

March 22, 2020

Welcome

BAY RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Biblically Based. Christ Centered. Caring Community.

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Today's Teaching

Finding Hope In Hard Times

In hard times we can easily give in to despair, but God uses times like this to call us to look to Him for mercy, salvation, and hope, knowing that He is the faithful God.

Lamentations 3:17-26

¹⁷ I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is. ¹⁸ So I say, "My splendor is gone and all that I had hoped from the Lord." ¹⁹ I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. ²⁰ I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. ²¹ Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: ²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." ²⁵ The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; ²⁶ it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Finding Hope In Hard Times

Key points:

1. Jeremiah lives through the fall and destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of God's people to Babylon.
2. This dire situation left Jeremiah and everyone else feeling despair and a loss of hope for the present and the future.
3. There are many reasons why times like this happen. Two of them are:
 - a. The things we love and trust betray us and their natural results create a crisis.
 - b. These times are used to expose our sin and are a call for us to recognize, repent of, and root out our sin.
4. In hard times we should turn to God, for He is faithful and compassionate, and can restore our hope.
5. During hard times we need to give special time to waiting on God, focusing on Him rather than the circumstances surrounding us.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. How am I feeling during this current crisis? What are my emotions? Do Jeremiah's words in this passage reflect my feelings? Or perhaps a Psalm? Have I expressed these feelings to God in prayer? What passage of Scripture could guide my prayers in expressing my feelings?
3. Jeremiah 1:19 says that Judah's lovers (or allies) had betrayed her and led to her time of crisis. What allies and lovers in our modern world might have led to this crisis? Can I detect such allies and lovers in my own heart? Can I identify things I have trusted in or relied on more than God?

4. What is the relationship of sin to times of hardship and crisis? Is there a direct relationship between sin and suffering? Or is it more complex?
5. Can I think of sins in our culture that God might be exposing through the current situation? Have I taken time to pray and repent of these national sins?
6. In Lamentations 3:40-42 Jeremiah called on the people to examine themselves for sin and to turn to the Lord. What sins might God be exposing in my own life right now? Have I sought the Spirit, asking Him to reveal sin in my life during this time? How can I apply this passage during this time?
7. How is the character of God - faithful and compassionate - a source for hope in times like this? Am I experiencing God's faithfulness and mercy each morning? And I purposefully seeking to experience them, or am I just trying to get through this time and have life return to normal?
8. When I face difficult times (sickness, economic hardship, loss of a loved one, shattered hopes, etc.) how do I normally respond? How do I tend to spend my time during such situations?
9. In such difficult times do I tend to focus more on the difficult situation or God's Presence and Promises? How can I practice "waiting on God" during this time?
10. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to call?

BRCC's Children's Ministry

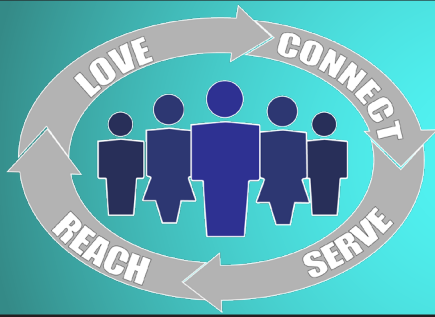
TODAY'S LESSON



God Takes Care of His People

Jacob & Joseph: God's plan isn't always clear





Announcements

Get our weekly emailed Newsletter!
Sign up for the BRidge today online or by visiting our welcome desk.

Upcoming Events

Roger and Marilyn Reeck

Roger and Marilyn Reeck have been advised not to travel to Maryland. Please continue to pray for them as they continue to do God's work in these difficult situations.

Find out more about them by visiting brcc.church/missions.

**Contact the Office or see the BRidge for more details about these events
You can sign up for the BRidge at any time by visiting brcc.church/bridge.

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and You



What is 2019 novel coronavirus?

The 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get 2019-nCoV?

This 2019-nCoV virus does seem to be able to spread from person-to-person although it's not clear how easily this happens. Person-to-person spread in the United States has not yet been detected, but it's likely to occur to some extent. At this time this virus is not spreading in the United States so the likelihood of someone in the U.S. getting sick with this virus is very low. Right now, the greatest risk of infection is for people in Wuhan or people who have traveled to Wuhan and less so, other parts of China. CDC continues to closely monitor the situation.

Have there been cases of 2019-nCoV in the U.S.?

Yes. The first infection with 2019-nCoV in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of infection with 2019-nCoV in the United States is available on CDC's webpage: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html

How does 2019-nCoV spread?

The exact way the virus is spread is not fully known. With similar coronaviruses (MERS and SARS) person-to-person spread is thought to have happened mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other viruses that cause respiratory illness spread. There also may be some spread when a person touches a surface or object that has virus on it and then touches his or her own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. Spread of SARS and MERS between people has generally occurred between close contacts. There is much more to learn about 2019-nCoV and investigations are ongoing.

What are the symptoms of 2019-nCoV?

Patients with 2019-nCoV have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

What are severe complications from this virus?

Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs.

How can I help protect myself?

- This virus is not spreading in the United States right now, but the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These include:
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled to China and got sick?

If you were in China within the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should get medical care. Call the office of your health care provider before you go and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against 2019-nCoV. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for 2019-nCoV. People with 2019-nCoV can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

www.cdc.gov/nCoV

Form # 8d37-4135-9b9a-917dd0e97165

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT
1

Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other American. Help stop fear by letting people know that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

FACT
2

The risk of getting COVID-19 in the U.S. is currently low.

Some people who live in or have recently traveled to places where many people have gotten sick with COVID-19 may be monitored by health officials to protect their health and the health of other people in the community.

FACT
3

Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

FACT
4

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

FACT
5

There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



3 ways to Give

Did you know there are 3 ways to give?

1. Cash or Check on Sunday
2. Credit Card online @ www.brcc.church/donate
3. or you can schedule a reoccurring payment via echeck online @ www.brcc.church/donate (it only costs .55¢ to process an online check and can be done in seconds – saving the church time and money that can be put towards serving the Gospel)

14.5¢ of every dollar we receive through the weekly offering is given to missions.

Giving Statements

You can access your online Giving Statements at any time by logging into your mybrcc.church account and selecting the dollar sign from the left hand menu.

Blessed to be a Blessing

