

Kev's sermon notes for eGroups

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Kev note: It was about 2008 or 2009 when I heard Pastor Furtick preach for the first time during his "Essential James Series" at a portable campus located at the Providence High School auditorium in Charlotte NC – I was left in stunned silence – "Exactly what did I just witness from this once in a generation preacher that speaks with Spurgeon-like precision and who's wisdom far exceeds his length of years?" – From this moment on, I committed to preparing detailed sermon notes (to capture his over-powering wisdom as well as his "gusts" of brilliance) for the benefit of the eGroups that I have had the honor of leading – I think the sermon that Pastor Furtick delivered on Sunday, May 16, 2021 is one of his best ever – Signature event and worthy of your additional digestion and reflection.

Elevation Church - Broadcasting from Ballantyne Campus – Charlotte, NC USA

Pastor: Steven. Furtick

Sermon Title: "Hidden Significance and Conflicted Identities and Too Grown Up to Give Up – Sins with Benefits" – Here are Pastor Furtick's key points for those that are pressed for time:

- "Some of us are too young to know to value something – Sometimes we do not know what we have until you are grown - It is beautiful thing when others see the promise and potential in us – Some are able to see the promise and potential in baby form and see what is hidden."
- "God often hides the most significant things in order to protect the potential - Don't short circuit your creativity and go for instant gratification – Never show your embryos."
- "Hebrews 11 honors those that prevailed even though they were tempted to quit."
- "Don't quit on what God called you to do – Don't confuse child-like faith vs. childish faith."
- "New identity means letting go of what you once knew."
- What is new in the moment can cost you due to conflicted identities - Hebrews 11 is a picture of Christian maturity."
- "Moses chose what to be defined by - Growth is chosen."
- "Do we need to outgrow what we know in order to become who we really are?"
- "Why are we still behaving like 7th graders? Why do we let the opinion of one person drive us away from our purpose? - Why do we continue to take queues from a culture that does not know Christ?"
- "The whole point of Christianity is bigger than "behavior modification and oh just "quit sinning"" – Certain sins meet certain needs and offer benefits - and may even appear to look like freedom - but they have hidden expenses in the form of shame."
- We have an epidemic of being addicted to quitting - Be grown enough to discern what is really important - Don't quit before you get to see something that was not apparent to the naked eye."
- "God does not frame our mistakes like we frame our mistakes."
- We don't get the opportunity to quit - Shift the way that we choose to go through a struggle – Not every win is going to be pretty – We grow in increments and we quit in increments – And we are too grown to quit."

Elevation Worship:

- "10,000 Armies"
- "Never Lost" – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TOPBr8k8xY>

- “See a Victory” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNd-PbVhmvA>
- “Names”

Scripture for this week:

- Hebrews 11: 23-29: 7 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, 18 even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” 19 Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death. 20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. 21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones. 23 By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. 29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days. 31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.
- Ex 2: “The Faith to Float” - The Birth of Moses - 2 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 5 Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. 6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said. 7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” 8 “Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby’s mother. 9 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”
- Hebrews 5: Warning Against Falling Away - 11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

- Romans 5: 8 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. 20 The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Psalm 103 - 1 Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. 2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- **Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone? – See www.elevationchurch.cc.**
- **Interested in joining Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- **Interested in leading an eGroup? See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- **Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- **Interested in attending or leading a watch party: See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- Here Comes Church:
 - Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc
 - Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See www.elevationchurch.cc. When you are isolated, you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don't have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
 - Old Church Basement – just released – quote: “From Going back to the place where we discovered worship for the first time – not a physical place - accessing our first love (within ourselves) – bringing you back to a pure place – absent of self-consciousnesses.” “Our prayer is that his album pierces through the darkness and creates light in people's lives.”
 - eFam reunion tour meets next in Phoenix, Arizona – over 1000 hours of outreach during these events and 135 baptisms.
 - YTHX 2021 – virtual event – July 11 to 18.
 - Love Week: July 24 to 31
 - Holly working on a new eGroup study called “Essentials”
- **Opening prayer by Pastor Furtick on Sunday, May 15, 2021 - “We thank you for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ in this moment – We declare that condemnation has no rule or nor reign in this place – we thank you that our chains are broken so that our hands can be lifted – as a sign of surrender and victory in your name – Thank you Jesus for victory in this place – We thank that there is none higher nor greater – we thank when you want to do something Lord that you don't have to check with anybody – Nor do you require a committee or a plan – Lord, you have a blueprint for our lives – We stand in the mist of your presence today giving you praise – Say this: Lord we love you because you are my righteousness and my fortress – and His name shall be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, and everlasting father – Let's lift up the almighty God since he inhabits the praises of his people - In Jesus's name, Amen.**

