

THE CLOVERDALE CONNECTION

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

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Praise the Lord...

Isn't this all we really need to do? If we love God with all our hearts, then we will live to praise Him 24/7!

This is the season of Thanksgiving. It is a time to enjoy a hot cup of spiced apple cider (yum) around an open fire. It is a time to share great food with friends and family. It is a time to give...a time to serve others. It is a time for personal reflection on how much the Lord has blessed us throughout the year.

David really nailed it, as he praised the Lord...with the final chapter of the book of Psalms.

Praise the Lord!

**Praise God in His temple; praise Him in His mighty heaven.
Praise Him for His strength; praise Him for His greatness.
Praise Him with trumpet blasts; praise Him with harps and lyres.
Praise Him with tambourines and dancing; praise Him with
stringed instruments and flutes. Praise Him with loud cymbals;
praise Him with crashing cymbals.
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.**

Praise the Lord!

Psalm 150: 1-6 (New Century Version)

**May this Thanksgiving season be a time to praise God...for ALL
His blessings!**

Men's Ministry Retreat





The men's ministry retreat was amazing! It was an incredible blessing for all who attended. We gathered at Camp Ida-Haven for praise, worship, sharing, incredible food and fellowship.

This year's theme was "Over the Rainbow", and what that means in the life of a Christian man. The underlying premise for our time together was all about fear and its direct opposite...perfect love.

Kurt Drechsel and Oren Hansen gave powerful testimonials in how God has worked powerfully in their lives.

Pastor Marlon shared with us powerful elements in the story of David and Goliath. Goliath's size could have been due to a growth hormone imbalance known as "Gigantism". Gigantism can create an entire cascade of negative side effects...one being double vision. Goliath most assuredly had spiritual blindness. But if he had double vision, this could have been a major physical weakness.

The bottom line...every giant we face in life has its weaknesses. If our trust is focused on Jesus, those weaknesses will be overcome. We will not lose the battle! Praise God!!

Curtis discussed the parable of the lost sheep. How one sheep got separated from the other ninety-nine sheep. The good shepherd left the ninety-nine sheep and searched diligently for that one lost sheep until he found it. He brought back that lost sheep. This is what Jesus has done for each of us. God risked all heaven for the lost sheep!

Joe Saladino impressed on our minds how we are living in a time of "dress rehearsal". The crisis created by COVID is a clear demonstration of how we can lose our freedom overnight. Our churches can be locked down without warning. We must be mission-driven creative! We must be ready to evolve the physical church no matter what curveballs the enemy throws our way.

Brad Peters shared his testimony that centered around, "Being Fearful...or Choosing Not to Fear". Brad stressed the importance of not allowing someone else to manage your expectations in life. Why and how it is never too late to make major life changes.

Dan Moore, Randy Jamieson, Kurt Drechsel, Terry Mace, Chuck Grigsby and Oren Hansen blessed our weekend with incredibly great music.

The food was amazing. Dinner included 26lbs of beef brisket and 50 chicken combos. Tons of veggie choices.

Dessert was a Coca-Cola cake. All these choices really kept us needing more hikes!!

Sabbath was pure relaxation...five hours of amazing fellowship, and time with God.

People hiked, canoed, shot firearms, napped and just plain relaxed in the sun. The weather was in the 60's. It was perfect!

We enjoyed game night. Awesome fun! Righteous ball, ping pong, fuse ball and other games kept us energized.

Then, it was raffle time!

Here is just a partial list of what was raffled off; a Traeger Grill, an ice chest, two massive tomahawk steaks, veggie dinners, socks and blankets for the ladies.

The entire weekend was all about making authentic connections and decompressing. It was a blessing!

Pastor's Corner

Are you looking for a God-sized miracle to happen in your life?

It has been said...if you want to see a God-sized miracle, you must be in a God-sized problem.

In Luke chapter one, an angel of the Lord visited Zechariah. He blew Zechariah's mind with a God-sized proposal. The angel told Zechariah that you and your wife would have a son. For Zechariah and Elizabeth, this would be a major problem. For child-bearing, Zechariah and his wife were very old...somewhere between the ages of 60 and 70!

Zechariah doubted God's ability to come through.

Can you blame him? Because of his unbelief, God took away his ability to speak. One could say that Zechariah was placed into a God-sized problem.

Then, Elizabeth became pregnant. After nine months, their son was born. When Elizabeth was asked about their son's name... Elizabeth replied that it is to be John. Apparently, Elizabeth had disagreements with her friends and neighbors. There was no one in their family lineage with the name of John. They attempted to persuade Elizabeth to name the infant Zechariah.

They turned to Zechariah and asked him the same question. Zechariah motioned for something to write on. He wrote, his name is JOHN. Immediately...he could speak!

The people around Elizabeth and Zechariah who witnessed Zechariah's miraculous event became fearful. They looked on with wonder and praised God!

They were persuaded that John was to become a special boy. They believed that God had not forgotten His people. God placed Zechariah into a God-sized problem. He then performed a God-sized miracle in the middle of many witnesses. This event was the catalyst for reminding them that God had not forgotten them.

Has God placed you into a God-sized problem? If so, he may be setting you up to ignite the faith of others with a God-size Miracle.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving...



~ Pastor Jason