

God's mercy is available even amid chastisement

Lesson Scripture: Lamentations 1:12-16; 3:22-24, 31-33

Lesson aims: to summarize the destruction of Jerusalem, to understand that God's mercy is available even amid chastisement, and to appreciate hope that comes only from God

Background: Jewish tradition accepts Jeremiah as the author of Lamentations. "The five somber poems don't mention a writer, but their style and content suggest that it's one person" ("Richard's Complete Bible Handbook"). The theme is a lament over the destruction of Jerusalem. Most of the poems are acrostic in that verses begin with consecutive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Chapter 3 has 66 verses arranged in 22 groups of three verses with each letter of the

alphabet. When Jeremiah received the call to be God's mouthpiece, he was promised protection and vindication. Committed to God, the prophet loved his people. He was often called the "weeping Prophet." Emotional expressions paralleled God's anguish over a

and disease before the final attack occurred. Last week's lesson recorded the desolation of Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians.

Nebuchadnezzar gave Jeremiah a choice to either go to Babylon or remain with the poorest of the poor in Jerusalem. The prophet chose to stay in Jerusalem. Chapter 25 of II Kings also recorded the destruction.

Lesson: Jerusalem lays in ruin. Her protective walls no longer exist; the plundered temple is empty; Jeremiah and the remnant are left in a deserted place. Her (Jerusalem's) sins are exposed; she is bitter about it and she is despised by all (verses 1-11). The prophet mourns over Jerusalem's destruction. He cries out to God for comfort, but comfort doesn't come. Is God to blame?

Chapter 2 further records the Lord's anger toward the Daughter of Zion. He did just what He said He would! They refused to repent, so destruction and captivity follow. No one escapes His judgment, and yet there is hope. Where? Jeremiah speaks of God's faithfulness beginning in verse 22. Is there room to complain? Not really because God keeps His word and His love is forever.

Jerusalem's present predicament is due to sin not an uncaring God. Had it not been for His mercy all would have been consumed. His compassion is great! Jeremiah states, "The Lord is my portion, and he will have hope in Him." Punishment is harsh at times, but it doesn't last forever because of the Lord's tender mercies.

Application: For those of us who've been here awhile, we acknowledge the "up and downs" of life. Highs and lows of life are parts of this journey. Unfortu-

nately, some believers don't want to recognize and be responsible for their actions. Our loving Father wants us to keep Him first in our lives. When we fail to do so there are consequences. God warns us just as He did Judah. Like Judah, we want to ignore the message and kill the messenger. We fail to recognize that God keeps His word. When divine discipline comes upon us, we cry out for help. He doesn't respond. He knows what it takes for us (individually/corporately) to learn our lesson.

Our parents, elders and teachers have allowed us to learn (the hard way at times) the lessons of life. We came out on the other side better people. We mistakenly thought that they didn't like us, but contrary to that notion their

motive was love. God has to do the same thing. He tells us the right thing to do, but we don't do it. He disciplines us on this journey so that we may become better people. The discipline may seem harsh, but it is because He loves and has mercy on us.

While going through just remember that His mercy endures forever (Psalm 118:29). To become what we need to be there must be a mixture of joy and pain. Whether the pain is self-inflicted, due to discipline or falling on the just/unjust, our comfort comes in knowing that His grace and mercy are not far off.

Keep the faith because He has promised never to leave us alone. Introduce Him to someone today!



Mildred Peppers
Sunday School Lesson

wayward people. In 586 B.C. the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem after an 18-month blockade of the city. Many died from starvation

Pastor's Conference provides spiritual answers for singles

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

No one deserves the pain of living without a wholesome, healthy relationship. God created human beings for successful and harmonious relationships. Lack of sound spiritual foundation is one of reasons for 30 million fatherless children and 15.6 million female-headed households.

In response to this societal crisis, the Pastor's Conference of



Rev. Dr. Lartey

Goler Memorial A M E Zion Church is offering a 12-week teaching on the spiritual foundations for singles

preparing to get married. The sessions will be held on Sundays from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Some of the topics will be: rules for attracting the attention of the one you love; getting married and remaining married; controlling your emotions vs. your emotions controlling you; mental preparation - forgetting the past and embracing the future; physical preparation - treating the body as the temple of beauty and the

indwelling of the Holy Spirit; developing managerial skills; developing great social skills.

Preparation is everything to your opportunity for a lifelong, fruitful relationship. Call the conference headquarters at 724-9411 for more information.

Rev. Dr. Seth O. Lartey is pastor of Goler Memorial A M E Zion Church and instructor of the Pastor's Conference. The church is at 630 N. Patterson Ave.

Ambassador Cathedral will hold service to honor minister of music

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The members of Ambassador Cathedral will honor their minister of music, David L. Allen Sr., in an Appreciation 2002 service on Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. Gospel legend D.J. Rogers of Rockford, Ill., will be the guest speaker. Minister Keith Pringle along with Goldsmith and Soul-Out will be the musical guests.

Allen - a musician extraordinaire in skills, talents and temperament - is truly a man of his times. His many long years of devotion and dedication to the artistry of music have gained him much respect throughout the United States.

