

Kev's sermon notes for eGroups

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020 – Reflect 2020 Event

Broadcasting from Ballantyne Campus – Charlotte, NC USA

Pastor: Holly Furtick

Sermon Title: “Check Your Roots - You Can Do This – How to have roots that never fail to bear fruit – We need to have the root of acceptance in our lives otherwise we will abandon our calling at the first sign of trouble – You are enough to do what God called you to - But it will not be easy – Repetition and tension over time creates strength - act on things in the simplest and smallest ways – understand that power of attachment to confirm what is already is already known - Elephants are a matriarchal society and they protect each other by circling up to protect their own – affirmation comes from your own mouth”

Elevation Worship:

- “Walk on Water”
- “Graves to Gardens”
- “Man of Your Word”
- “God Job” (Dang!!! – Awesome solo performance) – Also see the song by Alicia Keys - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkDNp4ATCso>
- Lyrics for God Job: Good Job – by Alicia Keys - You're the engine that makes all things go - And you're always in disguise, my hero - I see your light in the dark - Smile in my face when we all know it's hard - There's no way to ever pay you back - Bless your heart, know I love you for that - Honest and selfless - I don't know if this helps it but - Good Job - You're doing a good job, a good job - You're doing a good job – *“Don't get too down - The world needs you now - Know that you matter - Matter, matter yeah - You're doing a good job, a good job - You're doing a good job Don't get too down - The world needs you now - Know that you matter - Matter, matter yeah - Six in the morning - As soon as you walk through that door - Everyone needs you again The world's out of order - It's not as sound - When you're not around - All day on your feet, hard to - Keep that energy, I know - When it feels like the end of the road - You don't let go You just press forward - You're the engine that makes all things go - Always in disguise, my hero I see a light in the dark - Smile in my face - When we all know it's hard - There's no way to ever pay you back - Bless your heart - Know I love you for that - Honest and selfless - I don't know if this helps it but - Good Job - You're doing a good job, a good job - Good job - You're doing a good job - Don't get too down - The world needs you now - Know that you matter - Matter, matter yeah - It's a good job - You're doing a good job, a good job - Good job - You're doing a good job - Don't get too down - The world needs you now - Know that you matter - Matter, matter yeah - The mothers, the fathers - The teachers that reach us - Strangers to friends - That show up in the end - From the bottom to the top - The listeners that hear us - This is for you - You make me fearless - You're doing a good job, a good job - You're doing a good job - Don't get too down - The world needs you now - Know that you matter - Matter, matter yeah”*
- “Promises”
- “Jireh”

Scripture for this week:

- **Jr 17: 7-8:** “But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. 8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”
- **Luke 1: 26 to 49:** 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!”
- **Phil 4: 13:** 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
- **Mathew 26:** 26 to 30: 26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” 27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the [b] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” 30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”

Holly Furtick - Sermon Title: “Check Your Roots - You Can Do This – How to have roots that never fail to bear fruit – We need to have the root of acceptance in our lives otherwise we will abandon our calling at the first sign of trouble – You are enough to do what God called you to - But it will not be easy – Repetition and tension over time creates strength - act on things in the simplest and smallest ways – understand that power of attachment to confirm what is already is already known - Elephants are a matriarchal society and they protect each other by circling up to protect their own – affirmation comes from your own mouth”

- 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.

- Opening prayer by Pastor Steven Furtick: “Clap your hands and say that I am enough – I am enough – the love of God is here and we do not have to earn it – we do not have to achieve it - all we need to do is to receive it right now – it is more than enough to cover our sin or take our shame away – it is more than enough for the challenges that we face today – you are enough Lord - therefore I am enough – You are not alone and you are never alone – Jehovah Jireh – the Lord will provide – we thank you for the provision of your body and blood as forgiveness for our sins – I thank you Lord that you break the power of sin – and free us from the things that bind us – I speak over every sister in Christ that is gathered with us this evening (during Reflect 2020) – we declare You are enough – and You’ll always be enough – and we thank that Your love for us is greater than we will ever know – and we do not have to study about it - or theorize about it – you demonstrated your love for us while we were still sinners – thank you God for the gift of Jesus Christ – our Lord, our Savior, our example – it is in His name - that we pray - amen.”
- 2020 has been a year of trying new things – thank you for so many of you that are gathered together remotely in watch parties while being a part of Reflect 2020.
- Opening Prayer from Holly Furtick: “God we thank you so much – We come here together tonight – it certainly looks different this year – but it is still beautiful because You are here – we are coming together across our world and across our screens – God, we unite our hearts together – we unite our faith together – we open up our minds and our ears because we want to hear from you Lord – speak to us now in Jesus’ name we pray amen.
- We have all learned new skills this year during the pandemic – like learning how to cook, teach kindergarten and work full time – all at the same time.
- Men have no idea how hard it was on women during this pandemic – just think about hair roots and removing nail polish - and stuff like that.
- Tonight it’s time for a root check (think hair roots at a salon).
- Say this to everyone: Let me check your roots!
- Jeremiah 17:7 to 8.
- **See Jer 17: 7-8: “But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. 8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”**
- **This passage of scripture presents a picture of a person that is like a tree – we want to be a tree that has roots that go deep – no matter what the world throws at us– no matter what happens to us – we can still operate from a place of strength.**
- Are you like me – where you tell yourself “by God I’m going to finish this year strong” - despite all of the hysteria and toil?
- Tonight we are going to talk about how we can have roots that never fail to bear fruit.
- It’s great to be a woman that can handle things – where she always seems to come out on the other side bearing fruit.
- Let’s look at Mary in Luke 1: 26 to 49.
- **Strong women do not happen by accident – anybody with killer abs doesn’t eat French fries every day – it’s all about the work they put in. Strength does not happen overnight - it happens over time – staying present – staying faithful – day in and day out – working on becoming the best version of yourself – and this is hard work – a tree does not grow overnight it takes time to put**

down roots – if you want to be strong and fight for the things that are important to you – you are going to have to have some roots – time under tension creates strength – the most important part about the tree happens below the surface – in places where people can't see – can we say at the end of 2020 that a lot of things got thrown at me - but I got through it - and I'm stronger for it?

