

Kev's sermon notes for eGroups

Sunday, Dec 6, 2020 at 9:30 AM

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

Pastor: Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: "How to Finish with Favor – Ignore the false favor and reclaim the Favor of God in our Lives – The Favor of God can be found anywhere – Even when we are not looking for it – Can you proclaim something that you have yet to perceive? Being so focused that we do not understand what we are looking at – Is familiarity the enemy of God's Favor? – When the favor of God is on you, the situation can no longer harm you."

Elevation Worship:

- There is a King - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuPP2Kxyo00>
- Oh Come Let Us Adore Him - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plj6wtHN21s>
- Hallelujah Here Below - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWpSa_fkt84

Scripture for this week:

- **Luke 4: 18 to 19:** "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
- **Luke 4: 13 to 30:** 13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. 16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." 22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. 23 Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'" 24 "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. 27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian." 28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. 30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way. Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit: 31 Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. 32 They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. 33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, 34 "Go away! What do you want

with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” 35 “Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. 36 All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!” 37 And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

- **Numbers 14** – 40 years in the wilderness.
- **Isaiah 61 (NIV)** - The Year of the Lord’s Favor - 61 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy - instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. 4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. 5 Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. 6 And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. 7 Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours. 8 “For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. 9 Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.” 10 I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.
- **Psalms 23**: A psalm of David. 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he refreshes my soul. he guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Pastor Steven Furtick: Sermon Title: “How to Finish with Favor – Ignore the false favor and reclaim the Favor of God in our Lives – The Favor of God can be found anywhere – Even when we are not looking for it – Can you proclaim something that you have yet to perceive? Being so focused that we do not understand what we are looking at – Is familiarity the enemy of God’s Favor? – When the favor of God is on you, the situation can no longer harm you.”

- 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.
- **Here comes church:**
 - Year-end commitment offering – Recall video of Pastor Furtick and Holly Furtick for a year end offering – to give to the expansion in the movement of God – This year end offering is called **“The Favor Offering”** - that ends on 12/13/2020. – See Luke 4:19 – The year of Lord’s Favor – where the favor of God is not dependent on your circumstances. See Luke 4: 18 to 19: *“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*
 - These week’s focus: Elevation eFam – vast expansion of global watch parties and eGroups – Quote by Pastor Furtick: “We are in the middle of a global revival” -
 - When the global pandemic hit, there was both faith and fear – and by the favor of God elevation church was able to donate \$9 million this year to reach partners – over 600K meals – over 30K volunteers serving over 8k hours – over \$500K for disaster relief - \$150K of flood supplies – over 500K tablets to inmates this year – over \$100K to church plants.
- **Opening prayer by Pastor Furtick: “Lord we give you praise today and honor You for the miracle of a crown found in a cradle – it is an amazing thought that you came to earth in the smallest and weakest form – in order to show us the greatest power – and I believe that you still do that – and I ask that you would do that in these moments – because someone here needs your strength made perfect in their weakness – they need you Lord - to show up in a situation that feels crowded and cold – just like our Lord in a manger – and I declare that God Emmanuel (He is with us) is showing up in every one of those situations – and we believe it and we have the power of agreement right now – coming from your word – coming from heaven – coming from the spirit within us – and we agree with your assessment over our lives – and we thank you that your presence is not merely a visit – but rather to live inside of us – what a beautiful distinction Lord – you are not just passing through – and we see this so clearly today – because where in church right now – Lord you have been with us the whole time – and we cannot help to thank you for that – that you are with us all along – Lord you didn’t get embarrassed when we screwed up – and you never gave up on us – and we probably will have done that had we had been God – and we thank you that we are not – yet we still desire to manipulate outcomes that we can’t control – so we stand in your presence today to make this declaration – You are God and we are not – so let’s praise the name that is above every other name – and He is in you – Peace and Good will to all of you - on whom His favor rests – Not convenience since that would be fancy favor – if you have Gods favor celebrate it – Thank you Lord. In His mighty name. Amen.**
- The Favor Offering ends on 12/13/2020.
- Luke 4: 13 to 30
- Today’s message is called “Finish with Favor”
- **I had to give a lot of thought to what I wanted to call 2020 – The word Favor is probably not the first word that comes to mind – I’ve heard a lot of people use different words to describe 2020 and some of you are using “F” words – like Fear – or the year of Frustration (like trying to understand what the post COVID 19 rules are – and the bad crowd dynamics of only having 300 people in the sanctuary) – or the year of Fighting (we have found many places and things to fight over – where everything is so controversial).**

