

THE GREATEST MOMENT OF YOUR LIFE

Genesis 8:1-10

I. THE SACRAMENT OF THE PRESENT

- A. The gift that keeps on giving.
 - 1. Every person has been given exactly 8,760 of them.
 - 2. The president of the United States was given that many and so were you.
- B. Keys to success.
 - 1. Real estate agents say there are three keys to success: “location, location, location.”
 - 2. “O Lord, thou has searched me and known me!” (Psalm 139:1)
 - 3. A sacrament is a “means of grace.” It is an ordinary object that somehow becomes the vessel of the divine.
- C. Foundational Truths:
 - 1. God is always present and active in my life ... My task is to meet God in *this* moment ... I am tempted to live *outside* this moment.
 - 2. Every thought carries a “spiritual charge” ... Every aspect of my life is important to God.

II. LIVING IN THE FUTURE

- A. New Year’s Resolutions.
 - 1. We love to look ahead and dream big dreams.
 - 2. We resolve to have a better body, marriage, eating habits, etc.
- B. The frogs in your life.
 - 1. Pharaoh was facing a big problem. There were frogs in his house, frogs in the bedroom, frogs in the food.
 - 2. Moses asked him when he wanted him to destroy the frogs and he said, “Tomorrow.”
- C. Motivated Irrationality.
 - 1. People persistently tolerate and maintain behavior patterns that will destroy their lives.
 - 2. A husband holds a grudge against his wife. A sex addict keeps going back to the internet.
 - 3. It can cause us to mismanage our finances, damage our relationships, and destroy our self-esteem.

III. LIVING IN THE PAST

- A. Building a cage of our own.
 - 1. We remember loved ones we have lost, places we’ve lived that we liked better, jobs that have been taken away.
 - 2. “Circumstances may choose the frame of the day, but you paint the picture that goes in it.” (Eugene Brice)
- B. Pushing on walls.
 - 1. The past is a wall and not a door.
 - 2. When you look back on 2006, what will you see?

Prayer Concerns: *Burney Biesel, Brain Haslop, Mac Kerr, Anne Miller, Vicki Page, Mildred Sentell, Carol Webb, Lucille Alwerdt, Kenneth Amick, Ray Billings, Dorothy Burns, Gene Burns, Patti Chou, Betty Crenshaw, Ed Gatlin, Charles Hamilton, Jean Hansford, Kristi Jackson, Charles Jamison, Joyce Kuhl, Judy Malaquias, Macy Morgan, Taylor Murray, Moody Palmer, Betty Scott, Robert Thole, Mariah Wiehle, victims of the mining disaster in West Virginia, our troops ...*

Christian Sympathy is extended to *Mike Heck and family* in the death of his mother, *Barbara Heck*, on Friday, December 30; and to *Dan and Sally Fowlkes and family* in the death of their grandson, *Brad Fowlkes*, on Saturday, December 31.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Our Father, we're full. It seems like all we have done over the past month is eat. Most of us participated in a feast fit for a king or queen and our growing waistlines and shrinking clothes tell the story. Father, we're full. It seems like all we have done over the past month is shop and buy and give and look and listen. Most of us have participated in a party fit for a millionaire, and our growing credit card balances and shrinking bank accounts tell the story.

Jesus once said that we do not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from Your mouth. As our bodies are fed by food, so our spirits are fed by words with ideas and images. We are flooded by words that can mislead us, so we gather here today to feed our minds on Your Word. We remember that nothing can separate us from Your love; that we can do all things through Christ, who strengthens us; that You are light and in You there is no darkness at all; that this is the day you have made for us, and we are to rejoice and meet You in it.

Father, we're full. Our cups are overflowing with everything except You. May our minds feast on Your Word today and all our days. This is our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

EXODUS 8:1-10

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will plague all your country with frogs; the Nile shall swarm with frogs which shall come up into your house, and into your bedchamber and on your bed, and into the houses of your servants and of your people, and into your ovens and your kneading bowls; the frogs shall come up on you and on your people and on all your servants.'"" And the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your rod over the rivers, over the canals, and over the pools, and cause frogs to come upon the land of Egypt!'" So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. But the magicians did the same by their secret arts, and brought frogs upon the land of Egypt.

Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron, and said, "Entreat the Lord to take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go to sacrifice to the Lord." Moses said to Pharaoh, "Be pleased to command me when I am to entreat, for you and for your servants and for your people, that the frogs be destroyed from you and your houses and be left only in the Nile." And he said, "Tomorrow."

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

January 15	<i>The Gift of Complaining</i>	Job 10:1-3, 18-22
January 22	<i>A Brand New Life</i>	Mark 1:14-20
January 29	<i>Powerful Preaching</i>	Mark 1:21-28

On the Radio (1450 AM):

January 15	<i>The Secret of Success</i>	Philippians 4:4-13
January 22	<i>Peace of Mind</i>	John 14:25-27
January 29	<i>Martha Moments</i>	Luke 10:38-42