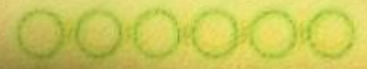




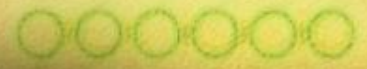
**He Will Come and
Save You**

September 9, 2018 | Wonderful Mercy



Texts from the Revised Common Lectionary

- Isaiah 35:4-7a & Psalm 146
- **Isaiah 35:4** NIV
“Say to those with fearful hearts, ‘Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, ... he will come to save you.’”
- **Psalm 146:3, 5** NIV
“Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. ⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.”



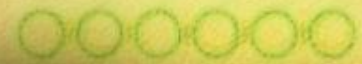
A Great Truth: Life Is Difficult

“Life is difficult. This is a great truth, one of the greatest truths. It is a great truth because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it. Once we truly know that life is difficult—once we truly understand and accept it—then life is no longer difficult. Because once it is accepted, the fact that life is difficult no longer matters.” [M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Travelled*, New York: Simon and Schuster, © 1978, p. 1.]



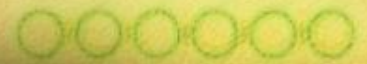
A Great Truth: Life Is Difficult

- The notion that life is difficult disputes the fundamental message of the prosperity gospel which falsely advertises that if you name it, you can claim it
- Optimism is a good and a powerful thing, but there is a difference between optimism and deception
- Fact: not every ending to our life stories in this world is a good one, no matter how masterfully we dress it up with happy thoughts



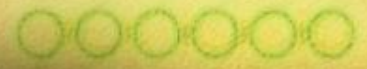
“God, You’re Asking Too Much!”

- **Psalm 60:11** NKJV
“Give us help from trouble, for the help of man is useless.”
- “Help. Help us walk through this. Help us come through. It is the first great prayer.” [Anne Lamott. *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. New York: Penguin Publishing Group. © 2012, p. 15.]



The Critical Importance of Honesty

- There is no valor in pretending; there is no spiritual nobility in making a positive faith confession that requires us to fake it until we make it
- Too often our positive faith confession is simply the telling of a religious lie



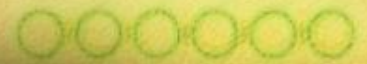
The Critical Importance of Honesty

- **Jeremiah 20:17b-18** NLT

“Oh, that I had died in my mother’s womb, that her body had been my grave! ¹⁸ Why was I ever born? My entire life has been filled with trouble, sorrow, and shame.”

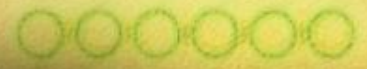
- **Psalms 25:17-19** NLT

“My problems go from bad to worse. Oh, save me from them all! ¹⁸ Feel my pain and see my trouble. Forgive all my sins. ¹⁹ See how many enemies I have and how viciously they hate me!”



The Critical Importance of Honesty

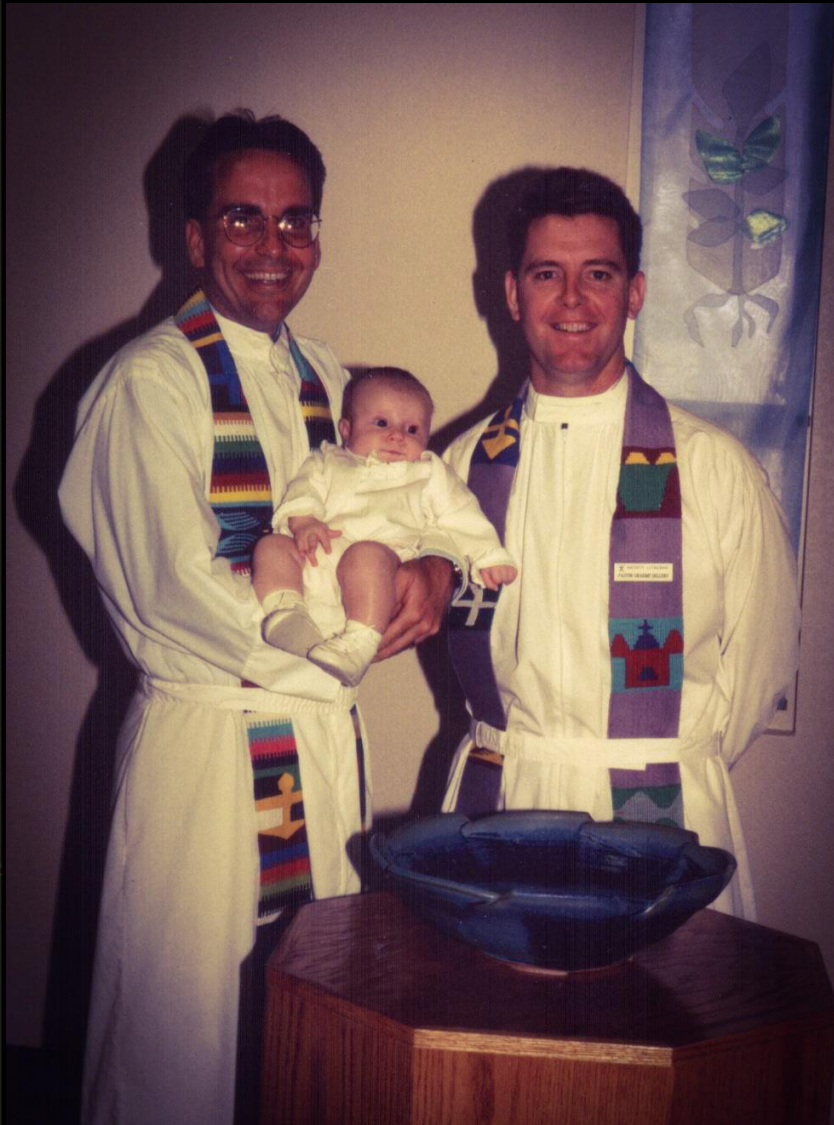
- **Luke 22:42** NIV
“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”
- Don’t confuse life with God; life is unfair, God is not
- **Romans 8:28** NIV
“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”



The Critical Importance of Wisdom

- When we're in the narrows we must attend to these instructions: "Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men who cannot save." (Ps. 146:3)
- There's no hole so deep we can't make it deeper by false human solutions, no circumstance so dire that it can't be made worse by fixes that are no fixes at all

“Do not put your trust in princes...”



David Housholder's Observation

“We drove up here Thursday and I sensed something here which I have not sensed in North America. Now that might sound dramatic. But it's true. What you folks have done here is, you've dug a very deep well. God supplies the groundwater of his Holy Spirit, the living water, but he doesn't dig wells. Digging wells takes time and cultivation. And you guys have been digging deeper and deeper and deeper. And repairing the walls of the well. And you have a very deep well in this place, spiritually speaking. Invite people here. You might be surprised what happens to them.” [February 4, 2018]

Deliverance Is Coming

- Only God can save us from trouble we're in. And he will
- Be advised: it may not look like we hope or expect
- **Psalm 20:7** NIV
“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.”
- St. Augustine: “Christ, you see, was going to come in the flesh—not an angel, not an ambassador; but ‘he himself will come and save you.’” [Sermon 293.8, *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture – Old Testament X: Isaiah 1-39.*]



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