- We know that the default setting of our lives is to worry – so let's set our thermostats on worship today.
- When we sing and lift our hands, it is not because we feel something – we lift our hands because we are commanded to praise God – because when we do that – God does not need that from me – God is not upheld by our praise – however our worship does get the weight off us and gives the glory to Him. Here's the important point: You as a child of God are never at the mercy of your own emotions – the Holy Spirit is within you – and you can override any feeling that you have by faith.
- What a great afterglow that we feel from the preaching from Holly Furtick last week on Mother's Day – we appreciate the gift that God has given us in Holly – And, we did not know that Holly was a prophet – until she preached running on empty just prior to a large gas shortage in the southeast of United States.
- See Hebrews 11: 23 to 29.
- It's kind of a broccoli passage today and not a Breyers ice cream passage – my title for today's sermon is: *"Hidden Significance and Conflicted Identities and Too Grown Up to Give Up – Sins with Benefits"* - Hopefully you have all have strong teeth to chew on this topic of being "Too Grown to Give Up."
- Both the faith and the grace must come from the Lord – impart this concept on us right now to every believer.
- Recall the story of Pastor Furtick betting with his son if he could name a song by Jimi Hendrix – "I was too young to know." The problem is we don't know what is possible until we're much older – and we don't know what we have got until we're grown.
- The passage of Hebrews that we read mentions Moses as a baby.
- See Ex 2: 1 to 10 - "The Faith to Float" - The Birth of Moses
- It's important that the writer of Hebrews mentions this because the people getting this instruction are babies in their Christian faith – and so he uses the story of baby Moses.
- Moses biological parents saw his potential in what was hidden – and they did what they did because they did not want to have the baby killed as demanded by the Egyptian Pharaoh – it's a beautiful thing when someone sees the untapped potential in us – to see potential in its baby form – it's also great to borrow someone else's strength and apply it to our own lives.
- So, let's talk about the context of hidden significance – and how some of the things that are most significant are hidden for the very reason that they are significant – in Moses' case, he was hidden until he was three months old so that he could stay alive – and God often hides the most significant things in order to protect the potential – until the time is right.
- We know Moses is the Red Sea part-er – we know Moses is the prophet who commanded plagues – we know Moses is the one who brought water out of a rock – and we know Moses as the person that's saw God face-to-face – but his parents saw his destiny when he was in diapers and they had the good sense to hide what was significant so that he wouldn't be killed - before he had the chance to develop into what he was destined to be.