- Or we can call it with Luke tells us in chapter 4 – the year of favor
- Jesus tells us that the spirit of the Lord is on us – and this is the year of Favor.
- **Today we're going to talk about how to finish with favor and this may require us to forget about the first 11 months of this year – Paul tells us to forget what is behind straining to what is ahead.**
- Kev note: **See Philippians 3:13 – “Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead . . .”**
- **Let's make a deal right now – I will not bring up the prior 11 months of this year as long as long as you don't – all the temper tantrums and pity parties that you've had this year – all of the other stuff that's inappropriate to talk about in a church setting – that stuff that was fear-based and frustration based – fighting against people that we are supposed to be fighting for – I won't bring it up if you don't – let's talk about God's favor going forward.**
- You are going to finish with favor.
- And I can't prove this based on the number of the rising COVID-19 cases – nor can I prove this with mere flip of a calendar at the start of a new year.
- And I can't figure out which is harder: To inspire someone that is overly familiar with the concept so I can un-familiarize them or to inspire someone that has never heard of the word Moses – or is the old preacher joke says – to talk to somebody that doesn't know the difference between Ruth in the bible and Baby Ruth (the candy bar).
- **And I think it's harder to explain God's favor to someone that is familiar with the word.**
- **A good deal on black Friday is not favor – it is only skillful marketing.**
- And we have a hard time understanding God's favor.
- The last time that preached on God's favor was 2011.
- **The word favor does not need to be retired it just needs to be reclaimed.** We are reclaiming the favor of God in our lives – for our families – this church – our perspective – our emotions.
- **So what exactly is the favor of God? It's easier for me to show you then it is to tell you.**
- I can give you a picture better than I can show you a definition.
- Take a selfie picture – Will you still see the light of your eyes and a smile on your face – the picture of the favor of God – here you are to defining what the favor of God is – favor is not the absence or the ambiguity associated with an attack on your life – is a picture of gods favor.
- See Luke 4:13 to 30. Here Jesus paints a beautiful picture of the favor of God.
- **Favor is not luck – because luck is proven out externally in the world.**
- **When I mention the word Favor during this global pandemic some of you might be looking at me as if I reside in an alternate reality – no – I am not an alternate reality however I reside in an alternate kingdom – that is not part of the spirit of the world.**
- Think about Moses and Noah - both of whom found favor with God – Think about Ruth who found favor with God through Boaz – A Pastor Steven Classic – a lot of single people like this one – because they're not with broke-as or poor-as.
- So now let's go to the person that are not only spoke the favor of God but showed the favor of God – who was the favor of God – what is the favor of God.
- See Luke 4:13.
- When the devil finished tempting, he left Jesus – after fasting for 40 days and 40 nights.
- I almost called the sermon “Are you done yet Devil?”
- **See Luke 4:13 - The season of gods favor came after a season of testing.**

