

Prayer Updates



"Loving the Flawed Blessing"

Message by Craig Barnes, August 5 & 6, 2006

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES UPDATE

Roberly Bedayan – cancer treatment at Stanford
Gloria Daniel – surgery following accident, hospitalized in Hawaii
Don Eppenbach – lung surgery
Darlene Fitts – surgery complications
Roni Walker – complications from cancer treatment in Chicago

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS /SURGERIES

Beth Duckart, Candi Whitney, Ian Tupper, Jerry Zamzow, Kelly Welty, Linda Crabb, Matthew Powell, Nancy Bittinger

JOY & BLESSINGS

Marvin & Linda Lawrence celebrate the birth of their first grandchild, Kaitlin Tommie born on June 22nd to David & Gloriana Lawrence.

HOSPICE CARE

Jane Evers

PRAY FOR "40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY" OVERVIEW WEEKEND

September 23-24, "Even good resources need God's power to change lives!"

"Whenever God determines to do a great work, He first sets His people to pray." – C.H. Spurgeon

Do you or someone you know need a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministers are now available to encourage individuals who have experienced a crisis or loss in their lives. If you know someone who could benefit from this ministry, please contact our Pastor of Care, Gary Williams, gary@tlc.org or 465-3395. Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of training.

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups – call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.

Genesis 29:1, 10–12, 15–20

⁴ Then Jacob went on his journey, and came to the land of the people of the east.

¹⁰ Now when Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of his mother's brother Laban, and the sheep of his mother's brother Laban, Jacob went up and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of his mother's brother Laban.

¹¹ Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and wept aloud.

¹² And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's kinsman, and that he was Rebekah's son; and she ran and told her father.

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?'

¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

¹⁷ Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful.

¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.'

¹⁹ Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.'

²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her."

Genesis 29:1, 10–12, 15–20

Notes:

Daily Meditations

Brief daily devotions based on this week's topic

You'll find the Memory Verse at the bottom right corner so you can conveniently cut it out and keep it.

Monday

Read Genesis 29:1–15. What is most striking to you in this story? Why?

Look back over your notes from the weekend's sermon. Write down three ways you can apply what you learned this week to your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How have you seen God bless you in unexpected ways or through unexpected people?

Think about your life right now. Is there a situation or person in your life right now that looks like a "Leah" to you? What steps will you take to choose to show love in the way God has loved you?

Thank God today that He loves you unconditionally. Talk to Him about your struggles to see the "Leahs" in your life as blessings. Pray that God will increasingly shape your heart and love to reflect His.

Tuesday

Read Hebrews 4:14–16. What encourages your heart as you read these verses?

How can you apply these verses to your attitude toward the "flawed" blessings in your life?

Each one of us is a "flawed" blessing that has gained favor through the grace of God. How has God's grace changed you? How can you pass that grace on to those around you today?

Thank God for His amazing love and grace that He's lavished on you. Thank Him for the sympathizer that you have in Jesus. Pray that you will live with an awareness of the grace that has been lavished on you and that God will use you as a conduit of that grace in the lives of others.

Wednesday

Read Hebrews 11. As you look over this chapter what connection do you see between faith and flawed blessings? What does that teach you about how God works in our lives?

Pick one of the people mentioned in Hebrews 11 and write down how God used their flawed blessing to grow their faith. (If you're not sure of their stories, pick one name, look it up in your Bible's concordance and read their story.) Think about your life right now. How do you think faith in God could impact your perspective?

Wednesday (continued)

Thank God today for His sovereign control. Sit still before God for a few minutes and pray about the things in your life that you view as flaws right now. Ask God to use those to strengthen your faith in Him.

Thursday

Read 1 Peter 2:4-12. According to these verses, what is God's view of you?

How do these verses give you hope?

These verses eloquently describe our position with God. How can this truth help you as you face the unexpected in life?

Thank God today that He is unchanging. Thank Him for the position you enjoy through Jesus' work on the cross. Pray that you will find your identity in Him, not in life's circumstances.

Friday

Read Psalm 118. What key phrases strike you in these verses? How do those encourage you today?

What role does thankfulness have when it comes to impacting your attitude?

How does this passage speak to embracing "flawed" blessings?

Think about the people in your life right now. Who can you encourage with the truth of this passage today?

Thank God today for His enduring love and the refuge He offers you. Pray that as you encounter the many blessings of life—in all their shapes and sizes—that you will rely on God's enduring love and find your hope in that. Ask God to use you as an encouragement in people's lives today.

Saturday

Please finish up any devotions you may have missed and polish up the memory verse. Please pray for the services this weekend, that Ray Johnston would be an encouragement to the church and that we would be effective in reaching Santa Cruz County with the message of God's transforming grace.



Memory Verse

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:16