

When I Feel Like I Don't Belong

EXODUS 1:8-14

LIVING
FAITHFULLY
IN A
FOREIGN
Land

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I. People of faith feel the _____ in a foreign land.

A. We can be seen as _____ for previous contributions.

Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. v. 8

B. We can be portrayed as a _____ to a particular way of life.

And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land. ... And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel." vv. 9-10, 12b

C. We can feel pushed to _____ in furthering a foreign agenda.

Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. ... So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves. vv. 11, 13-14

*But the more they were oppressed,
the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. v. 12a*

II. God forges people of faith in the _____ of adversity.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. 1 Peter 4:12-14

LET THE HEAT SPARK YOU to refine the _____ of your faith.

LET THE HEAT SPARK YOU to pass on your _____ of God.

LET THE HEAT SPARK YOU to return _____ for bitterness.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed ... 2 Corinthians 4:7-9



DEVOTIONAL & HOME GROUP STUDY

LIVING FAITHFULLY IN A FOREIGN Land

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read Exodus 1:8-14. In what sense did the new pharaoh not "know" Joseph? (For a brief primer on Joseph's role in Egypt, read Genesis chapters 41 and 50.)
2. Provide some examples of how you know you are living in a foreign land and how you don't belong to the culture around you. How are you feeling the heat to conform?
3. What are some ways God is using your time in this foreign land for His purposes, despite the adversity and difficulties?
4. Read 1 Peter 4:12-14. What attitude do these verses suggest the Christian needs to have, and how do they also encourage you?
5. God fulfilled His promise of fruitfulness even under Egyptian oppression and cruelty. What does this say about Him?
6. God seemed to be silent for about 400 years while God's people sojourned in Egypt. When God seems to be "silent" how do you focus on living by faith (as at all other times!) and by the principles of His Word?
7. What similarities do you see between these experiences of Israel and the events of these last days before our Lord's return? What does this realization cause you to want to do differently?
8. What principles do you glean from this passage and sermon that will help in those times when the hand of God is not evident and the forces of evil seem to prevail?

"Why would the Egyptians want to make life miserable for the Jews? Israel was a source of blessing in the land, as Joseph had been before them (Gen 39:1-6), and they weren't causing trouble. ... whether Pharaoh realized it or not, the real cause was the conflict announced in 3:15, the enmity between the people of God and the children of Satan, a conflict that still goes on in the world today."

WARREN WIERSBE

"Times of severest trial have always been seasons of blessing to the people of God. The more fiercely have burned the fires of persecution, the stronger has faith waxed. So, too, it should be, and often has been, in individual lives. Opposition should cast us back more and more upon God. Persecution results in separating us from the world. Suffering ought to refine. The experience of the Psalmist was, 'Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept Your Word' (Ps 119:67). May it prove true of writer and reader that 'the more we are afflicted' the more shall we 'grow' in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord."

A. W. PINK

"God's purposes are being fulfilled, even when we are not aware of it and when every appearance points to the contrary. When this is the case, God has often previously announced prophetically what He is going to do during such times of apparent silence. God's purposes are as easily achieved in adversity as they are in comfort, and as readily accomplished through unbelievers as through the saints."

BOB DEFFINBAUGH

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY LUNCH Sunday, Jan. 19 is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, and as a church family that is for all life, our Local Outreach ministry will be hosting a lunch where you can learn more about our ForLife initiatives, hear from local pregnancy centers and our Quilt for Life Ministry and learn how you can get involved! Find details at www.ccbcfamily.org/sohl.

SPECIAL ONE-DAY EMBARK EVENT Embark is our new "Get to know Christ Chapel" class — great for anyone who wants to learn more about us or is considering membership. This month, we're offering the three sessions of Embark on one Sunday afternoon! Join us on Mar. 2 from 12:30 to 4 p.m. to learn about our beliefs, vision and values. Learn more at www.ccbcfamily.org/embark.

SERVE OUR SCHOOLS Serve Our Schools, a ministry with Local Outreach, partners with schools in Tarrant, Parker and Johnson County to support students and teachers in the classroom, from mentoring and giving teachers an extra hand to sharing the Gospel in after-school Bible clubs. You can make an eternal impact. Get involved by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/sos.

MSM WINTER CAMP Our students are navigating a constant stream of social and cultural messages that can shape how they view their identity, purpose and integrity. We're dedicated to providing a space where they can hear and respond to the unwavering truth of Jesus! Winter Camp is a powerful opportunity for your middle schooler to experience the freedom that comes from understanding God's plan for their life. Sign them up today at www.ccbcfamily.org/winter.

HSM ASCENT Pumped doesn't begin to express how excited our student ministry staff is to launch Ascent! This weekend event is designed for our high schoolers to engage in conversation around culturally relevant topics so they can discover what God says about their lives, choices, and identity. If you're a high school student, you'll want to learn more about this upcoming opportunity that starts Jan. 18! Today is the last day to register! www.ccbcfamily.org/ascent to get started.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE The process is quick and easy—scan the QR Code to start.