

## ***Theme for 2019***

**‘The God of Another Year is a God of Wonderful and Amazing Grace.  
He is the God of Forgiveness and He is the God of Beginning Again.’**

### **365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES!**

*“O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”*

**Psalm 51:15 (ESV); Lamentations 3:22-23 (NKJV); Psalm 9:1-2 (NKJV)**



### ***This Week’s Thought – December 29, 2019***

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*“John was in prison when he heard what Christ was doing. So John sent some of his followers to ask Jesus, “Are you the one we should be looking for? Or must we wait for someone else?””*

Matthew 11:2-3 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

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**365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES**—If you know John’s story at all, likely you think of the baptism of Jesus or, John a man who lived in the desert. Who ate locusts and wild honey, wore clothes from camel’s hair with a leather belt, and lived for one purpose alone – to point others to Jesus Christ. Yet here in Matthew 11, we find John in prison, sending his disciples to ask Jesus the question, I contend every person has asked and/or wondered at one time or another during a critical point or stage in life... *“Are you the one we should be looking for? Or must we wait for someone else?”*

Now some have read this passage and wondered if John was losing his faith. After such boldness as the forerunner, preparing the way for Jesus, is he now overrun with fear and doubt? I believe only John can truly answer that question. What I do glean from this however, is that John now has a new set of questions in his own life and story – namely, his own impending suffering and death – and he needs to know that the Jesus he spent his life pointing others to will be with him in his time of trial. John looks to Jesus and says, *“Are you the messiah in death even as you are in life?”*

December 29, 2019

Wherever you may find yourself today, especially heading into the New Year and Decade, you likely have some very real questions that you are wrestling with, longing for the Lord to bring clarity and direction. “Will God heal my broken heart?” “Will God heal this relational wound?” “Will God heal my body?” “Will I ever get out of this mound of debt?” “Is this my final hour?”

In a sense, these questions and others like them, when turned towards the Lord in prayer, are all a version of John’s words, “*Are you the one?*” We’re saying to the Lord, “*We’ve followed You this far, and have seen Your faithfulness in so many ways, yet these are new and uncharted waters. We need to know that You are with us in this new season, this next chapter.*”

*“Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.” (Matthew 11:4-5)*

When we are filled with doubts and fears, Jesus reminds us to see the signs of His Kingdom bursting forth all around us. The blind see. The lame walk. The deaf hear. Even the dead are raised! This is the Power of God at work in creation, and it is His Power at work in you, in me, in us! If the Lord is with us in our final hour of need, we can trust that He is with us day in and day out, teaching us to live by faith and believe that He is working for our good and His glory.

**On today, may the blessing of peace rest upon you...the blessing of joy abide within you...the blessing of success and favor surround you...the blessing of love flow out through you. May all the Blessings of the Lord be yours in abundance as you ‘Encounter the Possibilities’ this day and soon the New Year and Decade will bring!!**

**Application:** What is your greatest fear or maybe doubt in this season of your life? Invite the Lord into that fear and/or doubt, asking Him to fill you with faith and courage. Ask Him to remind you of His nearness and goodness to you, no matter what you face or where you find yourself.

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Lord, as we will soon begin a New Year and Decade 2020, fill me with hope, confidence and positivity. Remind me of my truest values and deepest desires. Help me to live in the goodness that comes from doing what You want me to do. Help me to put aside anxiety about the future and regret of the past, so that I might live in peace with You now and forever, one day at a time. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!”**

Yours in Christ, Pastor King