

THE VILLAGE NEWS

LIVING WORD Worship Center
P.O. Box 6741267 Mahaffey St.
Jefferson, GA 30249
Phone 706.367.3317
Emergency 706.296.2158
Fax 706.387.0200

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E-mail: info@LWJC.us

www.LWJC.us

Service Times

Sunday 11:00 am Wednesday 7:00 pm

Mark Mobley, Senior Pastor

On Second Thought: "CLEAR AS MUD" Text: Gen.39

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Mon. Sep.01- Once we get saved, we want to do the will of God. If we are serious about God, we want to do His will. We want to do the right things. It comes down to, "What does God want me to do?" How do I know what God's will is? That is the question that a lot of Christians have. What happened to Joseph and how did he end up there? He did the will of God. We can argue theology with other situations, but here he saw it, knew it, and did it and he ended up in prison for doing the will of God. Most people demand an immediate payoff. We think that if we hear and do the will of God that there will be an immediate payoff. We think that everything goes well and that everything works out smoothly; that things always are getting better. We have the idea that when God calls us to do something it always comes with the promise of victory, of success, of our own personal fulfillment. We think that it is only God's will when it works out right. Somebody should have told Joseph that. There is not always an immediate payoff when you do the will of God. The truth is: this idea is not in the Bible. *Have you ever felt like "God owed you" for doing His will?* **Eph.6:5-8.**

Tue. Sep.02- If you are not careful, when everything falls apart, you might think this is proof that you and God are on the outs. It may devastate your faith. I have seen too many people give up on following God because they thought this would happen. "The first time I tried to give, obey, etc... the whole world collapsed on our head." We don't always know where the next step is leading us. We don't know how the next step will turn out. We don't even know what the next step is supposed to be all the time. Sometimes, the future is just as clear as mud. Joseph had the dreams of ruling over his entire family one day, but he never dreamed this. I Cor. 13:12 – "Now, we see through a glass, darkly." Faith is following God even though it is not at all clear where it is leading us. It is following Him because we know that it is right. It is following Him because we have made a commitment to Him. You cannot put limits on how far you will follow God. I will love you as long as you say, "I love you, too. I will follow you as long as all of this makes sense to me. I will follow you as long as this is comfortable for me. I will follow you as long as there is a blessing in it for me." *In what ways have you limited your walk with God because things didn't go like you thought they should?* **Rom.12:2.**

Wed. Sep.03- We have been taught that if we are in that sweet spot with God, everything is so clear. 'I know that I am in the will of God, because I see exactly what I am supposed to do; nothing catches me by surprise.' This is simply just not true! A lot of us think we are inferior Christians because we don't have this "clarity". We think that all the great Christians have this "clarity". It doesn't happen that way. Have you ever noticed that all psychics work out of run down trailers from the 60's? Wouldn't you think they would be doing better if they could really see the future and if they actually won the lottery every now and again? It is easy for us to stand on the outside and see that and laugh, but we miss it when we read the Bible. The people of the Bible didn't always see things clearly. The Bible says that Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees and didn't know where he was going. Peter had a vision on the rooftop three times and still didn't understand it. He got released from prison and thought it was all a dream. Paul wandered around Asia Minor for six months trying to find the will of God. He said he didn't know if he was supposed to live or die. Moses stood before the people and told them to stand still and see the salvation of God. God told him to move forward in the next verse. The children of

Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years. Jesus said, "When the Son of Man returns, will He find faith in the Earth?" there are moments of clarity, but not every day. *Where has your faith carried you when you trusted God, not knowing every detail?* **2Cor.5:7.**

Thu. Sep.04- There are moments of clarity. There are times when God makes Himself so obvious that it is burned into your spirit. It is something that you never forget. But those moments are rare. Paul had a few, spread out over a 60 year life. Peter had a few, spread out over a 60 year life. Elijah had 7, spread out over a lifetime. Elisha had 13 while he was alive. They are much more spread out than we think when we read the Book. Because we can read it in a couple of hours, we think it happened all the time. They usually come when the trouble is about to be ramped up. Have you ever had someone give you directions to their house on a long road? They give you some kind of marker to look for because you are going to think you passed it. You are going to think that you are on the wrong road. Here is proof that you haven't lost your way. That is what God does with the moments of clarity. He gives us something strong to hold us steady in times of storm. If you get great clarity, dig in. It might be a bumpy ride. *Have you noticed this to be true in your life, that when God impresses you with something it usually is not very long before that area is tested? What was it?* **1Thess.5:18.**

Fri. Sep.05- Nowhere in the Bible does it teach us to sit still until we know exactly what is going to happen. Having a clear next step is the exception rather than the rule. It's not that we shouldn't seek God, we should. Pray, read, meditate, wait, but don't get paralyzed. You can't steer a car that is not moving. We think of life as a "connect the dots" We want God to tell us every step to take. "Where do I need to be next? What job do I need to take next? Who am I supposed to marry?" But we are giving up the responsibility for our life. We may not know the 'who, what, when, where, and how', but we must know the why. We must know the mission. The key is not the ability to read God's mind but to know God's heart. You may not know where you are going, but you have got to know why you are going. *What area(s) is there in your life where you need to take more responsibility?* **Heb.10:35,36.**