- And if we don't understand this, we will not recognize the presence of God's favor after toil.
- **No battle in your life will last forever – nor will every blessing in your life last forever – and if you were in a blessing right now enjoy it - because there will be a battle in the future – if you're in a battle right now endure it because there will be a blessing in the future – there will be another one.**
- **When Jesus was tempted by the devil and when he is speaking in the synagogue with people that he knew - it was the same favor of God – same favor that was with Jesus while he is participating in a worship service is the same favor that was with Jesus in the wilderness. And this was helpful for me – because the favor of God is not contingent on a location – we can find favor anywhere we want to look for it – it was the same favor that allowed Jesus to endure the idleness and temptation while in the wilderness – that enables him to proclaim truth in the synagogue.**
- Perhaps there is another way to save us: Favor can find us anywhere – and there are sometimes when we are not looking for God's favor at all – while looking for other stuff – and just about the time I thought that I could not make it, God came to minister to my spirit – when my flesh was weak and my tears were falling – when my hope was foggy and faded – here came God favor – here came love – here came grace – here came mercy.
- How many have this testimony – Favor found you!
- Here I am God – I need you in this wilderness – the favor of God was with Jesus at the resurrection – the favor of God was with Jesus in the wilderness – the favor of God was with Mary before the beginning of Jesus' life – this same favor is with you – same favor – just a different place.
- 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness feels familiar to us.
- 40 days in the wilderness to make up for 40 years. Kev note: See Numbers 14.
- 40 years in the wilderness explained - Kev's bonus study – as quoted in the following link:
<https://www.gotquestions.org/wilderness-wandering.html> - *"Then the Lord said to Moses, "How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them? I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them" (Numbers 14:11). However, Moses once again interceded for his people and turned away the wrath of God (Numbers 14:13-20). Although God did forgive them, He decided that "not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it" (Numbers 14:23). Rather, they would suffer by wandering in the wilderness for forty years, one year for each of the forty days they explored the land (Numbers 14:34). Furthermore, God would give them what they asked for: "I will do the very things I heard you say: In this desert your bodies will fall, every one of you twenty years old or more" (Numbers 14:28-29). Additionally, the ten men who had given the bad report were struck down and died of a plague before the Lord (Numbers 14:37). Only Joshua and Caleb survived, the two faithful spies who believed God's promise to give the land over to them. God had promised them victory. The land He commanded them to go in and take was already theirs; they simply had to trust and obey, but this they did not do. God will never lead us where His grace cannot provide for us or His power cannot protect us. Indeed, the Israelites had seen the powerful hand of God at work during the plagues and miracles of the Exodus. Yet, like many people, they walked by sight and not by faith, and their unbelief displeased God. "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6). Their failure to believe in God's word kept them from entering the Promised Land. This truth has never changed."*
- When Moses was in the wilderness, he failed – so Jesus set up a rematch with the Devil.

- When Moses failed, he was not able enter into the land that he led the people to.
- What Moses did - ended in failure – and during the rematch with Jesus - we end in favor.
- Favor is hard to explain.
- During this pandemic we are so focused on earnings so that we stay above water – that we forget about God’s favor.
- **The rematch by Jesus in Luke 4 shows us that – we receive His favor and receive His grace – we received His righteousness – and He took away that sin that was suffocating us – He stripped that shame away that was sabotaging us – where He broke the back of fear – where He broke the yolk of frustration – where we no longer have to fight from a place of defeat – we no longer have to fight in our flesh – where the Spirit of the Lord is on us – where he has anointed us – and this is why we are going to finish this year with favor.**
- When we are afraid, we slip back what we are familiar with – when we are frustrated – when we are in it – we retreat to familiar things – we strike the rock twice like Moses did.
- When Jesus finished in the wilderness, the devil was done but Jesus was not.
- The enemy got tired before the Savior did.
- The Lord told me to tell you today that that you will finish this year with favor.
- And this is how we know.
- See Luke 4:14.
- It says that Jesus returned to Galilee with power in the spirit – after being tested in the wilderness for 40 days.
- This tells me that progression didn’t stop by completing the test – Jesus completed his transformation – so that he keeps working in my life – so that he has unlimited patience with me.
- Here is the important news: He broke the chains – He broke the shame. This is what is meant by the year of the Lord’s favor.
- **See Luke 4:16 to 19: He found that place where is written Isaiah 61: “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy - instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.”**
- **Can you proclaim something that you have yet to perceive?**
- Then Jesus rolled back to scroll and sat down.
- Rev 5 tells us that Jesus is seated in heaven.
- When the favor of God is on us, we can find our place anywhere.
- Jesus wasn’t talking about circumstances or cure-all vaccines – He so knew his purpose that he found his place in Isaiah without any effort.
- I sometimes I wonder if familiarity is the enemy of God’s favor.
- **See Is 61:2 and Luke 4:18-19**
- **Why did Jesus stop reading Is 61:2?**

