

Sermon: The Beforeness of God

February 21, 2021

Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-19

I. God had _____ Namaan a plan so he could find the one true God. (1-3)

1. God had taken care of Nathan through His providential care. (1b)

2. God provided a messenger who helped Naaman find the way to his salvation. (2-3)

II. God _____ Namaan to Elisha. (5-7)

1. God directs Elisha to Namaan. (8-10) Isaiah 65:24

IV. Namaan learns that it was _____

_____ that cleansed him. Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-10

V. Gods purpose for his cleansing was to provide Naaman with the faith _____. 2 Kings 5:15-19

Thought for the day Sometimes it appears that the world and even our lives are totally out of control. God tells us in **Isaiah 65:24** ²⁴ And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; And while they are yet speaking, I will hear. In Charles Spurgeon's Faith Checkbook we read: *"The Lord hears us BEFORE we call and often answers in the same speedy manner. Foreseeing our needs, and our prayers He so arranges providence BEFORE the need actually arises. He has supplied it; BEFORE the trial assails us He has armed us against it. This is the promptitude of omniscience, and we have often seen it exercised. BEFORE we dreamed of the affliction which was coming, the strong consolation which was to sustain us under it had arrived."* In other words, God has provided what we need before the problems arise. This means that no matter what we are going through God has already provided what we need to get through it. In fact, he designed it for us so we could grow to be more like Jesus. Some folks may say wait a minute; my dilemma is of my own making. Of course, God did not entice you to sin, but he allowed you to sin so that eventually you would realize you need Him. Life can seem to be cruel but if we realize we are in the palm of God's hand, that He is our place of refuge, we can begin to hope. Knowing I belong to Him and He has already applied His beforeness to my situation should drive me to a conscious contact with Jesus so I could discover what He provided before. That contact will provide me the assurance that I am about to receive a blessing of grace from Him. **Pastor Bruce**

What's happening with our Youth Ministry today?

Junior Disciples: AM Church Service

Today we are continuing curriculum called "The Core". Over the next year we'll be learning about the 8 "roots" of discipleship, Apologetics, Community, Identity, Kingdom, Knowledge, Outreach, Rescue and Worship. This week we'll continue in our "community" root. To become a rooted disciple of Jesus, you need to be discipled and eventually disciple others. How is being a disciple different from hanging out with other believers or going to church? What does it mean to be a disciple? This lesson focuses on the importance of discipleship and includes some biblical instruction on becoming a disciple of Jesus. Students will be asked to take intentional steps toward making discipleship an important part of their community.

There is also a parent's guide that goes along with these lessons that includes activities your families can do to continue learning during the week. Please let me know if you are not receiving my emails.

Senior High Youth Group: Thursday Nights at 7 PM

On Thursday nights our senior high youth group will be meeting in the youth building. Right now we are working through a study in the book of James with Francis Chan. In the study he unpacks the dense truth contained in the book of James in front of the iconic backdrop of San Francisco, the city where he lives and ministers. Through 12 sessions, Francis works through James verse-by-verse, challenging followers of Christ to move beyond a private, intellectual knowledge of God and His Word, to a vibrant faith that impacts every square inch of life.

There's a place
Where mercy reigns and never dies
There's a place
Where streams of grace flow deep and wide
Where all the love I've ever found
Comes like a flood comes flowing down
Chorus
At the cross at the cross
I surrender my life
I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You
Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white
I owe all to You I owe all to You (Jesus)

There's a place
Where sin and shame are powerless
Where my heart
Has peace with God and forgiveness
Where all the love I've ever found
Comes like a flood comes flowing down

Chorus
Here my hope is found
Here on holy ground
Here I bow down here I bow down
Here arms open wide
Here You saved my life
Here I bow down here I bow (down)

Chorus

At The Cross (Love Ran Red)