

Sunday Gathering Liturgy

Bless This Mess, Genesis
30:1-24 - Bradley Bell

June 27, 2021

Genesis 25-36: Learning to
Limp

King Of Kings

Call to Worship - Isaiah 30:18-19

One of the most common things that keeps people from coming to church—or being excited about coming to church—is a sense that God is waiting to pounce; that he's been keeping close tabs on all your mistakes and he can't wait to let you have it. But listen to these words spoken to people who were on the run from God:

Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you,
and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.

For the Lord is a God of justice;
blessed are all those who wait for him.

For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. Isaiah 30:18-19

So it seems like God really is waiting to pounce—in order to capture you with his grace. He is looking for people who will cry out to him, so at the beginning of today's gathering would you take a moment where you are and in your heart cry out to God? Tell him you came today because you want his mercy. Tell him to capture you again with his grace. Tell him whatever's in your heart this morning...

Lord, we believe that as soon as you hear our cries, you answer us.

Now church, let's sing to the One who shows us mercy...

His Mercy Is More

Confession - James 3:14-17

We read this in James 3:

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. James 3:14-17

Church, a world ruled by Satan is simply unable to be peaceable, gentle, open to reason, and full of mercy. But when the family of God allows bitter jealousy and selfish ambition to exist in our hearts, we too invite the presence of Satan to reign in our midst. Take a moment to let God examine your heart and reveal any way that you have been desiring what belongs to another...

Now let's pray this together:

O God, be merciful to me—
I am a sinner through and through!
My only hope of righteousness
Is not in me, but only You.

All I Have Is Christ

Springtime

Pastoral Prayer - 1 Timothy 2:8

Sermon - Genesis 30:1-24

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Nothing But The Blood

Living Hope

Announcements & Benediction - John 1:16

Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! If you tuned in by livestream, we're so glad, but we would encourage you if you are physically able to come and worship with us in person.

Giving - While we are sharing a few important next-step announcements, we are going to pass our giving baskets. Church, the giving of our finances to the work of the church is an important part of how we worship God. If you're a member of Antioch we ask you to give generously and cheerfully. If you're a visitor we ask you fill out a visitor card from the basket and give it to one of us at the end of the gathering. And if you're not a Christian, we're not asking for your money—this gathering is our gift to you!

Family Groups - Also, this gathering is only one part of the life of Antioch. We would love to have you in one of our small groups that we call Family Groups, which meet in our homes. There is more info at the visitor entrance and on our website, but better yet talk to one of us.

9 AM classes - We will take a break from all 9 AM classes next Sunday in light of the July 4th holiday. We will return to schedule on July 11th with part two of Growing in Healthy Relationships. If you missed the first part today, you can still come to part two!

MCT - Missionary Care Team is a ministry of our church that leads us in caring those whom we have sent to proclaim Christ among the nations (we call them distributed members). Our next meeting is this Thursday, July 1st @ 7 PM. And we are going back to our pre-Covid format of meeting in person at Lynn and Suzanne Groce's house. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please see Robbie Gouge, our Pastor of sending, if you want to know more about this ministry.

Family Meeting - Lastly, two weeks from today we will hold a Family Meeting, which is essentially a business meeting for our covenant members. It will take place here at the building on July 11th from 5-6pm. This will take the place of your usual Family Group meetings that week.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and we end with a benediction, which is a reminder that we have been blessed to be a blessing. If you would like to receive this benediction, I invite you to open your hands before you.

Church, Jesus Christ entered into your mess so that he might bless you with grace upon grace. May you go into families torn apart by bitter jealousy and selfish ambition, and invite them into the family of God. (based on John 1:16)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Let's say this together: We are sent.