- The people in the synagogue knew the rest of Isaiah 61 – and Jesus probably confused those in attendance – since they wanted the Roman occupation to end. He stopped at that which he came to fulfill.
- When we think the favor of God we selfishly think it means the elimination of our enemies.
- Jesus came to save the people that the church leaders wanted to wipe out. - He came to fulfill the law not to abolish it. - Jesus came to fulfill the vengeance of God because sin has to be punished – but he did not put it on you and he did not put it on me – this the good news of the Gospel – that will set captives free – He couldn't put it on you because He put it on himself – He who knew no sin - took away sin so that we could become the righteousness of God.
- So what did Jesus say about favor? You are looking at it.
- Favor can't be found in a new car (or the payments) or in Boaz.
- The grace of God is that Jesus did for us what we could not do ourselves.
- It starts grace and ends in favor. If it starts with human effort, it ends in frustration – favor is the end of spiritual frustration.
- See Luke 4:20 to 21.
- Today is the year of the Lords Favor.
- Recall that analogy of finally recognizing the beauty of the Smokey Mountains in the distant while visiting Greenville College – we were so focused on what we were living in, we never focused on what we were looking at – When we are living in it, we do not even know what we are looking at – this is why we should never wish away seasons or stages of our lives – it took the pandemic of 2020 to appreciate what we have – God's favor was here the whole time.
- Is familiarity the enemy a favor?
- Sometimes we choose what is familiar over God's favor.
- I'll prove this to you with theology in the Bible.
- Why is it in the place that Jesus should have done the most (Nazareth), He did the least? Jesus hometown should've been the greatest place to spring forth the favor of God. Some areas of your life where God should be doing the most - you are letting God do the least. Because we are choosing what is familiar and chasing away God's favor.
- How many of us we are waiting on the vengeance part – because we think we know so much – and we might even consider the favor of God to be over - because God did not do what we wanted him to do.
- It is finished when Jesus said it is finished.
- Jesus is who he says he is not what we think he is.
- And you are what Jesus says you are – not what they (your thoughts, your addictions, your secrets, your life) say you are.
- Jesus told the attendees in the synagogue that God's favor is present at this hearing. Not physical hearing but spiritual hearing.
- Someone famous said "is a terrible thing to see and still be blind" – it's a terrible thing to not appreciate the smoky mountains while they are in our own back yard.
- We have to push past our bad attitude to get to the favor of God that is always in front of us.
- Are you addicted to your fear because it sounds so familiar? If fear is your natural habitat, you will seek it out often – and find something to be afraid about – even make something up in the

moment. If you operate under fear, you will create frustration – if you overload yourself with stuff, you will be frustrated.

- The year of the Lord's favor can also mean the acceptable year of the Lord.
- Jewish people knew the word Jubilee – the forgiveness of debts and prisoners would be freed.
- Jesus tells his people that I am the Jubilee – and you do not have to wait 50 more years. This is year of Lord's favor.
- Kev's bonus study - The 7-year Jubilee explained from Wikipedia regarding origin and purpose: *"Leviticus 25:8–13 states: You shall count off seven Sabbaths of years, seven times seven years; and there shall be to you the days of seven Sabbaths of years, even forty-nine years. Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. You shall make the fiftieth year holy, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee to you; and each of you shall return to his own property, and each of you shall return to his family. That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee to you. In it you shall not sow, neither reap that which grows of itself, nor gather from the undressed vines. For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you. You shall eat of its increase out of the field. In this Year of Jubilee each of you shall return to his property."*
- **People do not love like Jesus loves – so we're not familiar with that. It is hard to trust wholeheartedly – it's hard to pray to God in every situation – it is hard to believe that all of our sins are forgiven – it is hard to give God all of our burdens and trust him in all things – it is hard to trust God without knowing all of the details – this is not familiar – it is easier for us to cultivate frustration through his spirit of manipulation.**
- See Luke 4: 20 to 24.
- The word Agnico (sp?) – and intense emotional focus on something.
- Our emotional focus determines if we are going to fear, frustration, fighting, or favor.
- The Lord wants to give you a gift of intense emotional focus with one month left in the year.
- And you are going to have to let go of certain attachments to familiar things that are blocking God's favor? – your focus is your favor. God gave you a favor and God gave me a favor – God gave you a family and God gave me a family – God gave you a gift and God gave me a gift.
- Time to focus on the favor that God has given you individually in this particular season.
- If you want to look for mercy and grace, focus on this.
- If you want favor, it is right in front of you – not in any earthly promotion or earthly proclamation.
- The people of Nazareth was so familiar with Jesus they could not realize the favor.
- Are you open to receiving the favor of God?
- **I asked God to do three things for us:**
 - **Make us conscious of his favor – we have to see it first.**
 - **Help us cooperate with his favor – stopping fighting with what God is doing in our lives.**
 - **To be made a conduit for his favor.**
- What sin started will end in favor – no matter what happens it will end in favor.
- Make the declaration you are going to finish in favor.
- Or are you going to chase it (God's favor) away?
- Luke 4:24 – well expect God to do something – Will you also accept what God is doing in your life?
- Are we so unfamiliar with acceptance that we don't believe it?

