

For Our Information

Paula Laubach is still in some pain following her vehicle accident last week. She is very bruised, but the doctor said she could walk as long as her foot did not give her pain.

Brenda Keisler fell at home last week, but only suffered bruises and discomfort. She is feeling much better now.

John Jackson's Mother, Nettie, is still about the same. Ricky Ragsdale is also doing about the same.

Let's keep all our brethren in mind as many of us have ongoing ailments and health issues.

Keep your brothers & sisters in mind

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

sight." (2Corinthians 5:7). But where there is faith, there may also be some doubt (just as some darkness may exist with light). But this doubt must be subdued and not allowed to overwhelm one's faith; our questions should not be buried, left unanswered and festering into insurmountable doubt, for doubt is like leaven that slowly works to affect the whole lump (Matthew 16:6). And finally, we learn to ask our questions of God and to look for a divine, rather than a human, answer .

Truly, for God's children who love Him and trust Him, He provides answers for times of questioning "Why?" This is not true of those who test God and mock Him. God recognizes the difference and we had better also. We who are His are comforted in knowing Someone Who truly understands, not condemns.

Like us, like Jeremiah, trust in this God.

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

Church of Christ

1512 Tanner Street

Malvern, AR 72104

(501) 332-8806

preacher@tannerst.com

Visit us on the web at

tannerst.com

Seeking His Righteousness

Tanner St Bulletin Volume 5 Number 30

July 2016

The Field of Anathoth

Tom Hamilton

God demands that we live by faith, for *"without faith it is impossible to please Him."* (Hebrews 11:6) But if you are a normal person, you've probably had times when you wondered about your faith or when you asked God questions in moments of doubt: "How come God did this that way?" "Why is God doing this to me?" "Does God really know what He is doing?" or "Does God really exist anyway?"

Many people have worried about asking such questions and have felt



"without faith it is impossible to please Him"

Hebrews

11:6



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

that they have betrayed God or left the faith. Actually, such questions are what permit faith to grow - by being asked and then sufficiently answered with increasing understanding.

And God does not condemn the asking of such questions. Consider Jeremiah (in **Jeremiah 32**). God had already sent Jeremiah to preach to a people which God had forewarned him would not listen. Then, Jeremiah was thrown in prison for preaching the truth. Finally, as if that were not enough, God told Jeremiah to buy some land (buy land?!?). But this was no ordinary land, because this land was desolate, deserted, ravaged, and laid waste by the approaching Babylonian army to its way to destroy Jerusalem. And Jeremiah bought it -- at full price.

Surely, the previous owner was glad to be rid of the worthless piece of property, but what about Jeremiah? Some would think Jeremiah is the type of person you could interest in buying some lunar real estate, Florida swamp land, or a vacation spot in Bosnia. But Jeremiah did not buy the land impulsively, irrationally, or because he was crazy. The story shows how legal, proper, and well considered the purchase was. And Jeremiah did not buy the land on advice from his broker; he did not buy it to turn a profit; and he did not invest in the land because the stock market had taken a nose dive and he had nothing better to do with his money. There was absolutely nothing humanly advisable or wise about buying this land, and yet Jeremiah did. Why? Because *"thus saith the Lord!"* Jeremiah was a man of faith, even in the most trying of circumstances.

Store In My Heart

Matthew 17:5

He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

Jesus is here and He is The Spokesman.

The Hebrew writer alludes to this statement from God as he begins his writing, "in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son."

Peter would later reference this very event as proof that the message he delivered was not "cleverly devised tales" but the account of "eyewitnesses of his majesty."

Peter remembered the proclamation from God. Jesus is the One to whom we must listen.

But even this great man of faith could not understand God's interest in the land, and he had questions to ask God. He, like anyone else, naturally wondered what God's purpose could be. But God did have a purpose, and not until later did God answer Jeremiah's questions and Jeremiah understood.

Other great men of faith had doubts also. John the Baptist apparently began to have some doubts while he was in prison (**Matthew 11:2-3**). When the prophet Obadiah learned God was going to use the more wicked Babylonians to punish the less wicked Jews, he really wondered if God knew what He was doing! Other men such as Abraham, Moses, David, etc. could be mentioned. We know that we can learn from their faith, but we can also learn from their doubts.

And there are a number of lessons that we can learn. First, we learn that we are permitted to ask such questions and that God is patient and forbearing with our weaknesses. He is willing to listen and ready to give an answer to such genuine questions, remembering that there is a world of difference between asking questions of God (i.e., really wanting to know God's will) and questioning God (i.e., challenging God's authority). Second, we learn that no matter how little we understand why, God still expects strict obedience because *"thus saith the Lord."* Our inability to discern the full purpose of God is no excuse not to do what we know we should. We may not know why God said it, but we certainly know what it is God said. Third, we learn that we are a people that *"walk by faith and not by*