Welcome To BARAH MINISTRIES *a Christian Church*

Rory Clark Pastor-Teacher

Good Morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...an intimate, local Christian Church with worldwide impact. My name is Pastor Rory Clark. At Barah Ministries we know this truth...that Jesus Christ is God. As Lord He is 100% Deity...He is God the Son. He is also 100% human just like you and me and His name is Jesus Christ. The Lord...God the Son...became flesh...Jesus Christ...and lived among us. He is the Sovereign God of the Universe...He is the Savior of the whole world...and He is the Jewish Messiah.

Those who make Barah Ministries their spiritual home are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Christianity is a relationship...not a religion. As Christians, we have a deep, intimate, and personal relationship with the Lord. The Lord Jesus Christ is a Person. He's not a thing, and He's not a concept. Just as we do with any person we love, we spend time getting to know the Lord through the study of His Word because you can't get to know the Lord without knowing His mind. The Bible is His exact thinking.

Noise intimidates. The ruler of this world, the enemy of God, Satan has his foul mouth in full roar today. In addition to the unrelenting mental pressure he inflicts on believers in Christ through the flesh resident in us, he now has his minions inflicting physical pressure on us from the outside...taking away our freedoms, our past times, our social interactions, our careers, and our very way of life...placing us into solitary confinement. We go there willingly like sheep to the slaughter without opening our mouths.

In Matthew, Chapter 24, Verses 24 and 25, the Lord warns The Jewish Race about a time to come in the future...

MATTHEW 24:24

"For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders...so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect (believers in Christ)."

MATTHEW 24:25 "Behold, I (the Lord Jesus Christ) have told you in advance."

We have been warned of this before. Even though these words of warning are intended for Israel and The Jewish Race at a future time, they are very real RIGHT NOW for Church Age believers. And little did we suspect that the false prophets would be a news media that is sending messages of fear, anxiety and scarcity to intimidate us and to deceive us...and it is working...even with the elect...us believe3rs in Christ.

He can't intimidate Pastor Ghetto Boy. How can you scare someone who comes from nothing, who is nothing, and who has been given something by an amazing God...a "so great salvation" that I cannot lose no matter what I do? Believers in Christ cannot be intimidated. The Lord has been preparing us for this time IN ADVANCE when no need was apparent. Now that the need is here, we are reminded that we are filled with the entire Trinity indwelling us and we are filled with the comfort of His Word in every aspect of our everyday life.

Believers in Christ do not have a God of social distancing. Bette Midler was wrong in her song...we do not have a God who is watching us from a distance. We have a God of intimacy and connection...John, Chapter 15, Verses 1 to 5...

JOHN 15:1

"I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am the TRUE VINE, and My God the Father is the VINEDRESSER (the owner and cultivator of the vineyard)."

JOHN 15:2

"Every branch (that professes to be) in Me that does not bear fruit (unbelievers), God the Father cuts off...and every branch that bears fruit (the fruit of the Spirit from believers in Christ), God the Father prunes it so that it may bear more fruit."

Our trials are pruning by God.

JOHN 15:3

"You (believer apostles) are already clean because of the word (the gospel message) which I have spoken to you (which you believed)."

JOHN 15:4

"Abide in union with Me, and I indwelling you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine...so neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in union with Me."

To abide means to make your home with...to live with...to cling to.

JOHN 15:5

"I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am the vine...you (believers in Christ) are the branches (and the Holy Spirit's enabling power is the sap)...he who abides in union with Me and I indwelling him, he bears much fruit...for apart from Me you can do nothing."

Tracy Bixby is getting misty-eyed a bit hearing this because she lives in wine country...among the vineyards. The Lord is always recommending a connectedness...John, Chapter 10, Verses 11 to 15...

JOHN 10:11

"I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am the Good Shepherd...and the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

JOHN 10:12

"He who is a hired hand...and who is not a shepherd...who is not the owner of the sheep...sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees (concerned only for himself)...and the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them."

JOHN 10:13

"The hired hand flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep."

The hired hand is "coin-operated" ... transactional... self-concerned.

JOHN 10:14

"I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am the Good Shepherd, and I know My own sheep and My own sheep know Me..."

JOHN 10:15

"...even as God the Father knows Me and I know God the Father...and I lay down My life for the sheep."

In case you didn't hear it...the Lord mentions it twice. He lays down His very LIFE for His sheep. You are one of His sheep.

