



On the Same Page

Jacob said, “Lord, God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, ... I don’t deserve how loyal and truthful you’ve been to your servant. Genesis 32:9-12 (CEB)

A Developing Direction

Forever-Family Fellowship

We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever

All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, **we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long.** What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. **We will show you how to interact with and respond to God’s Word, both as individuals, and in groups.**

Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. **We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.**

Loyal and Truthful

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Fear can be a wonderful tonic. And Jacob was now afraid. After years of daring, risking, scheming - in situations where ought to have been afraid, now he anticipates meeting his big brother, Esau, whom he had tricked and cheated years before. He is afraid for his personal safety and that of his family. And so, he prays.

I’ve been marking man’s verbal engagements with God recorded in the Bible - Biblical prayers. What is remarkable about Jacob, son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham, is that the many chapters recording his activities reveal no prayers until this late point in his life. Now we know that the Bible does not reveal every detail. But I find it remarkable, and wonder if the record were to reveal the patterns of our own lives, how prevalent prayer would be.

[In this late-season prayer, Jacob is amazed at God’s loyalty and truth.](#) Let’s take the latter quality first. To be sure, Jacob should be amazed at God’s tightness with the truth, given Jacob’s looseness with it. God keeps his promises, and Jacob has been the recipient of those promises, at least to this point. But whoever has dealt with Jacob has no assurance what he can count on after Jacob has spoken. Again, simple application, do we play fast and loose with the truth? Do we shade the truth, or leave out key details in order to be deceptive? It does not make sense that a person who truly values the God of Truth would de-value truth in his/her own life.

And then with regard to loyalty, we find Jacob again surprised. Jacob has lived a me-first type of life. That kind of person has a loyalty chiefly to himself, which is not really what the term means. True loyalty is a faithfulness to something or someone other than yourself - to wife and family; to a job or task; to a cause or mission; to God. Jacob has failed in all of these areas out of self-centeredness. But God, amazingly, has not given up on Jacob. He has not discarded him into the trash heap of history, though one would think it justified. But God’s Word determines His loyalty, and His loyalty directs His Word.

I find these word of Paul to Timothy about Jesus intriguing: “It is a trustworthy statement: [For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.](#)” (2 Timothy 2:11-13 NAS95).

Jacob is at a crossroads. Will he cling to his loyal God, or will he continue in the path of a deceitful denier? And what about you?

from the autobiography of Hanserd Knollys (an early Baptist), called “The Life and Death of that Old Disciple of Jesus Christ,” published in London, 1692

My wilderness-mercies, sea-mercies, city-mercies, and prison-mercies afforded me very many and strong consolations. The spiritual sights of the glory of God, the divine sweetness of the spiritual and providential presence of my Lord Jesus Christ, and the joys and comforts of the holy and eternal Spirit, communicated to my soul, together with suitable and seasonable scriptures of truth, have so often, and so powerfully revived, refreshed, and strengthened my heart in the days of my pilgrimage, trials, and sufferings that the sense, yea, the life and sweetness thereof abides still upon my heart, and has engaged my soul to live by faith, to walk humbly and to desire and endeavor to excel in holiness to God’s glory and the example of others.

The Collected works of Hanserd Knollys, edited by Pitts and Roldán-Figueroa, Mercer, 2017. p.197.

News and Notes

Prayer Time: Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary

Ladies Bible Study meet on Tuesdays, 10 a.m., in the sanctuary, studying Matthew’s Gospel.

Circle of Grace ladies fellowship next meets on Tuesday evening, March 6.

Awana meets on Wednesday evenings, 6 - 7:30 p.m for ages 3 through 8th grade. The **Awana Grand Prix** is coming up soon: Wednesday, February 21 (weigh-in, Tues, Feb 20)

Elders and Deacons dinner and meeting will be Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.

We would like to invite interested people to join **Milford Baptist’s Facebook prayer page** (search ‘Milford Prayer’) - a user-by-permission forum to post/read church family prayer requests.

Please note the church’s phone number: 248-717-3564

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.



This Sunday, February 11, we think about “The Spirit of a Disciple,” as Jesus remarks to his crew, “You don’t know what spirit you are of” (Luke 9).

Last Sunday, February 4, we took another step with the disciples and their participation in Jesus’ mission. In an age of personality-cults, we must see Jesus as a class and character above all others. Listen to the message here.

Sunday School for adults and children each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. Adults are studying themes related to the upcoming morning message. Children are studying stories from the life of Daniel.

[Milford Baptist Website](#)

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