

THE MESSENGER

Weekly Publication of First Baptist Church, Clanton, Alabama (205) 755-3840
"Leading others to know Jesus Christ"

Rev. Matthew DeBord, Pastor

August 30, 2018

Treasuring His Word...

From the Pastor's Heart:

And the word of the LORD came to *Elijah*, saying, "Go away from here and... hide yourself by the brook Cherith... And it shall be that you shall drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there." So he went and did according to the word of the LORD... and the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he would drink from the brook (1 Kings 17:2-6).


When God directs us to do something, He has already provided all that is necessary to sustain us in the process. This passage of Scripture very specifically says that God "commanded" ravens to provide for Elijah. Sometimes God uses the most unusual things to accomplish His work. Not only would we be surprised that birds would bring food to a person, and enough "bread and meat" to sustain Elijah, but ravens were categorized with buzzards in the book of Leviticus as far as being "unclean." Often, we feel not only the most unlikely person to be qualified and equipped for any given task, but frequently we feel incredibly unworthy to serve the Lord in any capacity, because of our sin. But God, in His grace and in His power, can use anything and anyone He so desires. The blood of Jesus covers all our transgressions, and the filling of His Holy Spirit empowers us to do that which we could otherwise never do.

And when we do respond to God's call to be obedient, we can trust that He has already "commanded" that we will be sustained. We simply must trust God day by day knowing that He has everything worked out. For instance, Elijah may have wondered where God went when the ravens quit coming and the brook dried up, but God simply was redirecting Elijah's life in a way Elijah did not expect. "Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you" (1 Kings 17:8-9).

Now, not only was it seemingly unlikely for God to use the ravens to provide for Elijah, but also it was unthinkable that God would use a poor widow to sustain him. Certainly, Elijah was going to need help, for God had sent him to the center of Baal worship, the very god against whom Jehovah was sending this famine. The Sidonians' king was Jezebel's father, and they blamed the famine on Elijah and his God. But again, God had "commanded" this widow from Zarephath to provide for Elijah. Zarephath comes from the Hebrew word meaning "smelting pot" or "refining." God was in the process of refining Elijah for further work He had for him to do. Sometimes God will send you down a very unlikely path, to an unlikely place, or to an unlikely person, either to minister to them, or to help you to grow (or both). But if you will simply do what God calls you to do, He will command whatever is necessary to keep His promise to sustain you. You can trust Him! Do whatever it is He is calling you to do. Go wherever it is He is sending you. You'll be glad you did! For only then will you experience what God alone can do! If anyone had an excuse not to take on a difficult calling, this poor widow did. Yet, she was obedient, and God used her, a poor widow with nothing, to sustain Elijah. What's your excuse?



Week of Prayer
Sept. 9th-16th



STAYING IN SANCTUARY THIS FALL

Morning Worship will continue in the Sanctuary this Fall! Certainly, our desire would be to get too crowded because of increasing worshipers, but we are trying this new fall location and welcome your feedback as we all get a sense about our corporate worship experience, and our ability to engage first-time visitors. Our general plans will be to return to the Christian Life Center on January 6.

POSSIBLE NEW STAFF MEMBER The Personnel Committee is considering adding a staff member, a "Ministry Associate," to assist in the area of Senior Adult ministry and the possible support of other various ministries. Please help us pray that God will give us clear direction in this process. If you or someone you know is interested in overseeing our Senior Adult Ministry, and possibly assisting in some other areas, resumes can be submitted to the church office. The Personnel Committee will begin examining candidates in October.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018	WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5, 2018
8:15 A.M. - ORCHESTRA PRACTICE	5:00 P.M. - FAMILY SUPPER
9:15 A.M. - SUNDAY SCHOOL	5:30 P.M. - AWANA
10:30 A.M. - MORNING WORSHIP	5:45 P.M. - PRAYER MEETING
6:00 P.M. - NO EVENING SERVICE	6:30 P.M. - CHOIR PRACTICE
7:00 P.M. - NO SNAC	6:30 P.M. - E3 STUDENT MINISTRIES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2018	
OFFICE CLOSED	Peace by Piece meet every 1st and 3rd Friday @ 9:00 a.m. in the Campbell Bldg.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018	
6:30 P.M. - STITCH 'N PRAY	

DEACONS OF THE WEEK:
GERALD CARTER, BOBBY BOOZER

CHURCH SECURITY:
RODNEY HURST'S TEAM