
CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES



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SEPTEMBER 21, 2025
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

I. SERMON RECAP

In his sermon, Elder Carl Littlefield shared a heartfelt and humorous account of his life journey, emphasizing the power and purpose of divine disruptions. He began by recounting personal anecdotes, including his early academic struggles, a lighthearted confession of grazing on cherries before buying them, and a humorous dream about his selection for the elder board. These stories served as a prelude to the deeper message of how age and life's unexpected turns can provide profound opportunities for growth and reflection, tying in biblical examples like Jacob's and Aaron's stories from the Old Testament that highlight God's faithfulness in using the old and seemingly insignificant to accomplish His purposes.

Carl pivoted to the concept of preparedness—both spiritual and in everyday life. He underlined the importance of being literate in the Word of God to withstand life's temptations and trials, drawing parallels with Jesus's preparedness against the devil's temptations. Carl also spoke on the dual nature of life's interruptions, distinguishing between divine disruptions and those caused by the enemy, illustrating with the calming of the storm narrative from the Gospels. He encouraged the congregation to focus not on the storms themselves but on Jesus, the master over the storms, who provides purpose and growth through these trials, using his own recent health scare as a testament to this truth.

Concluding the sermon, Carl implored the congregation to be change agents in a world often resistant to spiritual truths. He emphasized the significance of being prepared to meet God, drawing on signs from his childhood that urged him to prepare and repent. Through prayer and a call to action, Carl invited individuals experiencing personal disruptions to find solace and strength in Christ, the change agent and redeemer. His closing prayers and invitation for commitment encapsulated the hope that attendees would seek a deeper, revitalized relationship with God, equipped to confront life's disruptions with faithfulness and assurance.

Chapters

Chapter 1: The Importance of Preparation

We are called to be prepared for various challenges in our spiritual journey.

Chapter 2: Understanding Divine Disruptions

God often uses disruptions in our lives for a greater purpose.

Chapter 3: Personal Testimony and Application

A personal experience of facing a health crisis demonstrates the peace that comes from being prepared.

Chapter 4: Call to Preparedness and Action

We are encouraged to be prepared and to prepare the way for others, especially the next generation.

II. STUDY GUIDE

Key Points

- Be prepared for spiritual battles and temptations
- Recognize that divine disruptions often have a purposeful intent
- Trust in God's plan, even during challenging times
- Maintain spiritual literacy and understanding of God's word
- Focus on Christ rather than the storms of life
- Prepare the way for future generations in faith
- Understand that Christ is actively preparing good things for believers

Key Scripture

Hebrews 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, [leaning] upon the top of his staff.

Isaiah 46:4 And [even] to [your] old age I [am] he; and [even] to hoar hairs will I carry [you]: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver [you].

Ephesians 6:11-15 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places]. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Job 19:25-26 For I know [that] my redeemer liveth, and [that] he shall stand at the latter [day] upon the earth: And [though] after my skin [worms] destroy this [body], yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.

2 Timothy 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Psalms 27:3-5 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this [will] I [be] confident. One [thing] have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

James 1:14-15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Genesis 3 (Eve and the forbidden fruit)

Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (Be ready to give an answer)

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Matthew 3:3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things [are] honest, whatsoever things [are] just, whatsoever things [are] pure, whatsoever things [are] lovely, whatsoever things [are] of good report; if [there be] any virtue, and if [there be] any praise, think on these things.

Psalms 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Matthew 24:12-13 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to [him], and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

Matthew 8:23-27 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to [him], and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and

the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

Matthew 14:22-33 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

Other Relevant Scripture

Preparation: Luke 12:35-40

God's disruptions for our good: Jeremiah 29:11

Trusting God in trials: James 1:2-4

Salvation and Jesus saving: John 3:16, Acts 4:12

God's faithfulness: Lamentations 3:22-23

Spiritual warfare: 1 Peter 5:8-9

God's love and mercy: Ephesians 2:4-5

Being change agents for Christ: Matthew 28:19-20

III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

Day 1: Preparing to Meet God

Question: How do you personally interpret and respond to the signs 'Prepare to meet thy God' and 'Jesus saves' in your own spiritual journey?

Reading: Amos 4:12-13, Hebrews 11:1-6

Devotional: The call to "prepare to meet thy God" echoes through our lives, just as it did for Carl as a child seeing roadside signs. Unlike the fear it once instilled, this preparation should now fill us with hope and anticipation. God isn't a menacing monster waiting around the corner, but a loving Father eager to embrace us. Today, reflect on how you're preparing your heart to encounter God.

Are you cultivating a spirit of readiness through prayer, studying His Word, and living in obedience? Remember, faith is the foundation of this preparation. As Hebrews reminds us, without faith it's impossible to please God. Ask the Lord to strengthen your faith and help you live in a state of spiritual readiness, eagerly anticipating His presence in your daily life.

Day 2: Facing Life's Disruptions

Question: In what ways have you experienced divine disruptions in your life, and how did they shape your faith or perspective?

Reading: Job 1:13-22, Romans 8:28

Devotional: Life is full of disruptions, some divinely orchestrated, others the result of living in a fallen world. Job's story reminds us that even the most faithful can face overwhelming losses and challenges. Yet, in the midst of his suffering, Job declared, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." This unwavering trust in God's sovereignty is a powerful example for us. When facing your own disruptions - whether health issues, relational conflicts, or unexpected setbacks - remember that God is still in control. He can use even the most difficult circumstances for good.

Today, identify an area of disruption in your life. Pray for the strength to trust God's plan, even when you don't understand it. Ask for eyes to see how He might be using this situation to draw you closer to Him or to refine your character.