Sat. Sep.06- Where most people make their mistake is when they give up on God in the middle of the race. God was with Joseph in the prison. What if he had said, "This is leading me in the wrong direction"? What if he had given up on God because there wasn't an immediate response to his obedience? What if he had given up on God because the next step wasn't clear? How are you going to go from convicted felon to ruler? What is my next step of faith? But when things were as clear as mud, he kept following God. When he didn't get the response he wanted, that he expected, he kept following. He may not have had all the what, where, when, and how, but he had the why. He told his brothers that what they intended for his evil, God had turned around to be for all of their good. God is not limited by evil. He is not put off by your failures. God is working something beautiful in your life. God is making a masterpiece out of your life. You may not see the whole picture while He is painting it. It may look like He has messed it up. Let Him finish. Stay with the process. *Have you been tempted to give up lately? Do you feel like you can now hang on?* **Gen. 50:20.**



September Food Item:

BEANS, BEANS, BEANS!

Use drop box in the foyer

Ministries In Motion

Community Outreach
"What Jesus Would Do!"

September 6 From 12pm-4pm
The Boys & Girls Club of Jackson County
412 Gordon Street Jefferson, Ga.

FREE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Volunteers Needed!

REAL MEN

TUESDAY, Sept. 2nd at 11:45am lunch at Mama's Buffet

Guy's, come on out & let's have a time of food & fellowship!

Sign up at information desk.

Real men. Real faith. Real free.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- 09/01-Labor Day Holiday. Church Office Closed
- 09/02- Real Men- Lunch-Mama's Buffet @ 11:45am
- 09/02- Food Pantry- 2pm-4pm
- 09/02- Prayer School @ 6:15pm
- 09/06-Ministries In Motion-12pm to 4pm
- 09/07-Project Life- "FORCES That Form Your Future: DE-cisions" w/Mark Akin-10am in Fellowship Hall
- 09/09- Prayer School @ 6:15pm
- 09/12-FREEDOM For Women-1pm
- 09/13- PASSIONATE PARTNERS-DAVE & BUSTER'S-- meet there @ 1pm
- 09/14--Project Life- "FORCES That Form Your Future: CHARACTER" w/Mark Akin-10am in Fellowship Hall
- 09/16- Food Pantry- 2pm-4pm
- 09/16- Prayer School @ 6:15pm
- 09/20-GARMENTS of PRAISE-8am to 4pm
- 09/20- Brotherhood- 8am
- 09/20- Faithful Warriors- 1pm @ Mike & Anne Mobley's
- 09/21- Project Life- TBA-10am
- 09/23- Prayer School @ 6:15pm
- 09/27- Us Girls Trip to The Dillard House
- 09/28- Project Life-TBA-10am

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

"DON'T SHUFFLE ALONG, EYES TO THE GROUND, ABSORBED WITH THE THINGS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU. LOOK UP, AND BE ALERT TO WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND CHRIST--THAT'S WHERE THE ACTION IS. SEE THINGS FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE." COLOSSIANS 3:2 (MSG)

Life in Motion



"Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to His word; instead, put it into practice."
James 1:22 GNB

Last week I...

- Giving**- considered my giving as a labor of love. ___
- Service**- was not a servant to sin, but unto God. ___
- Worship**- offered spiritual sacrifices gleasing to God. ___
- Small Group**- guarded what was said in our meetings. ___
- Journal**- was truthful with myself as God revealed areas where I needed change. ___

This week I...

- family**- will set the example for my children to be faithful. Neh13:13 ___
- bible**- will be a doer of the Word. James1:22 ___
- Prayer**- will not be ashamed to pray over my food in public. Mk6:41 ___
- church**- will commit to attend Project Life for one month. Lk16:12 ___
- Journal**- will focus on fulfilling my roles. Matt 20:28 ___

ELEVATION Message Rewind

"On A Limb" Matt 25:14-28

- There were 3 servants
- 2 took a risk & it paid off for them
- 1 did not, & he was kicked out of his master's house
- There are 2 ways to go about life: Play it safe, or go out on a limb
- Doing the right thing sometimes requires you to go out on a limb
- Sometimes honoring your parents requires you to go out on a limb
- Facing your faults and flaws requires you to go out on a limb
- Excuses for your sins is the easy road out
- In order to get your life right, you have to take the risk of finding out who you really are
- A person who takes no risks may avoid pain and suffering, but that person will never learn to live

Hid Invasion Recap

"Prayer"

Luke 11:9-10; 1Samuel 17:13; Matthew 6:33

- The wonderful thing about talking to God is that He is better than any other friend we can talk to.
- He has the power to give us everything we need.
- He loves to answer our prayers by giving us what we ask for.
- God knows exactly what we are thinking all the time.
- When we pray, we should ask for things that help us to be more like God wants us to be.

Prayer Focus for 2008

-100 Salvations in our Children & Youth ministries.

-1,000 Salvations world-wide.

JOIN THE SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

REVO-LUTION