Allen is a native of Winston-Salem, where he attended the public schools. He is a 1979 graduate of Winston-Salem State University. He has been the minister of music of

Ambassador Cathedral since its inception in 1966.



Allen Sr.

Allen is a talented writer, arranger and musician. He has been producing concerts and music festivals

for 12 years. He is recognized as one of the top writers in the gospel music field. He has performed and recorded with most of the major gospel artists.

He has achieved national recognition and exposure through his affiliation with the Gospel Music Workshop of America, which the late Rev. James Cleveland founded. In

August 1994, Allen was appointed co-chairman of the youth/youth adult department of the Gospel Music Workshop of America by its board of directors.

His own company, Joyful Music Publishing and Production, has published and produced some of the top gospel hits and albums in recent years. Among his recent productions are: "Let Everything That Hath Breath" with the Spirit of Life Community Choir; "God Will Take Care of You" with the IGF N.C. Mass Choir; "Heart and Soul" and "No Greater Love" by the Ambassadors for Christ Choir, Winston-Salem; "Running for Jesus," by the Galilee Baptist Church Choir, Houston, Texas; "Oh Majesty" by the Neo-Black Society Choir, Greensboro; and "God is Real" by the Dobbins High School Choir, Philadelphia, Pa.

His original material is featured on current albums by: The Georgia Mass Choir, Pentecostal Community Choir, Rev. Donald Vails and the Salvation Corp., Wilmington-Chester Mass Choir, the Gospel Music Workshop of America Mass Choir, Galilee Baptist Church Choir, the Gospel Music Workshop of America Youth Choir and gospel music artist Daryl Coley.

Allen is the son of Bishop and Mrs. Frederick D. Patterson Sr. Allen is married to the former Sharon Smalls, and they are the proud parents of two children, David Jr. and Davida.

Ambassador Cathedral is at 1500 Harriet Tubman Drive in Winston-Salem. Bishop Frederick D. Patterson is the host pastor.

Uncompromising Word Fellowship Church will host Men of Valor Conference Nov. 14-17

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Uncompromising Word Fellowship Church will host its third annual Men of Valor Conference Nov. 14-17. The guest speaker for this event will be Pastor Kenneth Yelverton of the Temple of Refuge Church in Charlotte.

Yelverton is anointed to

extract from the Holy Scriptures and reveal dynamic truths that bring deliverance and healing to the total person - mind, body and spirit. He is truly a God-sent gift to the body of Christ.

The theme for the conference is taken from Joshua 6:16: "Shout for the Lord has given you the city." Sessions will be

held nightly at 7 o'clock. There will be prayer breakfast Saturday at 9 a.m. The conference will conclude on Sunday with Pastor Bobbie A. Jones bringing the word of God.

The Uncompromising Word Fellowship Church is at 2800 E. Sprague Street. Registration is free and open to the public. Call 788-1815 for more information.



Pastor Yelverton

St. Stephen Missionary Baptist will hold revival

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, 5000 Noble Street, will hold revival Nov. 11-14. The Rev. Dr. William Saxe Epps, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Los Angeles, Calif., will be the keynote speaker each night.

Epps is a native of Rochester, N.Y. His preparation for the ministry began with a bachelor of science degree from Bishop College, Dallas, Texas, in 1966; a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary, New York City, in 1970. He earned a doctor of ministry degree at St. Mary's Seminary University in Baltimore, Md., in 1987. He also studied at

Andover-Newton Theological Seminary and Boston University in Massachusetts.

Epps came to Second Baptist, Los Angeles, after completing a four-year stay at the historic Second Baptist Church of Detroit, Mich. He is a former pastor of First Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

Also lecturing nightly will be Rev. William S. Fails, pastor of

First United Baptist Church of High Point. Fails is a native of Denver, Colo. He earned a B.S. degree in social welfare/sociology with a minor in history at Lane College in Jackson, Tenn., and a master of divinity degree from Howard University School of Divinity.

Fails will lecture each night at 6:30, and Epps will preach each night at 7:30.

The revival theme will be "Come unto me says the Lord" (St. Matthew 11:28-29). The lecturing theme will be "Prophetic Flights and Plights in Ignoramus Conjectures of the Mind."

Rev. J.R. Samuels is the host pastor of St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church.



Rev. Dr. Epps

Goodwill Baptist Church
548 Goodwill Rd., Clemmons, NC
Arcadia Community
764-3930 Phone
764-3975 Pastor's Office
764-5658 Fax
Transportation Available.

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Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
M.Y.P.U 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Services
Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
4111 Whitfield Drive
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Piney Grove Baptist Church
4715 Indiana Ave. • Winston-Salem, NC 27106 • (336) 767-4044
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♦ Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
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Bible Study Every Wednesday 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
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Sunday Morning Broadcast 6 - 6:30 A.M.
WUPN 48
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday 12:00 Noon
Bible Study 7:00 P.M.
www.letgodbegod.org

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
1201 New Hope Lane • Winston-Salem, NC 27105
Bishop John C. Parks
(336) 724-5401
Every Thursday - Joy Night Services - 7:30 p.m.
The Word & You 9:30 a.m.
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Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.
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336-650-0033
Schedule of Worship Services
Sunday Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Monday Study Class 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 p.m.
Thursday: Bible Study and Preach Night 7:00 p.m.
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