



Recovering From A Loss With God's Help

Last month's Mancelona Camp services featured Evangelist Joel DeSelm. He is currently the teaching pastor at Beulah Missionary Church in Goshen, Indiana. He has been a teacher/coach in the public school as well as a pastor for over 40 years.

In the first service of a week of camp Pastor Joel taught about loss—loss of friend, spouse, job, etc. He took the example of Joshua, who had just lost his mentor and leader, Moses. It was then up to Joshua to take over the leadership and take the Israelites into an unknown land.

Facing uncharted territory will require a time of processing. Pastor Joel taught that all losses, minor or major, go through stages of grief—denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. People process losses at different speeds, but generally the deeper the loss, the longer the process of recovery.

Each person must come to terms with the new reality and believe that God has something new, just as God had a new leadership role for Joshua.

Facing uncharted territory will require claiming God's promises each step along the way. As Joshua moved the Israelites toward the promised land, God promised, "I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses." (Joshua 1:3)

To claim the promise, Joshua had to move forward, to take those steps. We also must believe that God is leading and take the steps forward beyond our loss. Pastor Joel warned that you will not do it by yourself. We must move forward with prayer. "We

have got to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit."

Facing uncharted territory will require trusting God for a future that you can't see right now. God promised Joshua, "...I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Joshua 1:5) We, as well, don't know what God has for us in the future, but we need to take that first step, trusting God.

As Pastor Joel put it, "Tonight is your response to be willing to take the first step? Am I willing to be willing?"

Evening Music Services

The next evening music service will be held Sunday, August 26 featuring special music plus congregational singing. Come and enjoy the music, refreshments and fellowship. Contact Verna Fay at 231-537-4683 for more details.



Bliss Youth At Camp. This is the group of youth who attended Mancelona Camp for a week, for church services, Bible studies, and fun.

Trusting God In Uncertain Times

Mancelona Camp Evangelist Joel DeSelm used the example of Joshua in teaching about trusting God in uncertain times. Joshua was faced with a problem of crossing the Jordan River at flood stage, a mile across, twelve feet deep, and lots of mud.

The Jordan River had previously been a positive for the Israelites, protecting them from attack by the people across the river. Now it had become a negative, an impossibility to cross.

Pastor Joel addressed his message to those who have had something positive in their lives—a friend, marriage, job—which has become a negative. In fact, he stated that everyone is facing things which they have never faced before.

Too many times when faced by tough issues, we tend to sidestep, avoid, or go around them, hoping they will go away. The issue looks impossible.

Pastor Joel suggested ways to address that positive thing in your life which has turned negative.

God's people need to be reminded that the Lord goes before them. In the passage about Joshua, the Ark of the Covenant is mentioned often—God went before the people of Israel. In dealing with negative things in our lives, it is most important to keep the Word of God central in our focus. “Understand that God goes before you,” is how Pastor Joel put it.

The Israelites discovered that God was working in ways they couldn't understand and in places they couldn't see. In this case the flooded River Jordan backed up far from the crossing and gave the Israelites dry land to cross over. God had already been working before they took the first step.

We mistakenly believe that we have to figure out an issue before it can be solved. But know that “God is already at

work in your situation in places you cannot see and in ways that you cannot understand,” said Pastor Joel. He added, “If you insist on bowing at the altar of understanding, you will be disappointed.”

So the key is to not insist on understanding completely the solution to your problem, but to take the first step in solving it. Then God will illuminate the situation to show you the next step, and so on.

Pastor Joel encouraged the people to “post a sign over your problem that God is at work.”

The Israelites successfully navigated the Jordan only in the context of community. Each of the Israelites had their part—priests to stand in the river bed, warriors to go before, and people follow after.

Also, whatever you are facing, you are not going to solve it by yourself. You have to depend on the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, but you have to connect to other believers. You can't do it by yourself.

Pastor Joel's challenge, “Are you willing to say that you trust God and that he has gone before you?”

Sign Up For Truestream

Much faster internet is coming to Bliss, but *when* it comes will be determined by how many people sign up. This is a fiber optic network provided by Great Lakes Energy. If you are a CenturyLink internet customer, your internet speed is probably 5-10 MBS download and much less upload. With Truestream, the *lowest* speed is 100 MBS, priced at \$59.95 per month.

To sign up shows your interest but does not commit you to purchasing Truestream. Sign up at www.jointruestream.com or call 888-485-2537 for more information.

August 2018

Bliss Missionary Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:15 - Youth	2 Bruce/Loretta Byard	3	4
5 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	6	7	8 7:15 - Youth	9 Maxine Byard	10	11 Craig Spierling Wes Fay
12 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	13	14 WMMC Business Meeting 10:30	15 7:15 - Youth Casie Byard Joshua Rhinier	16	17	18 Randy Woodard
19 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service Dick/Linda Woodard Ben Smith	20	21	22 7:15 - Youth Dennis/Verna Fay	23	24 Melissa Benzing	25
26 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Music Night	27	28	29 7:15 - Youth	30	31 Loretta Byard	

Trying To Understand The Trinity

Partially adapted from *Christian Beliefs* by Wayne A. Grudem

The Bible has apparent contradictions about the Trinity. In fact, the Bible does not mention “Trinity”; it’s assumed from Bible passages.

Deuteronomy 6:4 says, *“The Lord is one.”* And in Isaiah 45:5, *“I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God.”*

However, at the baptism of Jesus, in Matthew 3:16-17, the Bible says, *“the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and come to rest on him; and...a voice from heave said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”*”

So in this case, Jesus was being baptized, the Spirit of God was descending on Him, and the Father was speaking from heaven of His Son. Three distinct persons.

All three are mentioned in the Bible with equal importance, as in Matthew 28:19, *“...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

“Different roles within the Trinity can also be seen in our salvation. God the Father ‘so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,’ whom he sent ‘into the world...in order that the world might be saved through him’ (John 3:16-17). Of his role, Jesus said, *‘I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me’* (John 6:30).”

“When Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, He and the Father sent the Holy Spirit to bring to

completion the work the Father and the Son had started (John 14:16 and John 16:7)”

That is the best explanation we have of the Trinity. It is presumptuous of us to believe we can fully understand the God who created the vast universe. We can understand some things, but certainly not everything about God.

However, we can know that God provides the amount of understanding which we need. He will light our path as needed when we take steps toward Him.



Improved Baptism. Lack of a lake didn't stop the baptisms of seven people at Mancelona Camp. This tank worked well, even though the water was cold!

To make address changes, call Dennis Fay at 231-537-4683, or email dennisfay@centurylink.net or dennisfay@icloud.com. The newsletter is also on the church website.