



CONNECTION

November, 2016

“Something to Sing About”

- ¹ Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day:
² That the leaders took the lead in Israel,
that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the LORD!
³ “Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes;
to the LORD I will sing;
I will make melody to the LORD, the God of Israel. (Judg 5:1–3 ESV)

It's a great feeling to have something to sing about! I am writing this on the day the World Series begins. Everybody is singing, “Go, Cubs, go!,” and for good reason. It's been a long time since Cubs fans have had this much to sing about!

If we stop to think, we realize that God has been good to us in so many ways. He gives joy, peace, comfort, help, fellowship, hope, forgiveness, and life everlasting through Jesus. When God blesses us, we want to sing and shout and give thanks to the Lord.

In the time of the Judges, God rescued the people of Israel from an oppressing enemy. In gratitude, the people raise a song of praise to the Lord for their deliverance. In particular, they thank God for two things: their leaders led, and the people offered themselves willingly.

The leaders led. It sounds so simple, but it is so important. If those who are gifted at leading others do not step forward, then others will struggle to fill the void, or nobody will take charge.

We are coming to the time of year when we are nominating elders, deacons, and trustees for the coming year. We pray for the Lord to lift up leaders, for us to recognize them, and for them to recognize God's call and to answer.

The people offered themselves. In the days of the Judges, they gave, served in defense of the nation. At other times, the people of God offer themselves to the Lord in worship, to one another in fellowship, and to those in need of service. And the wonderful thing is, they offered themselves willingly. They were not strong-armed or shamed into it. No coercion. No pressure tactics. They offered themselves willingly. And the people rejoiced.

We are coming to the time of the year when we renew our stewardship commitments to Christ and His church. The Lord Who loves us and saves us calls us to follow Him as faithful disciples. We seek to offer ourselves willingly to the Lord, and to serve Him with our time, our talents and our treasures.

When leaders lead and people offer themselves willingly, that's something to sing about! That is reason to praise God!

Leaders, lead. And people, let us offer ourselves willingly. In so doing, we will encourage our leaders, we will bring glory and honor to Christ, and be a blessing to His church. For we serve the One who willingly gave Himself up for us all.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Dave Pastor Dave

Men's Bible Study

The Men's First Saturday Bible Study will meet on November 5 at 9:00 am in the church Lounge. We have been having a very rewarding time discussing the book of Hosea. This month, we will cover Hosea chapters 11-12. Come and join us as we learn together from God's Word and pray together for God's blessings.

Upcoming Sermons

November 6

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Ephesians 6:18-20

"Foxhole Prayers"

...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. (Eph 6:18–20)

November 13

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

"Giving as an Act of Grace"

...they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. 6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. (2 Cor 8:5–7 ESV)

November 20

Ephesians 6:21-23

"Love Incorruptible"

23 Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible. (Eph 6:23–24 ESV)

November 24

Thanksgiving Service – 10:00 am
An informal time of grateful praise, prayer, singing, and sharing.

November 27

Luke 1:46-55

"Mary's Song"

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. (Luke 1:46–49)

December 4

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Luke 1:68-79

"Zechariah's Song"

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (Eph 6:10–11 ESV)

December 11

Luke 2:8-14

"The Angels' Song"

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:13–14)

December 18

Luke 2:27-32

"Simeon's Song"

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." (Luke 2:29–32 ESV)

December 25

Luke 2:15-20

"Worship the King"

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:20 ESV)