- Today is the Day of the Lord's favor. It does not matter how it started and it does not matter what it presently looks like.
- **Confess that you will finish this year in the Lord's favor. Don't let familiarity kill your favor. Jesus was rejected by the people that knew him the most – because their emotional focus was on what they expected God to do? See Luke 4:25 to 27 - But God sent His greatest favor to the people that were the least familiar. And I wonder if we know too much – because we have a blueprint showing us how God is going to bless us – where we live in something so long we no longer see it for what it is. Can you recognize what is right in front of you? Is this the acceptable year of the Lord? Are you accepting the favor of God or are you pushing it away because it feels weird?**
- Someone else is counting on you to find your favor in the season you're in.
- See 4:29-30: They chased away the favor of God.
- Don't chase away the favor of God because it looks like a challenge – because it's not comfortable – embrace the favor of God instead of chasing it away.
- When the favor of God is on you, can do what Jesus did – See Luke 4:30 – He walked through the crowd – the devil should've killed you when he had the chance – you have the favor of God and he can't touch you now – it is never finished when hell says it is.
- Walk right through in the favor of God.
- This year has been slow progress for many of us – but we are still walking in the favor of God – embrace the favor of the Lord – it is right in front of you – not some distant galaxy – and not in some future version of you.
- **Closing Prayer: "Lord we are tempted right now – we default to a state of fear because it is familiar – it is a foreign concept for us to resist the temptation of fear – we are frustrated by the things that keep slipping away from us – it's hard to believe that You are still at work in those areas that we need your help – we were born fighters – the problem comes when we fight against Your favor - that You gave us – the gift or thorn of a particular situation – thank you for showing us that the fear, the frustration, and the fight are where the favor resides – this is why you gave us the favor – to be patient as we wait – to battle that addiction – to take a seat with you – thank you that you are worthy to open the scroll as it is written in Rev 5. Because you finished with favor Lord, we will to. Surely goodness and mercy will follow us for all the days of our lives – and we will dwell in the house of the lord forever – and we will finish with favor. Amen.**

Today's CSM: Charles Spurgeon Moment: "Christ came to seek and to save sinners. Electing love has selected some of the worst to be made the best. Pebbles from the brook are turned by grace into jewels for the royal crown. Worthless dross He transforms into pure gold. Redeeming love has set apart many of the worst of mankind to be the reward of the Savior's passion. Effectual grace table of mercy, and therefore none of us should despair. Reader, by that love looking out of Jesus' tearful eyes, by that love streaming from those bleeding wounds, by that faithful love, that strong love, that pure, disinterested, and abiding love, by the heart and by the tender compassion of the Savior, we urge you not to turn away as though it was nothing to you. Rather, believe on Him and you will be saved. Trust your soul with Him, and He will bring you to His Father's right hand in everlasting glory."