- **Don't show people too early the things that you're working on – while you are working on them. Don't post everything that you are creating out of a need for instant validation - because you short circuit what it could be – never show your embryos.**
- When God is doing something significant in your life, it's good for it to remain hidden for a time – I think we all agree that Moses was a significant figure in the history of God's people – perhaps even the most significant figure in the history of Israel.
- **Hebrews 11 mentions a lot of them (Abraham, Jacob, Enoch) – the writer of Hebrews is giving a picture of those who did not quit on what God called on them to do – and to give us a picture of those that did not quit – the writer of Hebrews gives an example of a person that was almost killed before he ever got to his calling - to lead the Israelites.**
- Here's my main point: everything significant that I ever did in life, I was tempted to quit – I am preaching this message to someone today – who is tempted to quit on something God called you to do – and I understand how people love to take a sermon out of context and put their initials on it for whatever they want it to mean – for someone to start smoking again because “I told him not to quit” – and some of us are pretty shifty/manipulating when it comes to these Scriptures.
- **When I mean “not quitting” - I am referring to not quitting on what God called you to do – and this helps me understand why some people who have the most significant purpose to accomplish for the kingdom of God go through the heaviest attacks – are at the most formative stages of their lives.**
- So, Moses' his parents had the faith.
- **And in the church today, I am concerned that we confuse “child-like faith” with “childish faith” – These Hebrew believers were just babies in their Christian walk – They were still being weaned off of the sacrificial system that Moses had instituted – In Moses' sacrificial system – sins were atoned for by the blood of mules and goats – where sins were atoned by the offering made by the high priest who had to do this every year – The over-arching theme of the book of Hebrews is that Jesus Christ is superior to the Mosaic covenant – to the Mosaic commandments – and to the Mosaic customs.**
- In the book of Hebrews, were looking at a group of people learning how to do things as well as a new way to do things – in their embrace of Jesus Christ – in order to walk a new way of life in what Christ offers – And this involves letting go of what they had known – They are transitioning their identity from being justified by the law (that does not work) – A Pastor Stephen classic: We can't even comply with the local speed limits never mind the rigors of Mosaic law – And so, the law was designed to bring us to a place where we would know our need for grace and then receive it – so that we would quit trying to commit to keeping the Commandments by our own strength – but rather to receive the grace of God through the person of Jesus Christ – and this is the gospel – and this still works today – and you can be forgiven of your sins without a bull – without a goat – without a turtle dove – without the need for a high priest – without the need of someone to change their mind about you –

whomever calls on the name of the Lord we will be saved – right now – not three classes later – not 10 years of sobriety – but right now - He can save you. (Kev Note: Dang!!!!)

- And yet these people are being tempted by the devil s God is birthing the church into the world – to perhaps return them to the world they were set free from.
- Ok, we just finished talking about hidden significance – now let’s talk about conflicted identities.
- **Conflicted identity means that we are not used to the new way of doing things enough – so we return to what we knew – because what is new in that moment is costing you – the example of Moses is a perfect illustration of maturing enough – We spend a lot of time clicking while looking for miracles – what about Christian maturity? What about having enough maturity to know what to do when God delivers a miracle? – so that we don’t miss manage it when God gives it to us?**
- **In Hebrews 11 there is a picture of a profit – and Moses was a prophet – but he was not your typical profit – in fact I thought the writer of Hebrews was “pretty nice” to Moses when he explained the story – See vs 27 – Moses refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter – He chose to be miss-treated along with the people of God vs. the fleeting pleasures of sin – See 26 – Moses was looking ahead to his reward – This is a great description of Christian maturity.**
- Acts 7 tells us that Moses was 40 years old when he made a decision to be identified with God’s children – and not the Egyptians that were abusing them – and there’s a lot of great stuff in the backstory we do not have time to discuss.
- See Ex 2 – his parents floated him down the Nile river in a basket – the same Nile river that he would turn into blood 80 years later – Moses floated on the Nile river as a baby in order to survive – and I thought about preaching “Faith to Float” – because sometimes we feel like we’re floating between two things before we see what it is going to be – however I have pastoral discipline and I’m only going to preach one message today.
- **It’s important to note that Moses made a decision not to be identified by the Egyptian’s that raised him – but rather with the parents that birthed him – This is not a racial text – nor is this primarily a nationalistic text – Conclusions can be drawn in those directions – The most important point to get from this scripture is that Moses chooses what he’s going to be defined by – and we all have a decision as to what we are going to be defined by – even though Moses’ early life was defined by an assassination attempt – and the enduring trauma of being floated on the Nile river – where some of us even need therapy because her pampers were wrapped too tight – Moses was floating down a river in a basket covered with tar – Even though Moses’ life began with trauma, he made a decision in this moment – not to be define by something that he had become bigger than. (Kev note: Dang!)**
- **And this is where the significance of the text is in the details – the text says “when he grew up” – I wonder if there are things that God is waiting for us to outgrow – that we are praying for him to remove. In the challenges of Moses’ life – in order to become what he really was – he had to outgrow everything that he had ever known – And the text says that he was raised**

