

Crises Reveal Our Character

By Joe Chesser

What would you do if you were fired from your job and put in prison because your employer's wife told horrible lies about you?

What would you do if you had to run for your life because you helped defend a neighbor from an injustice?

What would you do if you were offered something you greatly desired but knew was illegal and life-threatening to obtain?

What would you do if suddenly you discovered that all that you had believed in the past was not true, and instead of serving God you were actually fighting Him?

What would you do if you were offered a considerable amount of money to betray a friend?

What would you do if you found out that the woman to whom you were engaged became pregnant before the wedding, and you knew it wasn't your child?

These are not hypothetical questions. They really happened, and the answers to these questions reveal the type of character each person possessed at the time the crisis occurred. You can probably identify each of the people in the above scenarios: Joseph (Jacob's son), Moses, Eve, Paul, Judas, and Joseph (and Mary). Some of them faced the crisis with faith and resolve, and withstood the challenge. Others failed. But what these examples teach us is that when crises occur, our character will be revealed.

All of us have faced and will continue to face many challenges in our lives. They may be strong temptations; they may be difficult choices; they may be heart-breaking health issues. And many of our crises are not personally our own – they may involve our spouse, parents, children, family or friends. Still, they are heavy burdens.

As we reflect back on 2020, it's easy to see that there were countless crises that shaped, molded and revealed our character. Not much we can do about them now except to determine that in 2021 we will learn from our mistakes and enhance our strengths.

How we handle crises reveals who we really are. It also reveals how we have prepared for the inevitable challenges. We may not know exactly the kind of crises that may be coming in 2021, but they will come. How we prepare today for them will determine how these crises affect us. Roy Disney once said, "When your values are clear to you, making decisions becomes easier." Our three basic optional responses to crises are: 1) Joseph was able to overcome the crisis with Potiphar's wife because he had already established his values, even as a teenager; 2) Moses overcame a poor decision by developing spiritually while in the wilderness; 3) Judas allowed his crisis to destroy him because of poor values.

What will 2021 reveal about your character?

Joe Chesser preaches for the Fruitland Church of Christ, Fruitland, MO

Church of Christ

128 Maple Ave.

Chardon, OH 44024

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Schedule of Services:

Greeting: Tom
Song Leader: Dale
Opening Hymn:
274-A—Jesus Loves Me
Opening Prayer: Mark
Hymn:
55—Take Time To Be Holy
Scripture Reading: Ryan
John 15:9-17
Hymn:
301—He Loved Me So!
Lord's Supper: Ray
Hymn:
190—Leaning on the
Everlasting Arms
Sermon: Tom
Invitation Hymn:
644—Trust and Obey
Closing Hymn:
111—Yield Not to Temptation
Closing Prayer: Larry

PRAYER LIST

*Beverly is in the hospital with COVID
*Ron and Bonnie and their family.
*Margaret and Albert.
*Wanda and her family.
Her daughter-in-law's sister, Becky, has an abdominal tumor and also thyroid problems.
*Kathy and her friends.
*Zarna Several members of her family in India have the virus.
*Larry and Ruth.
*Pat and Ron and their daughters.
*Juanita's sister Betty and the rest of her family.
*Mary and her family.
*Robert and Sara
*Ray and Barbara The nephew passed away last week
*Dale and his family.
*Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.
*Myron & Carole and their family.
*Mark and his family.
Debbie fell last week but is doing ok now.
*Our congregation
*Our Veterans

CALENDAR

Jan. 10—Worship 11 am
Speaker: Tom
Jan. 10—Bible Study 6 pm
on-line with Dale
Jan. 13—(b.) Cindy
Jan. 15—(a.) Tom & Nina
Jan. 17—Worship 11 am
Speaker: Tom
Jan. 17—Bible Study 6 pm
on-line with Dale
Jan. 21—(b.) Madelyn
Jan. 21—(b.) Robert
Jan. 24—Worship 11 am
Speaker: Tom
Jan. 24—Bible Study 6 pm
on-line with Dale
Jan. 26—(b.) Amy

Love and Joy Perfected

John 15:9-17

ABIDE ANOTHER APPOINTED CALLED
CHOOSE COMMAND DOING FATHER
FRIENDS FRUIT GREATER HEARD
KNOWN LONGER LOVED MASTER
REMAIN SERVANTS SHOULD SPOKEN
THESE THINGS WHATEVER

A S T S H E N F A T H N E W R L E O
V E D M D E E I A L S O I H H A D V
E G L O K N R E T S A M V A E D I Y
A O N O U A E E D B I D E T M I B N
M N P I Y L S I O E V E V E Z E A U
J S O W O O G K R E V C N V K R R X
C Z L T O D E N N F S O D E L L A C
E R H H H A L O U H M E L R D F J P
R D C C A E V W C V E D H W M M P M
S H O U L D R N D O Z A D T S F B A
W O R S M A M E Y R M H R E Q C C B
P S J Z R E T A E R G M R D Q L H W
G H G H W N L G D N T V A T I U R F
E A T N I P N D S E A D I N C R A U
R H M O I O V I V N H J L Z D U G X
K J P K L H Y D T C S P K P L A P D
U P L I C P T S Y A P S D M J Y B B
A W Z F A T H E R P Q S Z E I X M K

Hidden Message: _____,
_____ ; _____
_____.

A pint of example is
worth a gallon of advice.

SUNDAY: Worship — 11:00 am; Bible Study — 6:00 pm (on Zoom);

Website: Chardonchurchofchrist.org
E-mail: church_of_Christ@roadrunner.com
Pod Cast: Chardon.podbean.com
Like us on FaceBook



Answer to Puzzle: As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.