

Kev's sermon notes for eGroups

Sunday, Oct 25, 2020 at 9:30 AM

Broadcasting from Ballantyne Campus – Charlotte, NC USA – **with a live audience**

Pastor: Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: "Jumping to a new Conclusion – Making crap up in your mind - The conclusion that you come to is based on the belief that you start with – Bad news triggers bad beliefs – Stop tripping over things that are not even true."

Elevation Worship:

- "Walking on Water" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTeuW-1XduU>
- "Echo" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8agqyGlaD8>
- "Available" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTSQun6B66E>
- "Graves to Gardens" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwX1f2gYKZ4>

Scripture for this week:

- **Psalm 27:13:**
- **Luke 1: 39-45:** *"The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold - 5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. 6 Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. 7 But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. 13 But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. 16 He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." 18 Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." 19 The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. 20 And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time." The Birth of Jesus Foretold - 26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she*

who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail.” 38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her. **Mary Visits Elizabeth** 39 **At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”**

- **Isaiah 55: 8 to 9:** “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”
- **Ep 2: 7-9:** “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
- **Mathew 3: 11-12:** “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”
- **John 1: 29-36:** “29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ 31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32 Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. 33 And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.” **John’s Disciples Follow Jesus** 35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”
- **Mathew 11: 3-6:** “1 After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. 2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” 4 Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”
- **John 3:30:** 30 He must become greater; I must become less.”

“Pastor Steven Furtick sermon: “Jumping to a new Conclusion – Making crap up in your mind - The conclusion that you come to is based on the belief that you start with – Bad news triggers bad beliefs – Stop tripping over things that are not even true.”

- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone? – See www.elevationchurch.cc.
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: www.elevationchurch.cc.
- Reflect Night on Nov. 12, 2020 – A night for the women of Elevation Church – the event will be broadcasted live.
- 10/25/2020: Video on the power of connection, eGroups, and baptism: Women supporting women.
- Pastor Furtick's opening prayer (Dang!): “Father we thank you today for the evidence of your presence in our hearts – we thank you for the peace that surpasses all understanding – that guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus – Lord, I thank you today that your voice is calling out to someone that is feels the are very far from you – they haven't been able to pray – they have not been able to sing – and they can't seem to be able to break the barrier – and for them - you have disappeared – and they know better – but they can't seem to be able to come out from under the burden – there has been so much doubt that has set in – in this season – and they need a breakthrough – God I declare and decree breakthrough in their life in the name of Jesus – I'm praying for the one that is not able to pray for themselves – I thank that your spirit groans with us – when we do not have words – Lord you understand the things that we do not say – Lord, you know the needs that we do not mention – and I don't know who I am praying for today – but you do Lord – it is my strong conviction that you are big enough to meet every need and personable enough to call out every name – so Lord do the thing today that others cannot do – I ask you Lord in faith – I asked that you do something for that man or that woman – that they cannot do for themselves – I ask that you do something for them that will amaze them – and provide a testimony for others – Lord your credit and your reputation are still good with us – we are not going to wait for you to work things out and we are going to praise you by Faith – and worship you buy faith. Most of all I give you the praise for who you are. Amen.
- Recap from last week:
 - “Make the choice to rejoice – The resource is greater than the resistance – and we need to know this children of God.”
 - “Instead of an EGOT – and we need to start thinking about what we got? We got mercy – We got grace – We got love, peace, patience, kindness, joy, and self-control. We have the fruit of the spirit. (See Gal 5:22). We got it.”
 - “We can take anything to mean anything that we want it to mean – when we searching for meaning, everything is meaningless until we give it meaning.”
 - “We may not have a lot of wisdom and experience but we have a Father – and if we have a Father, this means fruit – this means that God is bringing something out of the situation that is beyond our capabilities – and beyond our ability to predict and perform. The proof is in the pruning.”
 - “Don't misinterpret the season you're in. And your life is not limited by the scope of your circumstances. This is why Joseph was able to see rejection as direction.”

