

“There are Saints in Caesar's Household” Philippians 4:22

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Sermon Notes

Just as the title of the sermon suggests, there are also saints on Capitol Hill. Despite political challenges, there are praying and fasting senators interceding for America's freedom and equity.

During spiritual warfare, things do not always go your way. It is during these times of struggle and strife that we must remember the instructions Jacob provides us in order to come out victoriously. Joshua 1 reminds us that God has sworn to us privileges and rights but we must make a commitment to keep God's law. As Rev. Dr. Black suggests, “Obey your God and leave the consequences to Him.” If we love Him, we have to keep His commandments. Read and study God's word. It is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword. Even if we don't succeed by the world's standards, we know who holds the whole world in His hands. Our barometer of success should be to hear God say, “Well done!”

Sometimes it can be tempting to take our eyes off Jesus when we're in spiritual warfare. We can get distracted by nay-sayers and doubters in what good will come out of the struggle. We have to remember Jesus' words to His disciples after His ascension, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” This should give us peace of mind that everything will work out as God intended.

Things don't go our way because we are born in sin and because of a failure factor God put in place. It seems inferred that God has this failure factor in place to keep us drawing nearer to Him, seeking His will and guidance for our lives. The parable of the sower depicts several circumstances why our seeds don't grow and reach their fullest potential or goal: 1. the evil one snatches away what was sown, 2. seed with no root only lasts for a short time, 3. seeds falling among the thorns get choked. So, if 75% of the seeds we sow will not come to fruition, what are we to do?

Sermon Points

Rev. Black uses Romans 8:26-27 to guide us:

1. Even when we don't know what to pray for, the Holy Spirit will pray for us with groanings that cannot be uttered and God knows what the Spirit is saying. The Spirit aligns our groanings with God's will. We ought to remember there is someone who sympathizes with our weaknesses-cognitively, physically, socially, spiritually.
2. You don't know what is best for you. We have a tendency to ask God for things or people that really aren't what's best for us. Ultimately, these things are not part of God's will for our lives. We have to be willing to accept this in order to achieve God's best for our lives.
3. Expect the Holy Spirit and Jesus to utter the prayer you ought to pray. We have to trust that God knows what is best for us and will direct our paths.

Chaplain Black began to pray this scripture, Luke 11:13. After praying the scripture he said we should ask God for the Holy Spirit to pray with you and for you. If we submit to His will, our prayers will line up with

His will by the power of the Holy Spirit and Jesus interceding on our behalf. Rev. Black challenges us to pray Luke 11:13 everyday, and permit the Holy Spirit to pray for and with us.

Reflection Questions

1. How have you reacted when things don't go your way?
2. Are there times when God might be sparing you from things or people that really aren't best for you?
3. When have you experienced the statement, "We don't know what's best for us?" What happened?
4. How has God surprised you by responding to one of your prayers? When was the last time you asked God for something not realizing He would actually answer?
5. When have you committed to learning and implementing a scripture as Chaplain Black did with Luke 11:13? What was the outcome?
6. Have you ever been resistant to surrendering the outcome of your prayers to God? If so, why? Are there areas of your life that you struggle giving God control over?