

Happy New Year 2018

Mount Ararat Church – 425 Howard Avenue – Brooklyn, New York 11233

Reverend Steven Eugene Carter, Senior Pastor

Thursday, January 11th, 2018

Sermon: Tomorrow Is Not Promised

John 14:1-4

Introduction

Tomorrow is always fresh with no mistakes in it. You cannot have a better tomorrow if you are thinking about yesterday all the time. Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose. The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today. Jesus called an emergency meeting with His disciples to give them hope for their tomorrow because He already knew the troubles they would encounter today. **Anytime God is speaking in your life, He is speaking to you about your FUTURE in spite of the challenges of your YESTERDAY.** Therefore, as you prepare to do new things, greater things, happier things, smarter things, and more mature things in 2018; make sure that your focus is on **CHRIST** and not **CULTURE**. Jesus gives **FIVE** principles that are guaranteed to help us succeed against all odds, all setbacks, all challenges, all obstacles, and all miseries of our past if we just keep our faith in Him.

Five Ways to Live Your Life in 2018

1. Tomorrow Is Not Promised, So Live Your Life POSITIVELY

Verse 1a “Let not your heart be troubled...”

2. Tomorrow Is Not Promised, So Live Your Life FAITHFULLY

Verse 1b “...believe in God, believe also in Me.”

3. Tomorrow Is Not Promised, So Live Your Life CONFIDENTLY

Verse 2 “In My Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you.”

4. Tomorrow Is Not Promised, So Live Your Life EXPECTANTLY

Verse 3 "And if I go prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

5. Tomorrow Is Not Promised, So Live Your Life SPIRITUALLY

Verse 4 "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Reflection Questions for Your New Year

1. How are you going to TRUST God more in this year than you did last year?
2. What are three goals you desire to accomplish this year that you want to pray and ask God for guidance and support? *(Write them down and place them on your refrigerator or some place where you can see them DAILY)*
3. In what ways will you get involved in ministry here at Church to show God that you want to play a role in advancing His kingdom because of how great He has been to you?
4. Write down three prayers that God has answered for you in 2017 and thank Him all over again. No matter if you already thanked Him last night or today....write them down and thank Him again.
5. If anyone has hurt you in 2017 and you still have not forgiven them as you have entered into 2018, do **YOURSELF** a favor. Write down their names on this paper...and beside their name....write the word **"FORGIVEN."**

PERSON	OFFENSE	FORGIVENESS STATUS
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		



Sunday, February 4th, 2018

Sermon Series: Love Song

Part 1: We Can't Be Friends (Proverb Scriptures)

Introduction

In 1999 Deborah Cox wrote a song on her "One Wish" album that was titled "We Can't Be Friends." It tells the story of a brother who was trying to get connected to her and had to be honest and just tell her, "We Can't Be Friends." He says "To just act like we never were, to come around and not to show hurt, how dare we greet, by shaking hands, just months ago I was your man. Verbally we agreed it was over, and were through. I am trying to compose myself but I just can't get over you girl. We can't be friends." This is a brother who fell deeply in-love with the reality of their connection and concluded, we can't be friends. The dilemma is that as Christians we are quick to dismiss romantic relationships that have hurt the heart, but yet we hold onto social-relationships that can destroy and damage our souls. This is why the writer of the life-giving book of Proverbs, which is a book of wisdom, shares with us the type of people who we can't be friends with if we are going to maximize our significance while not worrying about our success. Today I want to share with you these 6 types of people you can't be friends with.

Six Friends We Can't Have

1. We Can't Be Friends If You Are a GOSSIPER

Proverbs 20:19 "He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore, do not associate with one who flatters with his lips."

Three horizontal lines for notes.

2. We Can't Be Friends If You Are HOT HEADED

Proverbs 22:24-25 "Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go. 25) Lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul."

Three horizontal lines for notes.

3. We Can't Be Friends If You Are DISLOYAL

Proverbs 24:21-22 "My son, fear the Lord and the king; do not associate with those given to change; 22) for their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin those two can bring."

Three horizontal lines for notes.

4. We Can't Be Friends If You Are Self INDULGENT

Proverbs 28:7 "Whoever keeps the law is a discerning son, but a compassion of guilt shames his father."

5. We Can't Be Friends If You Are IMMORAL

Proverbs 29:3 "Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, but a companion of harlots wastes his wealth."

6. We Can't Be Friends If You Are a FOOL

Proverbs 13:20-21 "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed. 21) Evil pursues sinners, but to the righteous, good shall be repaid"

But There Is a Friend

7. We Can Be Friends with CHRIST

John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."

