

“... pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart”
2 Timothy 2:22

February 28, 2021 - Story: The Power to Defeat our Enemies



What was the most powerful weapon God gave the children of Israel when they entered the Promised Land? Conventional wisdom would look to things like swords, horses, chariots, brilliant military leaders, or a huge army. The most powerful weapon God gave them was the power of story. Stories have the power to discourage and eventually defeat our enemies.

After God killed the firstborn in every Egyptian house, they begged their slaves to leave. The Israelites obeyed God and asked the Egyptians for their household possessions. The grieving Egyptian families gladly weighed the Israelites down with gold and silver. God's people made their way to the Red Sea when they suddenly realized the Egyptian army was in hot pursuit. They felt trapped, and cried out to the Lord.

The Lord moved His angel to the back of the camp to stand between His people and His enemies. He also sent the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud behind the Israelites. The pillar of fire gave light to the Israelites while the pillar of cloud assured that the Egyptians would be living in darkness.

Moses made the famous statement, *"Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."* He then stretched his staff over the Red Sea and the story becomes even more unbelievable. The Red Sea divided, leaving two walls of water and a dry path to safety. The Israelites hurried across on dry land. At the same time God looked down on the Egyptians and troubled their army. He took their chariot wheels off so "they drove them with difficulty." Many of the soldiers, still reeling from losing their firstborn, cried out, *"Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."*

It was too late! Moses reached out over the Red Sea causing the water to engulf the mighty Egyptian army in their watery tomb. After they crossed the Red Sea and saw God wipe out the Egyptian army, they praised Him in song. The song included these words, *"The people will hear and be afraid; Sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia. Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; The mighty men of Moab, Trembling will take hold of them; All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away. Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O Lord, Till the people pass over Whom You have purchased."*

That's exactly what happened. After Joshua took over leadership from Moses, he sent two men to spy out the land. The two spies found themselves hiding out at Rahab's house. She told the spies that the people of Jericho had heard three stories of God's deliverance. They heard the stories of the Red Sea crossing, the victory over Sihon, and the victory over Og. These stories caused the Israelites' enemies to be filled with terror, become fainthearted, their hearts to melt, and their courage to evaporate.

After this encounter with Rahab, the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River. This story of the Jordan River crossing had a huge effect on God's enemies. Joshua 5:1 says, *So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel.*

Wow! I know God could have defeated the Canaanites without the story, but He didn't. He chose to use the power of story to put fear in the hearts of His enemies and to give His people courage. Never underestimate the power of Bible stories to defeat our enemies and give us courage.

- Dwayne Gandy

Sunday Worship Services

9 a.m. Lord's Supper Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Class
10:45 a.m. Praise & Preaching

Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 p.m.

Elders

Herb Hinely 407-339-4805
Jeff Hunt 407-739-5266
Joe Rimmer 407-414-7393
Dave Weaver 407-782-1112
Tim Welsh 407-670-8279

Deacons

Matt Hinely, Terry Petty
Erik Quist, Rory Salimbene
Jack Thomas, Terry Tokash
Emory VanCleaf

Evangelists

Brian Messerli 407-300-2517
Dwayne Gandy 214-724-5375



2/28/21

The Blue-Collar Hall of Fame - Romans 16

Blue-Collar Christians _____

- Paul _____ Phoebe to the church in Rome.
- He referred to Phoebe as “our sister.”
- She was a _____ of the church in Cenchrea.
- She was a _____ of many.
- Paul said Persis _____ much in the Lord.
- Great servants are often _____ at home. Rufus’ mom treated Paul like a son. His father bore Jesus’ cross.
- _____ of us has a gift that we should use to serve others. When we do, we are being good stewards of the manifold _____ of God.
- Everything we do we do with the ability God gives us so that He receives _____ glory.

Blue-Collar Christians _____

- Priscilla and Aquila _____ their own necks to save Paul’s life.
- Andronicus and Junias were Paul’s relatives (probably cousins) and fellow _____ for the gospel.

Blue-Collar Workers are Loved and _____

- Paul shows his love and appreciation by telling the Roman Christians to _____ these hard-working Christians.
- He also calls them _____.
- We already saw where two of Paul’s cousins were of _____ among the Apostles.
- In verse 10 he says that Apelles is _____ in Christ.
- In verse 13 he says that Rufus is _____ in the Lord.
- In verse 15 he refers to some as _____.

Questions for H2H Discussion

1. How have others served you? How did that make you feel?
2. How can we use service to evangelize?
3. How have sacrifices you’ve personally seen others make influenced you?
4. What are some practical ways to show people you love them and appreciate what they do for the Lord?

Announcements

Sunday, February 28th, 2021

Please email all new announcements to announcements@psd.church.

SICK/HEALTH ISSUES:

- **Dwayne's dad, Richard Gandy** is home from the hospital but is still experiencing complications with his rash.
- **Scott Saario** is home with a head cold and sinus issues and headache.
- **Anne Welsh** is still recovering from major foot surgery.
- **Marilyn Petty's** is still recovering from major back surgery. She has had her staples out, has taken herself off pain pills, and is up and moving a bit more. She's still sore and tender, and it's still a long road ahead.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PSD:

- **Pat Steele's son, Bruce**, is still sick and awaiting tests results on a mass in his throat.

TRAVELING:

- **Phil and Gail Story** are in Texas visiting family for another week.
- **Kerianne Park** is on a road trip with friends for a week.
- **Dwayne, Shelley, and Peyton Gandy** will be traveling to Indiana this week to move their belongings here.
- **Brian Messerli** leaves for Cape Coral FL this afternoon and plans to come back tomorrow. His brother Cameron got a new job and is moving from Brian's house to Mom's while he looks for his own place.

SHUT-IN:

- **Anne Dickson**
- **Thurman and Lynna Davis**
- **Geny Harrison**
- **Patsy Holt**
- **Peggy Hunt**
- **Pat Steele**
- **Bea Deboe**

SPECIAL CONCERNS ABOUT GETTING COVID-19:

- **Carol Van Cleef**
- **Diane Thyben**
- **Mary Ann Rubright**
- **Anna Marcotte**



Bible Matching Activity

The Story of Naaman

Draw a line to the correct answer.

Some answers may be used more than once.

1. I was a brave warrior in Syria who had the terrible disease of leprosy.

2. I helped my master find someone who could make him well.

3. When I received a letter about helping Naaman with his leprosy, I said, "am I God".

4. I was Elisha's servant.

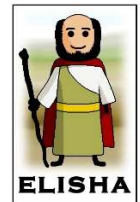
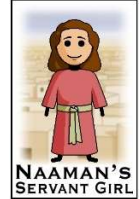
5. We talked our master into doing something that seemed "silly" to him in order to get well.

6. I was the prophet of God who told Naaman what to do in order to be healed of his leprosy.

7. I sent a letter with Naaman to the King of Israel asking for help so that my servant could get well.

8. God struck me with leprosy because I was greedy.

9. I dipped 7 times in the Jordan River.



Answers: 1. Naaman 2. Servant Girl 3. Jehoram 4. Gehazi 5. Naaman's servants 6. Elisha 7. Ben-Hadad 8. Gehazi 9. Naaman