

MARS HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

May 14, 2020

Mini Newsletter



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Scripture Memory Challenge

Psalms 46:1-2

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea”

~*~

JOKE

“Do you say your prayers at night, little boy?” inquired the preacher.

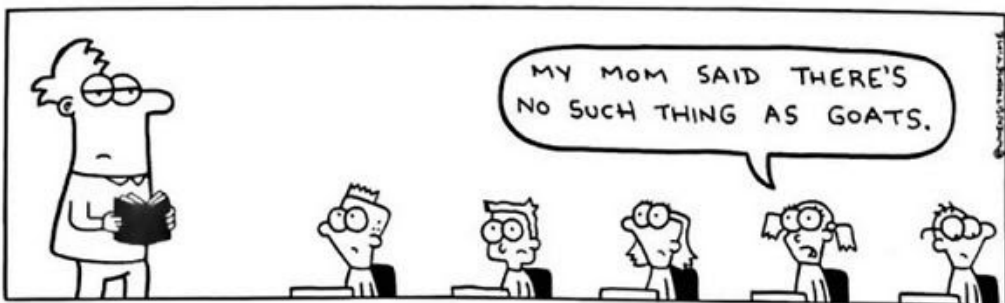
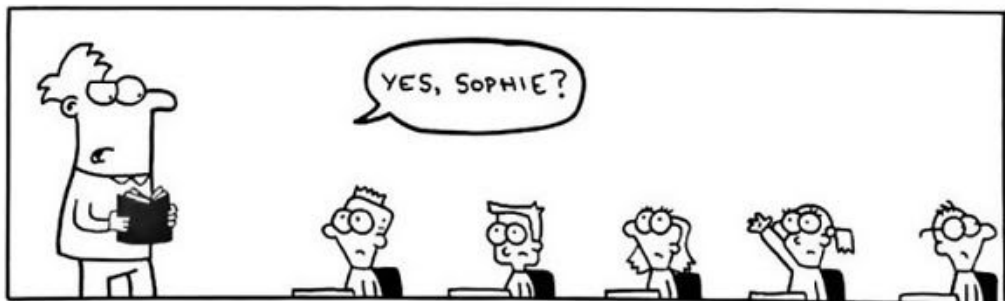
“Yes sir,” answered the boy.

“And do you always say them in the morning, too?”

“No sir,” responded the boy. “I ain’t scared in the daytime.”

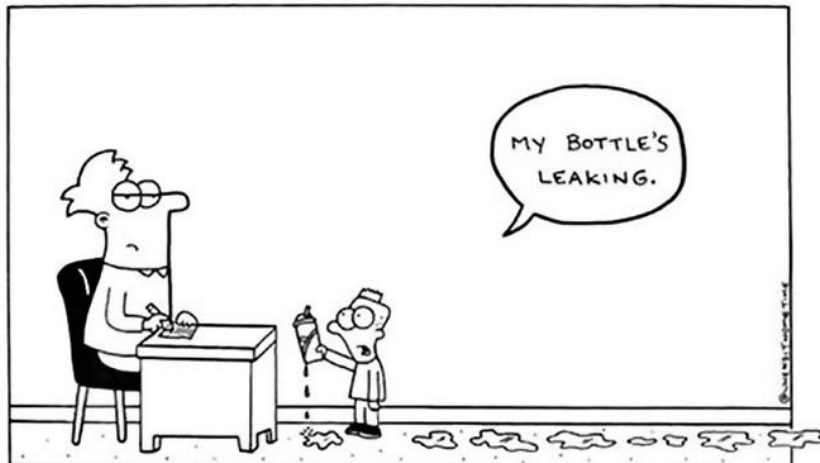
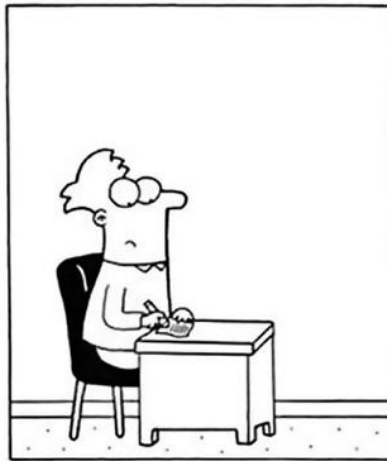
WHEN'S
IT
HOMETIME?