- The easiest thing to do is to blame others and be easily offended by everything that does not come our way – it's also really easy to try very hard for one day – I'm gonna wake up at five - I'm going to read my Bible and I'm gonna to fast as well – and eight hours later we're screaming at customer service on the phone – while going through a drive-through at McDonald's looking for another serving of fries.
- **We have got to check our roots.**
- And Luke 1, we read learn about Mary that had to weather it's some droughts and storms.
- She can teach us about having deep roots.
- Mary had a massive calling on her life – she was going to raise a son of God.
- I don't know what it's like to raise the son of God but I do know what it's like to attempt to raise children.
- We know nothing about Mary before the scripture.
- **Regardless of what Mary was doing when the angel spoke to her (that bible does not say), she was ready, willing, and able to do what God called her to do. Is your day so crowded and so noisy that God would need to strike lightning to get your attention? Self-care is important – however what if self-care also means that your calendar is not so full that you are overwhelmed all of the time? Like saying no to some things and taking a break from social media.**
- **Do you have any pockets of time where you can reflect, pray, and think about God – during a commute perhaps? What is the last thing you do before you go to bed? We have some vast treasure of on-line worship and bible resources – we can fill the spaces in our lives with some amazing things – however if you don't have a plan, we end up scrolling every second of the day. Make space in your life - Mary had space in her day for God. And let me say one thing when it comes to making space in our lives – some of us are letting church slip thru our fingers – nine months into the pandemic – church on Sunday morning with the family might have started to slip – and if we let these important things slip through your fingers – we might find ourselves in a very difficult storm - and without the root system to make it through – because we have not made God present in our lives.**
- Be in a position so that God can speak to us.
- Are you aware? Mary was aware – and she proclaimed herself as a servant to God.
- She probably had many questions -
- **We need to have the root of acceptance in our lives otherwise we will abandon our calling at the first sign of trouble – and our calling is unique – we can either reject it or accept it.**
- Sometimes we reject our calling in subtle way – by letting ourselves get stuck – and I have a confession – I can be kind of lazy on occasion – where I am unwilling to put in the work to accomplish what God wants me to do.
- **Sometimes we hide behind the idea of “I'm not good enough” or “I don't have what it takes” rather than just putting in the work – to live out what God called you to do. You are enough to do what God called you to – but it will not be easy – repetition over time creates strength.**

- You're called to do whatever God has placed in your life right now – not “one day” when you have more money - not one day when you have your own house.
- You are called to the place you are right now – others need to see you walking confidently in the calling that God has given you – in your high school – at your home – at your work – others will see your strength and resilience.
- There will always be challenges – think about all of the challenges that Mary had to deal with – giving birth in a barn and watching her son experience pain, rejection, and a painful death.
- We can do hard things.
- Phil 4: 13: 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
- No calling is easy.
- When God gives you a direction what is your response time? God uses people who hear his word and then move. After Mary received a revelation from an angel, she immediately went to see Elizabeth.
- And It starts with the small things – which is practice for bigger things – to apologize for something you did or to start the process of forgiving someone – act on things in the simplest and smallest ways – put down your phone – spend time with your kids – better is “right here” and “right now” – what can you right now?
- Understand that power of attachment to confirm what is already is already known – just like Mary reached out to Elizabeth.
- Recall the fictional book by Jody Caccione (sp?) regarding the elephants – who's intelligence allows them to do remarkable things – even communicate six miles apart.
- Elephants are also a matriarchal society and kick the boys out – and even protect each other by circling up to protect their most vulnerable – see:
https://www.google.com/search?hl=en&tbm=isch&sxsrf=ALeKk01mvmWLbozgUEJEqLK0bnREH-1zOQ%3A1605357932511&source=hp&biw=550&bih=586&ei=bNGvX6LvHIHu_Qb8il6ICg&q=elephants+circling+up+to+protect+the+vulnerable&oq=elephants+circling+up+to+protect+the+vulnerable&gs_lcp=CgNpbWcQDDoHCCMQ6glQJzoECCMQJzoCCAA6BQgAELEDOggIABCxAXCDAToGCAAQBR AeOgYIABAIEB46BAgAEBhQuCFYvrUBYOFGAWglcAB4BoABwQWIAd1RkgEOMjguOS45LjMuMi40LjGYAQCGAQGqAQtdn3Mtd2l6LWltZ7ABCg&scient=img&ved=0ahUKEwii1bWqilltAhUBd98KHXYEA6EQ4dUDCAc#imgsrc=PY1GTWNomWCAyM
- It is a beautiful thing when others come around and surround someone with love and grace during a time of need – yes having roots does require to do somethings on our own – and you are going to need others to support you when things don't go your way.
- Pain is hard and some elect to go-it alone.
- Surround yourself with a few people that are further along in their journey and can help you – and when Mary was in a barn giving birth to Jesus, she probably recalled the encouraging words of Elizabeth. Check your roots this evening. Who is cheering you on? Who has fought for you? Who has grieved for you? Take some time to dig into the roots of friendship tonight. Build this now and before the storm or the drought comes.
- It is also a privilege to do things for someone else.
- Affirmation comes from your own mouth – this is good root building – Mary is a great example of this in Luke 1. Tap the roots that you cultivate – so the root system is available to you when then you need them.

