



April 16, 2023

Pastor Note:

They were about to get a crick in the neck looking into the sky. Let's back up, the last forty days, beginning with Jesus' resurrection had been nothing less than spectacular. No crowds and constant busyness, instead peace and quality time with Jesus. So much more clarity, things they didn't understand and were confused about were starting to make sense, fell into place, became clear. A new understanding of Jesus, God, and life. What a gift.

The reason they were staring upward into the clouds was that Jesus had just ascended into heaven, literally disappeared into the sky. I imagine we would have done the same thing. So, there they stood, speechless, until, what seems to be two angels, interrupted the moment, **“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”**

Acts 1:11 (NLT2).

There are some moments we don't want to end. You've ever been on a vacation or adventure where you wished for just a few more days? Or got caught up in a glorious moment you've wanted it to last just a little longer? It doesn't seem like the disciples weren't quite ready yet to walk back from the Mount of Olives to wherever they were staying in Jerusalem. However, God thought it was time, thus the interruption by those well-dressed angels (at least it wasn't just a message beeping on their cell phones).

It is possible to get stuck in life. A moment or period can be so glorious, so special, so exhilarating, so satisfying that we keep chasing it, trying to recreate it, relive it. And there are moments so painful, so confusing, so loaded with fear and anxiety, so ugly, so traumatizing that we work overtime not to come anywhere near something like that again, and are constantly looking or running in the other direction.

You could paraphrase the angels' message with, “Don't get stuck! Don't start living in, chasing, or being dominated by the past. There is more glory to come.” That experience was not meant to chain them to the past but to be food for today and tomorrow.

The angels reminded the disciples of Jesus' promise of His return someday. The only way to get to someday is by way of today. However, we are not meant to go into the future stuck in the past, instead, we are meant to go into the future anchored in the hope of Jesus' promised return.

I have been following Jesus, have been a Christian, for a long time, and have been a pastor for a year or two as well (46 and 39 years respectively). I am not mentioning this to you to impress you, but to let you know that I have both personal and professional experience with being stuck. I've been stuck in grief, depression, bad habits, my Germanness, stubbornness, my way of doing things (which is in my mind the best way of doing things), the playing/farting-around mode, fishing, golfing, home improving, ... How I thank God that He never abandoned me when I was stuck, He always found a way to speak to me when my neck, my life was straining in the wrong direction. He has a way of getting our attention. Our listening, however, is often another story.

Take a moment and contemplate the ascension of Jesus in a personal way. Is God trying to speak to you about being stuck, living chained to, or for the past? Which way are you looking, what are you chasing? What is your ultimate “someday” hope and focal point? Are you stuck staying in your beautiful or safe garden, while God is trying to send you into His world to live and proclaim Jesus?

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



Lord Hear Our Prayers

Sermon Notes:

PRAYER REQUEST

Health: Karen Souza, Shirley Wolfenbarger,
Mabel Mayes, JoEllen, Rickie Jeffers
Family and Friends, Our Church's Ministries,
Our community, that we do actually SHARE.

SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Phillip, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray,
Farney, John Boykin, Peter, Mariah Ellis, Jimmy,
Shyrlee Stagner, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Mike Sharland,
Noah Martin, Rebekah Wilhelmy, John Michael Chavez,
Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker, Dylan Werner, Brian Sula,
Michael Thomasson, Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,
Christopher Sula

For those wanting to send cards & flowers to *Genevieve* see her new address below:

Brandel Manor
C/O Genevieve Alldrin
1801 North Olive Ave.
Turlock, Ca 95382
Ph # 209-410-7200

Prayers:

Being a Church that Cares Well

Training coming soon...

Why?

“The American church is facing an abuse crisis. Is your church doing all it can to be safe for survivors and safe from abuse? Churches should be a refuge for those who have experienced abuse. But, too often, survivors haven't found the protection they deserve and the care they need from the church. Are you ready to join us in changing that?”

Yes. We are committed to being a safe place for everyone from babies to elderly and we will continue to keep ourselves educated and trained in order to be able to love, love, love. In order for that we will have once-a-month trainings for 4 months for our church staff, Deacons, Board, Children and Youth Leaders, Women's Leaders, Men's Leader, and Food Basket Leaders, and any other adult that may be interested in attending. Each meeting will be at the church from **6:00-8:30 pm.**

Meeting 1: 2/13/23

Meeting 2: 3/13/23

Meeting 3: 4/17/23

Meeting 4: 5/08/23

The videos are survivor stories, educational training, and explaining why the church's response to abuse is a Gospel issue (meeting #1).

In addition to providing these monthly meetings, our leaders and administration will commit to protecting our children and church by training as Mandated Reporters and have a live scan background check.

If you would like to join our monthly meetings, please let Susie Frei know so there is a seat for you (skfrei@gmail.com or 209-247-9234) or let Jannett know.

April Announcements

Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:00 P.M.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages - 7:00 P.M.**
- Food Ministry - 1st Wed. & 3rd Tues. @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 A.M.
- Communion Sunday - April 23, 2023
Deacon Board Meeting every 4th Sunday after service
- **Church Board Meeting April 17, 2023 following the 6:00 pm 3rd Session of "Becoming a Church that Cares Well."**

Fellowship Time Snacks
were provided

By - *Beverly's Class & the Youth*

Thank you

Next week Merle's class is up!!

If you are interested in Church Membership,
please see the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

The church is looking for someone experienced in
Accounting. If that's **you** please get your name
to Jannett in the office or see Pastor Hans.

A Bit of
Humor
Corner



Giving

April 9, 2023

Offering:
\$3,325.00

Food:
\$10.00

Missions:
\$73.82

Annie Armstrong:
\$900.00

Attendance:
70

Weekly Events

Sunday School/Small Groups:

9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service:

10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship Service:

6:00 PM

Tuesday: Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday

Food Ministry:

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Wednesday:

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM
Grief Share - 6:30 PM (On Hiatus)

Thursday: Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church

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ldpbaptistchurch@gmail.com

www.ldpbaptistchurch.com

S H A R E



1 Timothy 6:18



April 17th - April 23rd

DAY 1 - Acts 6
(Psalms 45)

DAY 2 - Acts 7
(Psalms 46)

DAY 3 - Acts 8
(Psalms 47)

DAY 4 - Acts 9
(Psalms 48)

DAY 5 - Acts 10
(Psalms 49)

DAY 6 - Psalms 50
DAY 7 - Psalms 51

Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.