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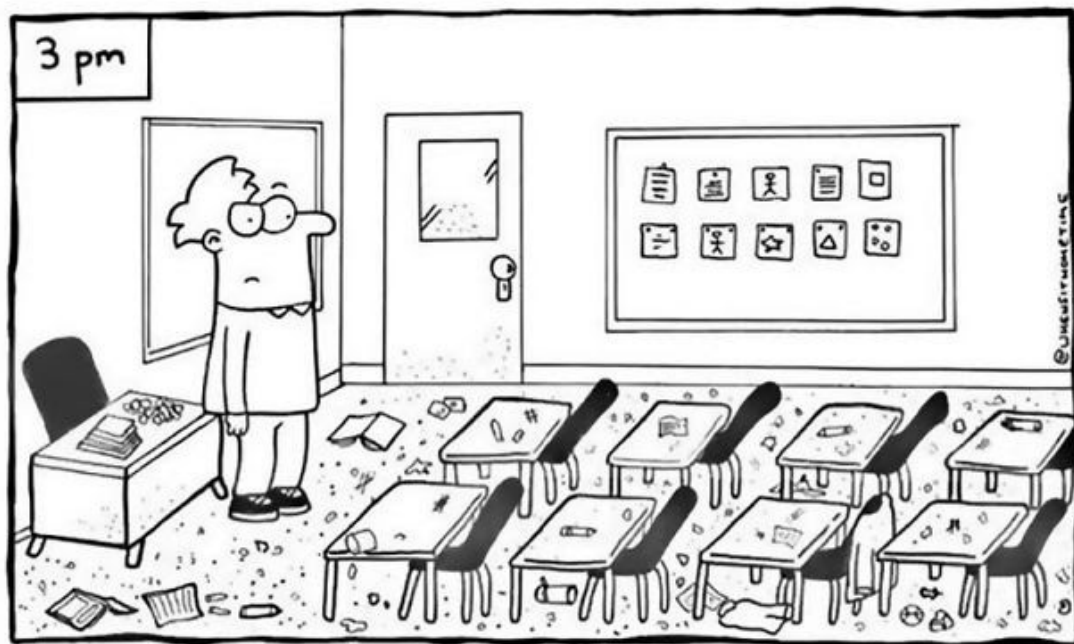
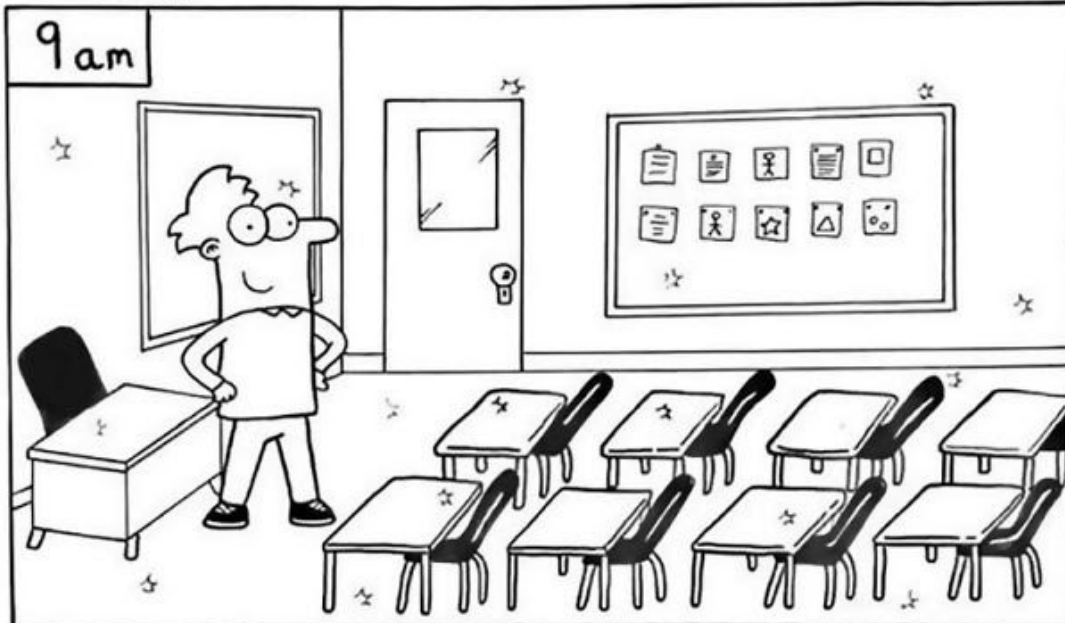
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OUR PRAYER REQUESTS