Day 3: The Transforming Power of Christ

Question: In what ways can we be 'change agents' for Christ in our communities, and how do we prepare for potential resistance?

Reading: Mark 4:35-41, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Devotional: The story of Jesus calming the storm illustrates His power over nature, but it also reveals His ability to transform fear into faith. The disciples' terror in the face of the tempest gave way to awe at Christ's authority. Similarly, our own "storms" - whether literal or metaphorical - can become

opportunities for Christ to reveal His power and presence in our lives. Consider a current challenge you're facing.

How might Jesus be using this situation to transform your faith? Remember, when we belong to Christ, we are new creations. The old has gone, the new has come. This transformation isn't just a one-time event, but an ongoing process. Invite Jesus to speak peace to the storms in your life today, and to continue His transforming work in your heart.

Day 4: Prepared to Give an Answer

Question: What does it mean to you personally to be 'literate in the Word' and how can this literacy impact our daily lives?

Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-17, Colossians 4:5-6

Devotional: Peter's exhortation to "always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have" challenges us to deeply understand and articulate our faith. This preparation goes beyond memorizing Bible verses; it involves allowing God's truth to permeate every aspect of our lives. As you interact with others today, be mindful of opportunities to share your faith. This doesn't mean forcing conversations, but rather being ready when questions arise. Reflect on your own journey with Christ.

What key experiences or truths have shaped your faith? How can you express these in a way that's gentle and respectful? Ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and courage to be a faithful witness, both in your words and in the way you live your life.

Day 5: Finding Peace in God's Presence

Question: How can we cultivate a sense of peace and preparedness in the face of life's storms, as exemplified in Carl's experience before surgery?

Reading: Psalm 23, John 14:25-27

Devotional: The image of God preparing a table before us in the presence of our enemies is a strong reminder of His provision and protection. Even in the midst of life's challenges, God offers us a place of peace and abundance in His presence. Jesus echoes this promise when He says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." This peace isn't dependent on our circumstances, but on our connection to Christ. Today, intentionally create space for quiet communion with God. Picture yourself sitting at His table, surrounded by His love and care.

What anxieties or fears do you need to surrender to Him? How can you carry His peace with you throughout your day? Ask God to help you cultivate a deeper awareness of His presence, finding refuge and strength in Him no matter what you face.

IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Small Group Guide: Prepared for Life's Disruptions

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways

1. We need to be prepared for spiritual battles and temptations.
2. Disruptions in life can come from God (for our growth) or from the enemy.
3. God's disruptions in our lives always have a purpose for our good.
4. We should focus on Christ, not on the storms or disruptions in life.
5. As believers, we are called to be change agents and prepare the way for others.

Discussion Questions

1. The speaker mentions the Boy Scouts' motto "Be Prepared." How does this relate to our spiritual lives? What areas do you feel you need to be better prepared in?
2. The sermon talks about divine disruptions. Can you share an experience where a disruption in your life turned out to be for your spiritual growth?
3. How can we distinguish between disruptions that come from God and those that come from the enemy or our own poor choices?
4. The speaker shares his personal experience with heart surgery. How did his perspective on being prepared to meet God change from childhood to adulthood?
5. What does it mean to be a "change agent" for Christ in today's world? What challenges might we face?

6. The sermon emphasizes the importance of parents and grandparents in "preparing the way" for the next generation. What practical steps can we take to do this effectively?
7. How can we maintain focus on Christ during life's storms, rather than becoming overwhelmed by the circumstances?

Practical Applications

1. Spiritual Preparedness: Commit to a daily practice of reading Scripture and prayer to "put on the whole armor of God."
2. Disruption Reflection: When facing a disruption this week, pause and ask, "What might God be teaching me through this?"
3. Family Discipleship: For those with children or grandchildren, plan one intentional activity this week to share your faith or discuss spiritual matters.
4. Change Agent Challenge: Identify one area in your community or circle of influence where you can be a positive change agent for Christ.
5. Storm Focus: Create a visual reminder (e.g., a small boat or anchor) to place somewhere visible, reminding you to focus on Christ during difficulties.

Closing Prayer

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The women's brunch that was scheduled for last Saturday has been moved to this coming Saturday, September 27th.

Mike Armistead resumes his class on Christian apologetics this Wednesday, September 24. He will be presenting on the Shroud of Turin with a full 12-foot replica!

Circle the date Wednesday, October 1st. Remember, dinner is served at 5:00 and activities follow. Here's what's going on:

The Recovery Alive class starts up again! Recovery Alive is a 12-week book-based study that is designed to help resurrect hope through the power, people, and the process of the 12 steps. It intends to reach those who are wounded move beyond their hurts, habits, and hang-ups to experience the true freedom in Christ.

Pastor Joel also starts his new 4-week class, "Crucial Conversations for Parents and Grandparents." Here's what he had to say about it: In this 4-week series, we will be tackling 4 crucial conversations that we need to be equipped for and consistently engaging with, whether they are with our kids at home, our adult kids, or our grandkids. We will be talking about Technology, Bitterness, Forgiveness, and Restoration, Alcohol and Substance Abuse, and Gender, Sexuality, and Marriage.

The Whisper Mountain father-son retreat is October 3-5. This is for fathers and grandfathers to go on and grow closer to their sons and ultimately grow closer to God.

Following that, there is a men's retreat they are calling The Men's Sleepover Adventure Camp, goes to show boys never really do grow up! This camp also takes place at Whisper Mountain and is intended to allow personal growth in each Man's relationship with Christ.

For questions, comments, or concerns email Info@cbchighlands.com or call the church office. Also don't forget to nominate an Elder!