- Reflect Night on Nov. 12, 2020 – A night for the women of Elevation Church – the event will be broadcasted live.
- **The conclusion that you come to is based on the belief that you start with – if you start with your faith with the expectation of never experiencing doubt, your faith will fall apart – and I hope it sets you free today that John – the one who said look here’s the Lamb of God – he was the first one and we really have to stop and think about this – John is the person that announced this is the one – and the one that made the announcement is now asking are you really the one? John is now asking the question that he had been answering just one year ago – but he has been in prison for a year – and he is only getting second-hand reports as to what Jesus is doing – and it gets kind of hard to believe - when you’re trapped in a place unable to see the big picture – then you start to believe different things – then you forget what God showed you in the spirit – and you start figuring it out in your mind – See Mathew 11 vs. 5.**
- John was not expecting Mercy he was expecting judgment – so now he wants to know are you the one?
- **When you believe that God is a certain way and you have the audacity to conform to the biography that you created – with your belief – and then you experience something you never expected – you come to the conclusion that God is not with you – because you started the belief system that God would always accommodate in accordance to your belief system.**
- What are the things that you have been believing that are not true?
- We don’t know the difference anymore between our beliefs and truths – we think that because we believe it – this makes it true – but the truth has no respect for our wrong beliefs – now ask the important question: what response does God give John and what response does God give you? – where we come to this point where life has contradicted our belief system – like what is supposed to happen to good people and how our children are supposed to be when they grow up – and when we run headfirst into a truth that contradicts our belief – what is the message to Jesus now?
- Does Jesus have a message for you and does Jesus have a message for John?
- **John faithfully prepared the way and knew that he had to become less for Christ to become more – the one that knew him in the womb – does Jesus have a message for John and you? Does God have a word for your life today? I believe he does. See Mathew 11:5 to 6. Blessed who is anyone that does not stumble on account of me – tell John not to stumble – tell John that just like he is was first in life – he will be the first in death – and recall that John gave his life in prison for the cause of righteousness – and Jesus did not assure him with a sweet platitude – and Jesus did not assure him with a well written Pinterest link.**
- **The Greek term is Skandalon – A stumbling Block or offense may cause you to trip and fall – that is getting in your way in your growth in faith** – Kev supplemental note: *Thayer's Greek Lexicon: "1) the movable stick or trigger of a trap, a trap stick, 1a) a trap, snare, 1b) any impediment placed in the way and causing one to stumble or fall, (a stumbling block, occasion of stumbling), i.e. a rock which is a cause of stumbling - 1c) applied to Jesus Christ, whose person and career were so contrary to the expectations of the Jews concerning the Messiah, that they rejected him and by their obstinacy made shipwreck of their salvation, 2) any person or thing by which one is (entrapped) drawn into error or sin"*
- Jesus tells John not to trip and to jump instead – get a good base and jump – just like John was doing in his mother’s womb – Jump John – the thing that can make you fall is also the same thing

that can strengthen your faith – keep jumping John – you know what is true and you know what I am – you saw me before you near me – you saw the spirit like a dove – don't get tired in this place and don't get tired in this trial – you have the presence of God – you have the favor of God – jump if you still believe that you are blessed.