<u>MEMBERS OF MHBC & SS</u>	<u>FRIENDS OF MHBC</u>	<u>MISSIONARIES</u>	<u>PLACES & EVENTS</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>MILITARY</u>
Daniel Berry Mary Carolyn Bishop Denver Corley Gene Deitz Bettie Harrison Marty Melvin Beth Oliver Evelyn Perry Rusty Wagoner Bob Wilson Roy Wilson	Jacob Jones Leila Morris Hank Rhoden Sharon Rhoden Jack Sauer Brittany Smith The Family of Anna Lee Gross The Family of Hubert Bishop The Family of Roy Berry The Family of John Best* The Family of Gene Akin* The Family of Joe Jones	Baptist Missionaries Melanie Edwards Harley Grafton Matt Foshee & Family Utah Sam & Melody Harrell Peggy T. Johnson David Platt	War on Terrorism COVID - 19 crisis	Good News Club Lost persons you know Caregivers-esp. Family Members OCIM Our Elected Officials Our Police and Law Enforcement Officers-Chapel Hill	Our Service Men & Women

Confidence in Christ

(5) When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, (6) "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." (7) And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." (8) But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. (9) For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." (10) When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. (11) I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, (12) while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (13) And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment. -- Matthew 8:5-13 (ESV)

So often in our lives we find ourselves in crisis mode. We lose a job, we have that one devastating phone call, the doctor comes in with horrifying news, or the governor puts for a stay at home order for the entire state.

Regardless of what crisis comes into our lives we are always faced with a choice. We can run to Jesus or run away from Christ. We can rush to God for help or we can push God away and try to find answers and assistance elsewhere. In Matthew 8 we have a man who was in crisis. He was a centurion who had a dear servant who was sick and if he did not receive help would die. This centurion, a powerful person in the first century, had a lot of options before him, but he went in faith to Christ to beg Him for healing.

I love this passage where Jesus heals the centurion's servant for many reasons. In this passage we have a message of healing, compassion, faith, and dedication. In it we see the unwavering faith that this centurion had in Christ to overcome any difficulty, distance, or difference that they shared. That is what I would like us to see as we explore this passage and gain some lessons for our lives. I'd like us to look at the unwavering faith of this centurion and how he relied on Christ for healing and help in a crisis situation.

First notice that ***this centurion had faith in the power of Christ to overcome his difficulty.*** Verses 5 and 6 state *"When he (Jesus) had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly."* This centurion undoubtedly had heard that Christ had healed others of various illnesses and diseases. He probably had not seen one himself so everything he knew of Christ's power was simply hearsay, but he had faith. His faith was such that he came to Jesus to appeal to Him directly to

heal his servant. This centurion had faith that Jesus could overcome the difficulty his servant was facing so much so that he left what he was doing to seek after Jesus..

What about us? When we have a problem to whom or where do we turn? The logic of our minds would always tell us to turn to the place where we are most likely to find the answer to our problems. If we need lumber and nails, we turn ourselves to Home Depot or Lowes. If we need milk we go to Food Lion. What about when it comes to the vital things of life like peace, forgiveness, healing, and answers to questions that only God can answer. Do we run to this world or do we find ourselves, like this centurion, leaving the business of all the important things of our lives in order to pursue Christ Who is vitally important.