5 Reflection Questions: Be Honest

1. Are you guilty of any of these six negative traits in your personality? If so, what are you going to do to improve yourself as a Christian?
2. Are you in friendships that are abusive to you because of these traits but don't know how to disengage? If so, speak with them respectfully and let them know how you feel. If they are unwilling to change, make decisions that are in your best interest. *(If you are married, seek counseling)*
3. What part of the message today really clicked with you? Find someone who you can talk more about why that particular part in the message really spoke to you.
4. After hearing this message, is there someone who you know in your heart you need to ask forgiveness? If so, don't focus on how you may look, go in peace and ask for forgiveness and leave the decision to them to accept or reject.
5. Since you understand that you are not perfect, what is one thing you can do to make you a better friend to people in your life?



Sunday, February 11th, 2018

Sermon Series: Love Song

**Part 2: When a Man Loves a Woman and When a Woman Loves a Man
Ephesians 5:1-31 (Read the Entire Chapter)**

Introduction

God created relationships, we mess up relationships!! Many people, when asked about their relationship history, can conclude with the same response, *“It didn’t go as planned.”* Sometimes the problem is that we do all of the planning and ask God to sign off on **OUR** plans. If relationships are **God-Ordained**, they must be **God-Sustained**. It is here in this chapter in **EPHESIANS** where Paul gives a great Biblical marital description of how two people **MUST** love one another if they are going to **“Make It Last Forever.”** Today I want to give a message to both those who are **SINGLE** and **DATING** and those who are **MARRIED**.

Five Dating Warning Signs to Notice

1. **STASHING** is when the person you are dating never introduce you to close family and friends, they keep you a secret and never take put you on public display.
2. **GHOSTING** is when the person you have been dating vanishes without a trace.
3. **CATCH** and **RELEASE** is when they chase you and once they “get you” or “sex you” they no longer want to be with you.
4. **CATFISHING** is when they pretend to be someone in an online “Match.com, Facebook, IG, etc.” platform posting pics of how they “used” to look instead of their present reality.
5. **CUFFING-SEASON** is when they only desire to have a September through April relationship for the purpose of warm companionship.

While you are in the process of dating, keep God as your guide and use your spirit of discernment to know what’s real and what’s pretentious.

7 Ways for Women and Men Can Show Love to One Another (Married Couples)

1. You Love One Another with Consistent COMMUNICATION

Verse 4 “..neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”

Your Communication Should Be **H.O.T**: 1) **HONEST** 2) **OPEN** 3) **TWO-WAY**

2. You Love One Another Without Personal EXAMINATION

Verse 5 “For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”

3. You Love Yourself Through Wise ELIMINATION

Verses 7, 10-11 “Therefore do not be partakers with them. 10) ...finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11) And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

4. You Love One Another with Mutual SUBMISSION

Verses 22, 25 “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for her.”

Four Biblical Commands for Wives

- 1. Submit to your husband WILLINGLY
- 2. Recognize his husband headship DAILY
- 3. Be subject to your husband FAITHFULLY
- 4. Appeal to your husband SEXUALLY

Four Biblical Commands for Husbands

- 1. Lead your wife SPIRITUALLY
- 2. Care for your wife SACRIFICIALLY
- 3. Protect your wife CONSISTENTLY
- 4. Remain with your wife ETERNALLY

5. You Love One Another with Mutual RESPECT

Verses 33 “Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

6. You Love One Another with Scriptural PREPARATION

Verses 26–27 “That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27) that He might present her to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkles or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

7. You Love One Another by Concealing Personal INFORMATION

Verse 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”



Reverend Steven Eugene Carter
Senior Pastor

Sunday, October 22nd, 2017

Sermon Series - Living Evangelism: Winning People the Way Jesus Christ Won People Part 4: I am Fighting for Your Blessing: How to Fight for Another Person’s Breakthrough Matthew 15:21-28

Introduction

Contrary to popular belief, another person’s breakthrough can be tied to your prayer dedication. How much are you willing to ask God for when it comes to another person’s blessing? You need to know that YOU have the power and access to cause someone else to be blessed...but you must be dedicated to trusting God. Would you like God to heal your child? Would you like God to bless a friend? Would you like God to open a door for someone else? Would you like to see another person blessed? If you answered YES to these questions, our biblical story today will give you practical steps on how to make it happen. **As a genuine believer, YOU owe it to someone in your life to ask God to heal and deliver them.**

