



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 28, 2021

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAVE

“Being Disappointed”

The definition of disappointed is to be sad or displeased because someone or something has failed to fulfill one's hopes or expectations.

Do you feel like you have been disappointed a lot lately? We get disappointed

the church when it doesn't take care of us the way we think it should. We get disappointed with ourselves when we fail to live up to our own standards. And we get disappointed when we feel like God didn't do what we think we needed.

First, I hope you don't place your hope in politicians. They will disappoint you. I want to consider three areas of disappointment that we can think through a little. Disappointment with self, with the church, and with God.

The first question is if it is OK to feel disappointed with God. I don't think God gets too worked up about how you feel. Feelings are part of humanity, and they come and go. God is concerned with what you do in regards to those feelings. He tells us in Ephesians to be angry, but don't sin. I love Katie Hubbard's words, "Be gentle on your feelings, but hard on your thoughts." Feelings of disappointment are pretty common. Just don't forget that we have an enemy, and Satan loves to take advantage of situations. So, if you are disappointed with God, Satan will whisper ideas like, "It's not worth it" or "You should quit" or "See, God doesn't really love you".

The second question is how to set right expectations. For instance, I get disappointed with myself, because I think I can be good. The Scripture is pretty clear that "there are none righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10). When the focus shifts to my ability to be good in myself, I am heading for disappointment. Paul says if we walk in the Spirit we won't carry out the desires of the flesh. The focus is on living a connected life to the Holy Spirit. Jesus said the same thing differently. He said "Abide in me and you will bear fruit". Break from abiding and you will stop bearing fruit. In both illustrations the focus is on being connected to God.

We also get the wrong ideas about what God promises. I think we have Old Testament expectations when it comes to God blessing us. In the OT, God's blessing was revealed in good crops, land, peace with neighbors, and lots of wives and children. In the New Testament, Jesus promises abundant life. But if you thought that was a promise of an easy life you are going to be disappointed a lot. He promises to be with us. Not leave us. In John 16:3 He says, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

I have discovered that disappointment with God is usually linked to a wrong

world and that God will be able to sustain them. Then, when a bad thing hits my life, I'm like, "GOD, WHAT'S HAPPENING?" OK, I already admitted I'm not good and maybe not as consistent as I'd like, either.

The final disappointment zone is the church. Again, let's talk about right expectations. I hear people say things like, "I just never thought someone would hurt me at church". Really? That was your expectation? Think about it. The church is made up of broken people like you and me. Are you nice all the time? I'm not. I think it would be better to think of the church as a family that occasionally hurts your feelings but is also tenaciously committed to staying together. I've mentioned before that Bonnie and I have made a commitment to allow ourselves to be hurt in church. We don't like it, but our other option is to put up a protective wall that assures whatever happens we'll deal with it all alone. Our experience with church has been consistent. We know that no matter what happens some who know us will journey with us bringing grace and encouragement, some will be too busy or not know what to do, and some may even respond poorly. On balance, the church still reflects Jesus. Sometimes it's like "Wow, His reflection is so bright..." And at other times you have to strain to see God's reflection.

A surrendered life experiences God the most. When I say with Job, "Even if you slay me still I will follow." I find the intense and very present Spirit of God with me. I'm not saying it's OK to let people down, or not care for others in the family of God. I'm just saying that the expectation I know God does fulfill is giving us His presence and power to persevere when we trust Him with every circumstance.

The end of the great commission is a phrase that is in the Bible over 200 times. "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

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service. If you have a student interested in attending, please email Tracy at tracy.fettner@rvcoshkosh.com.

RVC I kids is an amazing place to serve the LORD. We cannot do this without volunteers who are dedicated to the spiritual growth of our children through being in the classroom or welcoming parents and children as they begin their morning with us. If you would like to serve the LORD in this way, please connect with Tracy.

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RVC MEN - February 13th, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Note that the meeting is from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Sorry, we have had that wrong in previous notes.)

Imagine a church where every man who walks in the door has another man invite him to breakfast or lunch followed up by an invitation to meet regularly with two or three other men. This was Jesus' strategy. He made disciples who made disciples. "The world is always looking for better programs, but Jesus was looking for better men" R. Coleman.

Every second Saturday we will have a men's gathering. There will be a free breakfast at 8:00 a.m. followed by testimonies, teaching on making disciples, some dramatizations of discipling, some Q & A time, and prayer. We are praying that God will turn this into a men's discipleship movement here at RVC. Come for the initial challenge on Saturday, February 13, at 8:00 a.m.

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THIS SUNDAY PRAYER AND PRAISE AT 6:00 P.M

Michaela Ludens
NaDaniel Jones
David Brost
Emily Arnold
Skyler Hawley

We will also celebrate the dedication of Emily Arnold's daughter, Evelyn.

We hope you'll come back Sunday evening to praise God for what He has done.

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HELP WANTED

We are still looking for people to fill a few volunteer positions.

Compassion Team Members

We will be restarting the Compassion Team very soon. Jeff Gorr will be heading up this ministry. The first meeting will be on Tuesday night, February 2, at 6:30 p.m. If you have specific questions about this team, please email Jeff Gorr at info@allseasonspe.com. If you're interested in being part of the ministry, please come on the 2nd.

Compassion Team Purpose:

To show God's love to our community for the purpose of God's glory.

Key Verse:

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
Matthew 5:14-16*

Specifics:

Building and Grounds

This team is headed by Colin Lee and handles maintenance of and improvements to the physical structure of the building and the surrounding grounds, including the parking lot and green spaces.

Miscellaneous

Greeters / Ushers - Contact Heather Patrick or Bill Gogolewski

Security Team – Contact Pastor Wyatt Fisher

Tech Team / Camera Team – Contact Danny Linse

Kids Ministry – Contact Tracy Fettner

Student Ministry – Contact Steven Blader

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2021 GIVING ENVELOPES AND STATEMENTS

Giving envelopes for 2021 are available for pickup in the Café. If you are new since last year and don't have giving envelopes but would like some, please let Kathi Miller know. Also, if you prefer to give online and no longer need envelopes, you can let her know that, too. Kathi can be reached at (920) 231-2265.

Also, Kathi will be handing out 2020 Giving Statements between services on Sunday. Please contact her with questions or if you would prefer your statement be mailed to you.

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THIS WEEK AT RIVERVALLEY

(Best viewed in landscape orientation on mobile devices)

Sunday Service (Worship Center)	10:45 a.m.
Prayer and Praise Night	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
High School Youth Group	6:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Tuesday, 2/2

Compassion Team Meeting	6:30 p.m.
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Wednesday, 2/3

Beth Moore Bible Study (Café)	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Middle School Youth Group	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, 2/4

Ladies Bible Study (Café)	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Team (Library)	6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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GIVING UPDATE:

YTD Giving 5/1/20 - 12/31/20

Actual: \$531,818.86

Budget: \$467,740.00

Weekly Giving 1/18 - 1/24/21

\$10,883.83

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