This centurion had faith that Christ could overcome his difficulty, but also notice, ***this centurion had faith in the authority of Christ to overcome the distance of the situation.*** After pleading his case Jesus gives an immediate answer which must have brought great joy to the centurion's heart. Verses 7-9 state, *"And he said to him, 'I will come and heal him.'" But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

Here we have an interesting turn of events. The centurion wanted his servant healed and Jesus said He would come to his house and do it, but the centurion's faith extended beyond the power of Christ to bring healing. The centurion also had faith in the authority of Christ to extend beyond those that He was in close contact with. Therefore he stopped Jesus from coming to his house and simply asked that He do the healing from right where they were.

A simple lesson from this is that faith compels us to let go of control and allow God to work in His way and not our own. This centurion believed that Jesus had the authority to do a miracle from miles away just as he had authority to give an order and have it carried out without him being there. He didn't want to control Jesus in His coming and going He wanted Jesus to be unleashed in his servant's life.

How about us? Do we have faith enough in the authority and power of Jesus to simply pray Jesus unleash Yourself in my life and take care of the problems and crises as You see fit. Are we okay if Jesus never gets up from His throne to bring into our life the answer that we need? Are we confident in the power and ability of our God to overcome any difficulty we face or are we confident that the only way a solution is going to come about is going to be with the plans that we ourselves have drawn up.

This centurion had faith in the authority of Christ to overcome the distance of the situation but he also *had faith in the character of Christ to overcome the differences that were present*. It is interesting to notice that this centurion was not a Jewish man. Most likely he was of Roman birth transferred here from either Rome or some of the surrounding areas in Italy to overlook the occupation of another one of Rome's conquered lands. There was a constant tension in the area about Rome's occupation. The people hated the laws, taxes, and oppression that Rome brought with them. Therefore it was not a common occurrence to have good relations with someone so closely linked with the Roman government.

There were many reasons that Jesus and the disciples could give for not helping this soldier out, however this centurion's faith believed that Jesus would look past differences in order to receive healing help.

That is such a beautiful picture of faith and the Christian life in general. Here we are good for nothing sinners, yet we in faith go to a Holy and Righteous God for forgiveness having no reason whatsoever to expect anything except punishment from the hand of God. Yet we come in faith and receive the blessing of forgiveness, eternal life, and adoption into the family of God.

Is that your faith today? When we look at the prospect of coming before Almighty God with our crisis and problems do we shy away thinking God would never want to help me or do anything to bless me because of my past. Or do we, in faith, remember the loving and compassionate God we serve that greatly desires to hear our prayers. That is the faith that compels us to seek after God, just as this centurion did so long ago.

May our faith be like his, seeking after Christ to overcome distance, difficult, and differences.

Why Would God Allow Covid-19? (from gotquestions.org)

“Why would God allow Covid-19?” The whole world seems to be asking this question, a fact that actually gives the biggest part of the answer.

COVID-19, or coronavirus disease 2019, is a respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). The effect of the illness can range from mild to severe. First identified in Wuhan, China, in late 2019, the virus quickly spread to other countries. On March 11, 2020, COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization.

First, let’s state the obvious, only a true prophet of God can rightly claim to know God’s reasons for bringing about COVID-19 or any other specific calamity, otherwise they are simply a liar stating just what they think or believe is the truth. That’s partly because God’s purposes extends to every individual involved, from the beginning of time to the end of the world. Understanding every possible factor goes far beyond human ability, but God has within His complete knowledge and control every facet of every situation (Romans 8:28–30). The Bible reveals some insights about God’s use of deadly disasters in general, but we must apply relevant Scripture and the principles of faith in order to gain wisdom about any specific disaster.

As with any mystery, to solve it we must go from the known to the unknown in our search. So we’ll put the question of why God would allow COVID-19 into the context of what we already know from the Bible and from personal experience: we know that life is a gift from the Creator (Isaiah 42:5; Acts 17:25). We know that God alone has the right and power to give life and take it away according to His own wisdom and plans (Job 2:10). We know that life is short and includes some degree of suffering, ending in death and judgment for how we lived our lives—only one life with no “do-overs” (Hebrews 9:27). Short or long, our lifespan and date of death are set and controlled by God (Matthew 10:29). Even the longest human lives are “like a breath; their days are like a fleeting shadow” (Psalm 144:4).