as an Egyptian but was born in Hebrew – and there came a moment of decision – Moses made a decision not to be defined by his environment – Moses was not limited by the nature of his experience – Moses was not affiliated by the events that brought him to this point – there is always something that God is telling us to outgrow in this moment – and I wonder what it is? Because until you grow to a point of needing God to change things – we still think that we need everyone to like us – And then we grow past the need for everyone to validate us – in order to see what God has really put into us.

- Moses chose to be miss treated. Moses chose to be lonely. Moses chose to be a weirdo. Moses chose the uncomfortable space of growth. Do you know what? Growth is chosen.
- Change will slap you right in the back of the head.
- Change will kick you right in the _____.
- But growth is chosen – and so Moses had a decision to make – and so did the Hebrew people – and so do you – Do we outgrow what we’ve known? – so that we can become who we really are? – and Moses didn’t even do it the right way – In fact in Acts 7, it says that Moses (at the age of 40) killed an Egyptian for miss treating an Israelite – and that certainly is one way to do it – Moses knew that was something was different about him that didn’t align with the culture around him – and so he did something out of impulse that is an indication of his destiny.
- See vs. 25 – his own people didn’t realize that Moses was there to rescue them. Now we understand that Moses chose to be misunderstood – rather than give up who he was. Grow up.
- Why are we still in seventh grade – and we are 53 years old – and we still filter a majority of our decisions through what other people think – let’s think about this – we spend money with that filter – we say things with that filter – we don’t say things with that filter – yes it is important to think about what other people will think about things – this is why we brush our teeth and are polite – And it is a good thing to think about how our lives are affecting others – However we should not be controlled by it – Based on how grown we are, we should not be controlled by it – Are you so grown in your body and so small in your spirit that one person’s opinion can move you off your purpose? You are much too grown-up to be taking your cues from a culture that does not know Christ.
- And our growth has been stunted – and here’s the reason why – because most of what we have been taught is sin suppression – We have not been taught transformative thinking – We have been taught to push it down – and we have been taught to “don’t do that because someone will see you” – and don’t tell anyone how it really is – so we push things down and never deal with them – and we never know really how to bring it to Jesus – and we’ve heard a lot about forgiveness of sin – But what about freedom from sin? What good is it to forgive me of sin if we are going to run back to the thing that God brought us out of?
- I want to now talk to you about sins with benefits. Sit down and listen to this. See Hebrews 11 vs 25 – Moses chose the reproach of God’s people – Moses chose the inconvenience of purpose over the pleasure of sin. Egypt is symbolic of a place we go to get our needs met – if

you do not appreciate and acknowledge the need that sin is meeting – you will not know how to get that need met in God – and you will come right back to the sin.

