of childlessness, singleness, neglect, abuse, broken relationships, empty nests, and fathers who have passed. These things are worthy of lament, and God the Father enters the sorrow with us.

Whether you find yourself celebrating, grieving, or both, let's join together in this moment to rejoice in our heavenly Father. Hear these words from 1 John 3:1 and say the underlined portion with me:

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

And that is what we are!

Rejoice

Confession - Nehemiah 9:9, 16-21, 31

Even though we have the title and privileges of being God's children, if we are honest, we spend a lot of time struggling to live that way.

We stiffen our necks to his commandments.

We doubt his faithful love.

We despair that we are really his beloved sons and daughters.

We forget that we were made to worship him and him alone.

But thanks be to God, he does not forsake his children in the wilderness.

Let these words from Nehemiah 9 encourage you. Read the underlined portion with me.

You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry... But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments. They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt.

But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.

Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, 'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt', and had committed great blasphemies,

you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness.

The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.

In your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God. Nehemiah, 9:9, 16-21, 31

Run To The Father

His Mercy Is More

Sermon - Exodus 4:18-31

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

Oh The Deep Deep Love

It Was Finished Upon That Cross

Benediction - Matthew 25:34

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 was this Saturday. We served 40 families (155 individuals) with this outreach.
- 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. If you did not get an email last Sunday this mean your email is not correct in our system and you need to update it.
- 4) Youth camp - Finally, our youth are at camp this weekend. we ask you to pray for them this weekend as well as those who have gone to help.

Please stand with me. We begin each gathering with a call to worship and end with a benediction, which is simply a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing. I invite you to open your hands in a posture of reception:

Church, God has come for us through the ancient people of Israel, through the true Son, Jesus Christ. Go now, you who are blessed by the Father, to worship and serve him day by day.

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.