Moses described God’s sovereignty over life and death, and this could have been written about today’s COVID-19 pandemic:

“You turn people back to dust, saying, ‘Return to dust, you mortals.’ A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—they are like the new grass of the morning: In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered”
(Psalm 90:3–6).

So what is God's purpose in allowing COVID-19? Without being too dogmatic, because again, only a true prophet of God hearing directly from God can give divine revelation, we know that, generally speaking, one of God's purposes in trials is to get the world's attention off themselves and onto Him, their Creator and Savior—which is the biggest part of the answer to the question at hand. “Why would God allow COVID-19?”

Millions are suddenly asking that question right now, believers and non-believers alike, which means that God is on their minds. God desires for all people to earnestly seek Him and find Him, discovering that He is actually close to us (Jeremiah 29:13; Acts 17:26–28). God desires us to sense our own weakness and neediness so that we put our trust in Him (2 Corinthians 12:9). God desires people to fear Him with proper reverence and awe (Proverbs 9:10); to love Him more than their own lives (Matthew 10:37; John 12:25); and to show love and gratitude for the Savior by loving and helping fellow humans, especially the suffering (Romans 15:1; James 2:14–17). God desires to shift our focus and affection away from this temporary, troubled world to our eternal, heavenly home (Colossians 3:1–2; Hebrews 12:1–2).

Times of trouble are a prime motivation for us to store up treasures in heaven rather than cling to treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19–20; Colossians 3:1–3), and to be good stewards of those blessings God gives us in this life (Luke 16:11; Matthew 25:14–30). God wants us to trust Him absolutely, knowing that our times are in His hand (Psalm 31:15).

Ultimately, it is the poor and hurting who seek God, not the rich and comfortable. It is danger and calamity that turn men to their Savior, not health and wealth (see Mark 2:17). It is suffering that wakes us to our true need. C. S. Lewis put it this way: “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world” (The Problem of Pain, HarperCollins, 1996, p. 91).

Life for all people means facing suffering, death, and their eternal destiny. Even if we develop immunity to COVID-19, we can't escape the fact of trouble in the world. What's best for us, in any situation, is to seek God: “Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart” (Psalm 119:2).

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BOBO ENCOURAGES YOU TO INVITE OTHERS TO
"LIKE" OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

KEEP UP TO DATE ON FUTURE EVENTS, SERVICES,
AND POSTS!

Mars Hill Baptist Church

3 Ways to Give

Want to send a tithe or make a donation? Not a problem! See how you can make that possible below:

- **Mail to Church's address**
- **Drop off to pastor for physical pick up**
- **Give Online via the GREEN "Online Giving" button on the church's website**



MARS HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
1418 NC HIGHWAY 57
HILLSBOROUGH, NC 27278

Mars Hill Baptist Church

You can stay connected!

For the past four weeks we have been recording and uploading Wednesday & Sunday service video messages.

All video messages can be found on the Mars Hill Facebook page and on the church's website under the "Video Messages" tab:

<http://marshillbaptistchurch.org/category/video-messages/>

We hope everyone is staying safe and doing well!



**YOU CAN STAY
CONNECTED!**

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WEDNESDAY
& SUNDAY
SERVICE
VIDEO
MESSAGES

↔

All video messages can be found on the
church's website under the "Video
Messages" tab!

Mars Hill Baptist Church

A 7-DAY CORONAVIRUS PRAYER GUIDE



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pray for those who are sick, and their families, that the Lord would heal and comfort them.

PRAY FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Pray for those on the frontlines treating those who are sick, that the Lord would protect and strengthen them.



PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE

Pray for those who are especially vulnerable to disease, that the sickness would pass over them and that they would rely on others for help.

PRAY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Pray for those who have lost work, that God would provide through their families and communities.



PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

Pray for national and local government leaders, that they would have wisdom to do what is best for all.

PRAY FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Pray for students who are out of school, and their families, that the Lord would give them patience and discipline.



PRAY FOR CHURCHES

Pray for churches and ministry leaders, that they would know how to best show the love of Christ in this time.

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful."

JOHN 14:27

LifeWay