- And I know how this sounds – Pastor, are you telling me to appreciate my sin? No – Sin killed Jesus – How can we appreciate sin? - I’m not talking about appreciating the consequence of it – I am not talking about willfully rebelling against God – Even the apostle Paul said “where sin increased – so did grace that much more increase” (Kev Note: See Romans 5) – But shall we continue in sin? – Here is the important question: Is the message we are preaching in church really helping people get free of their sin? The basic message from churches today is “quit sinning” and “quite cussing” – Do you know what? I would rather have you keep cussing and not quit growing – and then thinking that the whole point of the Christian faith is behavior modification – what I’m about to say may separate some of us – some of us are so addicted to the gospel message of quit sinning – but we do not want to talk about the sin of quitting – did you know that quitting is a sin – I’m not telling you to quit your job or sever a romantic relationship – I’m talking about quitting on what God gave you to do – and to protect the deposit that he gave you to guard – and sometimes we have to keep crying while refusing to quit – sometimes we have to keep wrestling – we have an epidemic of quitting in this culture – where we conclude that there’s no value in that which is lasting – where we place a priority on only what which is seen – so we will quit something in order to appear knowledgeable – rather than staying in becoming wise – it is an epidemic - we quit everything so quick – if it doesn’t get 10 likes and 10 minutes we delete it – we are too grown to give up that easily – the Bible says that Moses was grown enough to know – where he said this is not all who I am.
- Moses was not giving up a life of poverty and failure – he was the grandson of the most powerful Egyptian pharaoh – the most powerful man in the world at the time – and Moses chose to give that up and pursue what God had for him – because he was grown enough to discern what is really worth it.
- The Lord has told me to teach a little deeper today so let’s go there.
- See vs. 25 – “He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.”
- **Moses did not choose who he was born to – Moses did not choose what he went through – he chose his response and focused on his reward – because the pleasures of sin were fleeting.**
- See vs. 26 – “26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.”
- Question: Do we really believe what is stated in verse 26?
- The treasures of Egypt = the way the world values your worth – and we know all about it – it is status oriented – it is all the visible stuff and the external stuff.
- Moses chose something that he could not see because he saw something that others did not – He persevered because he saw something that was invisible – therefore his values did not come from something that was visible.
- The more tempted you are to quit the greater the significance – nothing in our lives of significance is free of the temptation to quit – when we are tempted to quit on something

that God gave us to steward – we realize that the temptation to quit is an indication of the significance.

- A lot of us are addicted to quitting – just like we are addicted to pills – like we are addicted to porn – like we are addicted to the bottle.
- So how do we counter this addiction to quitting?
- Here's what it looks like: Holly and I were reflecting a period of time in our 20s – I went through a stage in my immaturity – at the first sign of conflict I would quit at friendship as a protective mechanism – and I believe this is something that I saw as model many times growing up – however I also believe I was immature – as well as being insecure – so the moment a friendship would have conflict associated with it – it was easier to quit and flee the friendship then it was to face what I need to face.
- **For many of us, the moment that a relationship starts to get intimate – we quit getting closer – and we will even design drama – this is a defense mechanism for us so that we can avoid having to push past the surface to permit someone to really see us for who we are – In my 20s, I was too immature and too insecure to know the richness of intimacy is worth the willingness push past the insecurity – and God is changing me now – and because of this I am still growing.**
- We celebrate so much when someone steps out in faith to do something new – however sometimes when we step onto something new it reflects an unwillingness to change – and I know this sounds weird because the passage it's about Moses leaving Egypt – however the scriptures written to Hebrew Christians who have to stay in their faith – and the writer of Hebrews uses the example of Moses as someone who left something that wasn't really true to him – in order to encourage us to stay in what is really worthwhile.
- **When we are tempted to quit when we only see the benefit of quitting – because the Devil knows how to hide the price tag of quitting – this is how temptation operates – and we're not mature and we're not grown-up enough – the moment things don't make sense, we quit trying to understand – and we no longer listen.**
- **See Hebrews 5: "11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."**
- **Do you need to be taught the foundational and elementary aspects of the gospel again? Do you need milk instead of solid food?**
- **Focus on the term "constant use" in Hebrews 5 – you can't quit on something just because it doesn't make sense – and you can't quit every time you don't understand something – the writer of Hebrews is talking about the infant Moses that God protected – God does protect us from certain things in our infant stage – because God saw potential for this moment – don't**

quit before you get to see it – Moses persevered because he saw something that was not apparent to the naked eye.