Breakdown of the Passage

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. The DEPARTURE of Jesus | Verse 21 |
| 2. The DICTATION to Jesus | Verse 22 |
| 3. The DISCOURAGEMENT from Jesus | Verses 23-24; 26 |
| 4. The DEDICATION for Jesus | Verses 25; 27 |
| 5. The DELIVERANCE by Jesus | Verse 28 |

Six Ways to Fight for Another Persons’ Breakthrough

1. Fighting for Another Person’s Breakthrough Requires **PRAYING** to Jesus

Verse 22 *“And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, ‘Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.’”*

2. Fighting for Another Person’s Breakthrough Requires **STAYING** with Jesus

Verse 23 *“But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, ‘Send her away; for she cries out after us.’”*

3. Fighting for Another Person's Breakthrough Requires WORSHIPPING on Jesus

Verses 24-25 "But He answered and said, 'I was not sent except for the lost sheep of the house of Israel!.' 25) Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

4. Fighting for Another Person's Breakthrough Requires CHALLENGES by Jesus

Verse 26 "But He answered her and said, 'It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.'"

5. Fighting for Another Person's Breakthrough Requires CONSISTENCY with Jesus

Verse 27 "And she said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.'"

6. Fighting for Another Person's Breakthrough Results in ANSWERS from Jesus

Verse 28 "Then Jesus answered and said to her, 'O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.'" And her daughter was healed from that very hour."

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

The best gift anyone can give to another is to pray for him or her. We live in a sinful world where bad things happen to people and people are tempted to sin. Praying for another person not only helps that person find God in the midst of trouble, but also helps us recognize the blessings that God gives us daily.

1st Timothy 2:1-5 says, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, Who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and One Mediator between God and men, the Man Jesus Christ." We are exhorted to pray for others---including our country's leaders (Even Donald Trump), our authorities at work and elsewhere, our Church leaders (Pastor, Deacons, Trustees, Ushers, Music, etc.), our co-workers, friends, and family. Therefore, when you are praying for others, here are things you can ask God for in their lives.

1. Ask God to Give Them Wisdom and Power (Ephesians 1:18-20)
2. Ask God to Give Them Strength and Knowledge (Ephesians 3:16-19)
3. Ask God to Give Them Spiritual Discernment (Philippians 1:9-11)
4. Ask God to Give Them Spiritual Understanding of God's Will (Colossians 1:9)
5. Ask God to Give Them Steadfastness (2nd Thessalonians 3:5)
6. Ask God to Give Them Boldness in Sharing Their Faith (Philemon 1:6)

Your Assignment This week I will pray daily for (name) _____



Reverend Steven Eugene Carter
Senior Pastor

Sunday, November 26th 2017
Sermon Series: Thanks-Living | Part 3: That’s What He’s Done for Me!
1st Timothy 1:12-17

Introduction

Have you wanted to just brag about the ways the Lord has been good to you? Have you ever found yourself not being able to count the blessings that the Lord has given unto you? Have you ever just paused to think about how far the Lord has brought you from and brought you through? Every last one of us has something in our lives where when we thinking about it long enough, we have to say....."That’s what He’s done for me."

5 Things The Lord Has Done for Me

1, I Was a SINNER

Verses 13-15 “...although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14) And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15) This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”

2, I Met a SAVIOR

Verses 13-14 “...although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14) And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”

3, I Became a SERVANT

Verses 12 “And I thank Christ Has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into ministry...”

4, I Was Made a SHOWPIECE

Verses 16 “However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.”

5, I Am Now a SONGLEADER

Verse 17 "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God alone who is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

Upcoming Events at MABCBK



If you are interested in working with the **MABCBK Youth Ministry in 2018**, please meet us in **Elliott Cuff Conference Room, Monday, November 27th, 7:00pm**. For more information, email youth@mountararatchurch.com

MVWP

2017 Ministry Volunteer Participant night of appreciation, **Tuesday, December 5th, 7:30pm**. Dr. Ralph Douglas West, Senior Pastor, The Church Without Walls; Houston, Texas. All ministry participants are expected to be in attendance as we will pray over every ministry participant as we prepare to **Empower People to Live Beyond Limitation** in 2018.



If you desire to attend this trip, please stop by the table in the Church lobby to reserve your space for \$25.00 and to receive additional information. **Seats Are Going Quickly!**



We invite you to celebrate with us as the Mount Ararat Church Music Ministry, Drama Ministry and Dance Ministry will put on their **2017 Christmas Concert, Sunday, December 17th, 3:30pm**. For more information, email Music@MountAraratChurch.com



Special thanks to **Precious Dreams Foundation, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, Public School 12, 73rd Precinct, and MABCBK Volunteers** for making this past Thursday event a success for families who reside in shelters.

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