

Praying for the Jail



by Dawn Reed
E. Ky. Columnist

"The devil reigns supreme here," he said matter-of-factly. I didn't write it down but knew I wouldn't forget it. I'd never heard anyone say such a thing before.

The year was 2006. My friend, Tanya, and I were in a training for volunteer chaplains at a women's prison in our county. Those in the room hoped to be allowed to do

Bible studies with the female inmates there.

The chaplain/instructor went on to say that the inmates were filled with despair and hopelessness. Satan (I refuse to capitalize his name) had been enjoying the environment.

After an intense training (they told us there would be negotiations if we were ever taken hostage), and a tour of the facility, we completed paperwork for background checks.

I don't know if you realize it or not, but in 2019, the devil is reigning supreme at many county jails and prisons, STILL. When John 10:10 says, "... the enemy seeks to steal, kill and destroy," it is no joke. When he can make people feel helpless and hopeless, when he can make people feel bound by darkness, when he can make them desperate for drugs and violence-even while incarcerated, then he has done his job well.

Each week, our Jail Min-

istry team sees lives in ruin. Inmates are in tears, going through withdrawals, defeated and in denial. We can't sit idly by and let it go on without some kind of action! I ask you, implore you, BEG YOU to join us in prayer for God to make a change!

All through the Bible, people sought for God's intervention in crisis. Elijah prayed on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18), Joshua called the sun to stand still (Joshua 10), but the story of Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20 is my favorite.

Three armies were coming against the people of Judah. They had no hope-except in God. Jehoshaphat called them all together, old and young, to the temple to pray. Not to fight, not to escape, but to stand firm with their eyes on God... pleading for His intervention.

He is the same God of the Bible, yesterday and today! He can still move mountains! He can still bring life where there is death! He can still make a change against all odds!

And so, we stand on the outside of a brick and cinder-block building, yearning for a work of God on the inside. The inmates, who have made bad choices, are not lost causes. In Luke 4:18, Jesus said, "I have come to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners..." That freedom may not mean to be released, but it does mean freedom from despair; from the influence of Satan!

Please pray with me, from your couch, your desk, your car. (Feel free to find your local jail/prison and march or drive around the building a time or two as you pray.)

1. Pray that God would give inmates and employees a hunger and a thirst for Him and His Word.

2. Pray the God would bind the evil one and break down the plans of Satan there.

3. Pray that God will raise up teachers and preachers to share the gospel in jails and prisons, that many would hear

and receive Jesus.

4. Pray that God would heal the emotional wounds of the incarcerated and deliver them and their families from drug and alcohol abuse.

5. Pray that employees will be wise, courageous and honest as they press on each day.

Proverbs 24:10-11 instructs, "If you do nothing in a difficult time, your strength is limited." Similarly, Edmund Burke stated, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good men to do nothing."

Let's NOT do nothing! There IS something we can do! We can ask God to intervene... and believe that He can make a change! May He shake the foundation of each institution, just as He did in Acts 16!

In Isaiah 46:8, the LORD said, "You heavens above, rain down my righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up..."

Do it, LORD... LET. IT. RAIN.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Timothy in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who said, "Lo, I dwell in a house of cedars but the ark of the covenant... remaineth under curtains."? David, Nathan, Saul, Solomon
3. From Numbers 12, why was Miriam shut out of camp for

seven days? Ungodly act, Leprous, Fasting, Lent

4. Who took David in as his own after the slaying of Goliath? Jonathan, Solomon, Saul, Eliakim
5. From Mark 10:27, Jesus said, "For with God all things are..." Righteous, Forthcoming, Pure, Possible
6. Upon which mountain did Aaron die? Kor, Carmel, Pisgah, Sinai

Answers on bottom of Page 12

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in stores and online.

Expelling the Lord

by BOB CASEY, preacher
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As I try to write this article, I have allowed my mind to wander back a few years to my school days and trying to recall the events that helped shape my life to some degree. One of the things that stands out is that some of the classmates were not very easy to associate with; maybe it was due to their home life or the temperament of their parents, only God knows.

But, there were some that stood out in my mind that simply refused to obey the rules of education or the oversight of their teachers. These, it seemed, were bound for trouble in the future; and, it came to pass to be true.