- The treasures of Egypt = the benefits of sin – and I know this sounds weird – but we have to admit that certain sin meets certain needs – Don't you love judging people? I certainly love to – I love judging others – and I'm being honest with you – it is the greatest escape from having to reflect on myself – it is amazing however I don't recommend it – because judging has a surcharge – the surcharge is shame – this is a hidden expense – notice how the devil works here: the devil tempts us with something – the temptation to quit – temptation stop short of all the things that Christ has for us – and in that moment when we are attempting to quit – the devil highlights the benefit and hides the expense – because if we quit showing up – and if we quit trying, here is what we can expect to experience: relief – however relief is not freedom – because we do not know the difference – so we run around quitting everything – running from everything that would revolutionize us – and resist everything that God sends to grow us – it feels like freedom – but it is really only temporary relief. Sexual immorality is temporary relief with a price tag of permanent bondage – Gossip (as the room becomes quiet) is an immediate vacation from having to deal with yourself.
- Moses refrained from quitting (however imperfectly after all he did murder a man) and God calls this faith – God does not frame our mistakes like how we frame our own mistakes – in the process of Christian maturity is learning to get from your father – what she used to get from Egypt (and Pharaoh) – that every sin that is meeting a need in your life – we need to come to the realization that God can meet it in a better way – that every need that manipulation is meeting in your life – God can meet it in a better way – when we manipulate things and do things in our own strength – doing things without praying about it – doing things without caring about others – doing things without considering the consequences – not being true to the integrity of who we are – when we try to manipulate something we're trying to meet a need – the need is for us to try to be certain – Faith can meet that same need – Faith can be certain that no matter what the outcome is – all things I working together for our good – from this we can learn that we don't need to control anything and we can trust God in everything. (Kev note: Remarkable thought leadership by Pastor Steven)
- And we have a decision to make – Will we be identified with what I have known? – Will we be known by where we came from? Or in this moment, will we make a decision to not be defined by our environment – where we make a decision not to be defined by the events that happened to us – Moses persevered because he saw what others could not see – therefore looking onto Jesus who is the author and the finisher of our faith – who despite the shame of the cross – endured it for the joy set before him – I believe God is calling us into a season of greater faith – greater than our need to see the reason – and calling us into a deeper faith where we don't just quit when things don't first work out – don't give up on yourself because God hasn't given up on you yet.
- Before Moses chose God - God chose Moses – and we do not get to quit – it's not an option – Jesus' blood bought you – there's a hand of God on your life – His grip is stronger than yours –

I've seen God do too much to give up – we are too grown to give up – we are too developed – because we know too much about going to walk away now.

- It probably would've felt better for Jesus if he called on a legion of angels to rescue him from the pain of the cross.
- Have you been tempted to quit? – not like how people typically see quitting – we typically quit on the inside and then it occurs in small increments -
- I took Greek for two weeks in college – and then I realize that God did not give me the gift of speaking Greek – where the professor laughed at Pastor Furtick and said “well that didn't take long.” – and it didn't take long because I never was really committed to it.
- **Paul said in his letter to the Galatians as I'm shocked how quick you turn away to other gods – I'm shocked how quick you stop believing after someone else speaks something different to you – quitting happens in increments – it took Moses 40 years for him to realize this and another 40 years to see things come to pass – but we are too grown to give up.**
- **We need faith and patience – because faith without patience is childish.**
- **You can't quit – there's too much connected to you to quit – yes quitting does provide momentary relief – can you see past the expense to see the benefit of not quitting?**
- See Psalm 103 – “1 Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. 2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,”
- Are you ready to quit – consider making an important decision right now.
- **The temptation to quit is strong because what God gave you to do is significant – I know this – the stronger the temptation to quit the greater the significance – do you have any idea how many times Moses wanted to quit trying to get his people to leave Egypt? One time Moses got so overwhelmed because it was trying to do everything himself – trying to do more than what he was made to do – sometimes the temptation to quit comes from the strain and the burden of trying to maintain what was built – with every temptation to quit there is this revelation of what we are doing is significant – the Egyptian pharaoh wanted to kill all of the babies in Egypt because of the significance in the strength that they represented.**
- **When we feel like we need to quit – this is a good trigger for us to shift – and keep doing what God called us to do – and perhaps shift how we are going to go about things – shifting how we go about things is not quitting.**
- **Have you quit trying - but still keep your body present? Do you want to quit trying to love people and become this bitter cynical person that never tries again because people suck?**
- **God tells us don't quit – shift.**
- When Moses was overwhelmed and running on empty – Jethro and his two daughters came to visit Moses and told him that he could not do this alone and needed to shift (Kev note: See Exodus 18) – and be strengthened on what God has called Moses to do.
- **Shift the way you do things – and here is the challenge: To choose to go through a season of struggle instead of embracing the relief (associated with quitting) – do you always need**

results? Do you always need a compliment? Do you always need a quick answer? Or are you OK with an ugly dove once in a while?