- It would be a shame for us to trip over something that is not even true – are you tripping over something that is not even true – are you staying away from God's presence because of an offense that you think God is holding over you? Are you running from a Jezebel that does not even have the power to take your life? For those that think that God will only love us later, perhaps we should be reminded what John stands for – the name John means loved – so in those moments that you cannot feel it – I want to encourage you to believe it – by faith – make a decision to jump all week long.
- Closing Prayer - The conclusion that you reach is based on the belief that you start with. Jump to a new Conclusion – the spirit within me is the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead – now that I believe that – the belief that I start with in every situation determines the conclusion that I come to – and Jesus tells us to stop tripping over things that are not true – in John's case he needed an upgraded expectation as to the kingdom of God. And he would get one provided that he didn't trip – are you tripping over stuff that isn't even true? We read in Isaiah 55: 8 to 9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." This is not only a good place to jump from but a good place to land – and a good place for us to anchor in – for everybody that is standing in front of something that is unexpected – make a sanctuary in your heart – we have to believe just like John that in every season God is preparing – and the one who was preparing the way for Jesus came across a stumbling block as well – God we set our hearts today on things that are above – not on earthly things – to remember the eternal purpose that encompasses and impregnates each moment – and that spirit lives in us – we need to jump to a new conclusion – every sin is forgiven and every debt is erased – and we thank you for it now – in Jesus' name amen.

Additional study notes:

Additional commentary by William Henry on Romans 8:28: *"The Spirit in the world helps; many rules and promises there are in the word for our help. The Spirit in the heart helps, dwelling in us, working in us, as a Spirit of grace and supplication, especially with respect to the infirmities we are under when we are in a suffering state, when our faith is most apt to fail; for this end the Holy Ghost was poured out. We must not sit still, and expect that the Spirit should do all; when the Spirit goes before us we must bestir ourselves. We cannot without God, and he will not without us. What help? Why, the Spirit itself makes intercession for us, dictates our requests, indites our petitions, draws up our plea for us. Christ intercedes for us in heaven, the Spirit intercedes for us in our hearts; so graciously has God provided for the encouragement of the praying remnant. The Spirit, as an enlightening Spirit, teaches us what to pray for, as a sanctifying Spirit works and excites praying graces, as a comforting Spirit silences our fears, and helps us over all our discouragements. The Holy Spirit is the spring of all our desires and breathings towards God. With groanings that cannot be uttered. The strength and fervency of those desires which the Holy Spirit works are hereby intimated."*

Quote from Dr. Tim Keller in his sermon “A Reason for Living – a recap of John 1” – *“What if we found the reason for life? Why we were created? Why we were designed? And conformed to that and then honored that? - If there is a design, there is a designer. And if there is a designer, the logos has come. Not some abstract philosophical principle. It is a person. The designer has punched a hole into the world and he has descended. And you were built not to just honor some philosophical principle. But you were built to know and love this divine person. When you know him and when you serve him and you find out what he built you for, when you comply with it and submit yourself to him, you find out who you are. And you are now able to reach your potential.”*

When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Rabbi Harold Kushner: “It may be that Einstein and the Book of Genesis are right. A system left to itself may evolve in the direction of randomness. On the other hand, our world may not be a system left to itself. There may in fact be creative impulses acting on it, the Spirit of God hovering over the dark waters, operating over the course of the millennia to bring order out of the chaos. It may yet come to pass that, as “Friday afternoon” of the world’s evolution ticks toward the Great Sabbath which is the End of Days, the impact of random evil will be diminished. Or it may be that God finished His work of creating eons ago, and left the rest to us. Residual chaos, chance, and mischance, things happening for no reason, will continue to be with us, the kind of evil the Milton Steinberg has called “the still un-removed scaffolding of the edifice of God’s creativity.” In that case, we will simply have to learn to live with it, sustained and comforted by the knowledge that the earthquake and the accident, are not the will of God, but represent that aspect of reality which stands independent of His will, and which angers and saddens God even as it angers and saddens us.”

The Shack by William Young: I (God) am not evil. You (humans) are the ones who embrace fear and pain and power and rights so readily in your relationships. But your choices are also not stronger than my purposes, and I will use every choice you make for the ultimate good and the most loving outcome. . . Broken humans center their lives around things that seem good to them, but that will neither fill them nor free them. Humans are addicted to power, or the illusion of security that power offers. When a disaster happens, those same people will turn against false powers they trusted. In their disappointment, they either become softened toward me or they become bolder in their independence. If you could only see how all this ends and what we will achieve without the violation of the human will – then you would understand. One day you will.”