So, in the course of attempting to bring peace and order, sometimes the only way to prevent this was to expel or drive them away by authority, or dismiss them altogether. Then, they usually were noted and never forgotten by their classmates; so, many carried this burden throughout their lifetime.

When Cain was disobedient, resentful, and jealous of his brother Abel, this eventually led to his murdering his brother. Genesis 4 holds the complete story.

Then, upon being exiled or expelled, he said something that should resonate in the ear of all mankind, "My punishment is greater than I can bear." (Genesis 4:13)

Friends, being expelled by teachers is one thing, but then, another thing is, that even some children have been expelled by their own father and mother. This rejection was the cause of the cries of Cain, but still it happens, simply because someone may not like the rules of life and authority, then install their own rules.

This will not work in earthly life and it certainly does not work with God and Christ as well. Jesus

said in John 6:38, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." Friends, the Bible is God's instruction book to the world. Christ completed this book of God's rule by coming to this earth as his personal ambassador. Simon Peter said in John 6, verse 68, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." One day Jesus will come again to rule and reign as the Judge of all Mankind. (2 Corinthians 5:10 says so).

And, on that day, rewards shall be given to those who have faithfully and obediently followed the rule book. But all those who have been rebellious and rejected the rule of our Lord will be eternally expelled and rejected from ever enjoying the blessings of eternity with Almighty God. Sometimes, in our school years, someone may have been expelled for only a few days as a lesson, teaching that rules are to be followed. And many have returned and became good students after suffering rejection for a time. Our God is this like-minded to all his children. Some may have begun by obedience and then strayed away for a time, but the Lord in his loving kindness kept the welcome mat available to them if they desire to return and practice obedience. There may be some of you who have been, or even now are in this expelled situation.

There is a remedy for this that God has provided. God said in Malachi 3:7, "ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts." And in Jeremiah 15:19, "If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me."

Friend, our Lord offers redemption through obedience from sin and death, and He offers restoration unto forgiveness to all who have wandered from Him.

He is still calling for your return today. How long will you tarry in your exile? Don't be caught being in a state of 'being expelled' when Jesus comes or death overtakes you.

If we can be of help, we would welcome the opportunity. Call us at 1-859-369-4165.

Sincerely, Bob Casey, (1-859-369-4165), local

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands.

PSALM 90:17



Detail of "Cumaean Sibyl in a Landscape" by Agostino Veneziano (1516)

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The Good Ship Earth

Chorus
Welcome aboard, the Good Ship Earth
What a mighty vessel she is.
Sailing on and on, always staying on course;
How great her Captain must be.

Through the sea of time, and the sea of space,
Nothing stands in her way.
And the sun and moon, and stars above,
Light up her journey each day.

Not everyone on board, is a passenger;
For the Captain needs a good crew;
Those willing to do good, and love one another,
But it seems He can only find a few.

In no port, will this ship ever be;
Someday her builder, will burn her at sea.
But the crew will be saved, and put on board,
A luxury liner bound for eternity.

Written by Price J. Rawlins

Americanisms



"Remember, we all stumble, every one of us. That's why it's a comfort to go hand in hand."
— Emily Kimbrough

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

PSALM 68:19-20

Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death.

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A P R A I S E T G T
S A B F R O M T H N

Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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Seeds of Hope



The Psalmist wrote: "Glorious things are said of You!"

John Newton once was a slave trader. After becoming a Christian he became a powerful preacher, a leader in the fight against slavery and a famous hymn writer.

One of his hymns contains the Glorious Things!

"He whose Word cannot be broken" reminds us of the faithfulness of God - a centerpiece of the Psalms. In psalm after psalm we hear the echo of God's faithfulness giving strength, hope and encouragement to the children of Israel. Though they often abandoned God and at times paid a dear price for forsaking Him, He was there each time they called on Him and immediately answered

their cry.

"Well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove." There never was a time in their history that God did not feed them, go before them or watch over them. When they looked to Him for forgiveness, and repented of their sinful ways, His mercy met them at their point of need and His blessings followed. He was with them to meet their needs, remove their fear and grant them the desires of their heart.

"Grace which, like the Lord, the Giver, Never fails from age to age." If there ever was a time in the history of our nation that we needed to be reminded that God's grace would "never fail" it is now. Everywhere we look, we see a need for His love, mercy, grace, salvation and our nation's restoration. It is not His glory that has vanished - it is our unwillingness to share His grace with others.

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