- Not every win is going to be pretty – and Moses didn't exactly do things right – but he did not quit – and neither will you.
- Closing Prayer by Pastor Furtick on Sunday, 5/16/2021: “God does not want you to quit in increments – to slowly withdraw yourself from our own life – until there's nothing of you left – slowly withdrawing from your relationships – until there's no real intimacy (merely only the illusion of it). Don't withdraw your expectations of Heaven – Continue to pray and expect things to happen – Don't withdraw from the fact that our God wants us to lean in the direction of Him – We grow in increments and we quit in increments – and the Lord tells us today that you are too grown in order to give up – Proclaim to God that you will keep standing every day – We are too grown and too entrusted to do too much - and survived too much to quit – Father right now we want to see what is invisible (like Moses did) – to see what we can't see and believe what we don't not understand – Lord, your ways are higher than ours – I bring before you all of your children one by one – The one you have chosen – The one you have protected – You can see their worth from the moment they were born – and our worth is not contingent on behavior or performance – Lord don't let us quit on ourselves – we choose in this moment the riches of Christ over the treasures of Egypt – We choose in this moment the uncomfortable growth in our lives over the convenience and relief of sin – I thank you Lord that you have given us this message of freedom – We bring it all before you now because we're standing between two identities right now – Give us strength Lord that we do not hide or run from you – Let us not take discomfort as a sign for us to leave or quit – Lord, let us continue to stand in this place – Lord, we are not asking for you to take away all of our problems – I know that would be nice, however, we know that is not going to happen – Instead Lord increase our faith – and permit us to outgrow our insecurities – Greater is He that is in us than what is in this world – Lord we want to outgrow that which has worried us – No thing created on this earth has control over You – and we declare this in the name of Jesus – the name that we are identified with – we declare our identity in Him – and we thank you for this word. Amen.

Additional study: A Charles Spurgeon Moment (CSM): EVENING AND HE SAID, “THUS SAYS THE LORD, ‘ I WILL MAKE THIS DRY STREAMBED FULL OF POOLS.’ YOU SHALL NOT SEE WIND OR RAIN, BUT THAT STREAMBED SHALL BE FILLED WITH WATER, SO THAT YOU SHALL DRINK, YOU, YOUR LIVESTOCK, AND YOUR ANIMALS.” 2 KINGS 3:16-17

“The armies of the three kings were famishing and in need of water. God was about to send it, and in these words the prophet announced the coming blessing. Here was a case of human helplessness: Not a drop of water could all the valiant men procure from the skies or find in the wells of earth. In similar fashion the people of the Lord are often at their wits' end—seeing their helplessness, and then learning where their help is to be found. Notice that people were to prepare - prepare in faith to

receive the divine blessing. They were to dig the trenches in which the water would be held. The church must learn by her efforts and prayers to make herself ready to be blessed; she must make the pools, and the Lord will fill them. This must be done in faith, in the full assurance that the blessing is about to descend. They were soon to discover a unique provision of the water they required. The shower did not pour from the clouds, as in Elijah's case; but in a silent and mysterious manner the pools were filled. The Lord has His own sovereign modes of action: He is not tied to process and time as we are but does as He pleases among the sons of men. Our part is to humbly receive from Him, and not to dictate to Him. We Him, and not to dictate to Him. We must also notice the remarkable abundance of the supply there was enough for the needs of all. And so it is in the gospel blessing. All the needs of the congregation and of the entire church will be met by divine power in answer to prayer; and above all this, victory shall be quickly given to the armies of the Lord. What am I doing for Jesus? What trenches am I digging? O Lord, make me ready to receive the blessing that You are so willing to bestow."