Barah Ministries makes a difference by teaching the Word of God from the Lord Jesus Christ's perspective, and not from man's perspective. We search the Scriptures to learn who the Lord is as a Person, and to learn what our God has to say about Himself, about His plan for all mankind, and about His personal plan for each of us. We are here to look at our lives from His perspective. We are here to learn how to enjoy the sphere of grace, forgiveness and unconditional love in which we believers in Christ stand, especially in the midst of the complete chaos engulfing the world right now. Welcome to a place of peace!

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Where is the Lord's Hand in Times of Crisis?

LESSON INTRODUCTION

In a time of lack and in times of abundance we have a God who is always right here...a God who is always with us...a God who is always planning for us...a God who is always providing for us...a God who is always protecting us! Psalm 46, Verse 1...

PSALM 46:1

God is our refuge and our strength...an OMNIPRESENT help in times of trouble.

Our God is everywhere simultaneously...He is OMNIPRESENT...He is not bound by time or space. He is right here among us this very moment. If you are listening to anything, listen to what God the Holy Spirit has to say to the churches...make THIS the noise you allow into your ears. In today's lesson, we will listen, and hopefully, we will hear what the Lord has to say in times

of crisis, and we will open our spiritual eyes so that we can see His OMNIPRESENT hand in everything that is happening around us.

SONG INTRODUCTION

Let's listen to some music. The apostle James was the half-brother of the Lord Jesus Christ. He did not believe Jesus Christ is God until after the Lord's resurrection from the dead. James wrote what is considered by most as the first book of the New Testament that was written. He was the head of the church in Jerusalem, and He was a minister to the Jews who believed in Jesus Christ who were scattered all over the region because of the persecution of Christians. His letter is a treatise on the practical aspects of Christianity...the Christian Way of Living. He taught his church how to patiently endure suffering and scattering. His is a fitting set of messages for Christians in times of crisis. He recommends that trials be greeted joyously in James, Chapter 1, Verses 2 to 4...

JAMES 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brethren (believers in Christ), when you face trials of many kinds....

JAMES 1:3

... because you KNOW from experience that the testing of your FAITH produces endurance.

JAMES 1:4 And let endurance have its perfect result...so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

Here's June Murphy to sing about the trials of life in her song COUNT IT ALL JOY.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

COUNT IT ALL JOY June Murphy

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

We're grateful, Heavenly Father, for the privilege of studying Your absolute truth...the Word of God...

Father, thank you for providing medical workers throughout the world like our own Jason Knack...protect him and protect these workers from disease...but most of all protect their minds as they witness suffering and death...things that they cannot control or do anything about...let them see Your almighty hand in the circumstances...help them understand that You have placed them there for the comfort of those You planned to bring to Yourself at this time billions of years ago...give these brave workers the internal strength to endure from the front lines...

Father, thank you for the uncertainty of the times...even though we don't know what is next, we know from experience that we have Your promises of absolute protection and hope...the confident expectation of a glorious future...of course we would like to live...of course we would like to go back to the lives we took for granted...but we know there is going to be a new and freedom-less normal in our future...in spite of this, we rest, knowing that You have us in the palm of Your righteous right hand and that no one can steal either our salvation or our victory in union with You away from us...

Garrison our hearts and our minds and our ears, Father...let us believe what You say in Your Word and not our enemy's lying propaganda...let us seek comfort from the storms in the shelter of Your protection and Your love...

...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Where is the Lord's Hand in Times of Crisis?

Our God is right here...right now. In First Peter, Chapter 1, Verses 3 to 9, the apostle Peter describes the joy us aliens are to experience as we live in the enemy's kingdom...a doxology...praise to our almighty God who is completely worthy of our praise...

FIRST PETER 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy (when we were sinners) has caused us believers in Christ to be born again (the spiritual birth) to a living hope (a certain and real hope) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

Contrast that with the false hope...the empty and deceptive practices of the world...

FIRST PETER 1:4

...allowing us believers to obtain an inheritance (made manifest in the future) which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...

As believers in Christ, our hope cannot be spoiled...it cannot be destroyed by hostile forces...our victory cannot be taken from us. Why?

FIRST PETER 1:5

...you who are protected by the power of God the Father (divine omnipotence) ... through faith in Christ...for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (when Christ returns for us).

FIRST PETER 1:6

In this (living hope) you believers in Christ greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials (the believers were scattered about) ...

FIRST PETER 1:7

...so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ...

What is the proof of our faith? Absolute confidence in our future deliverance from this and every crisis.

FIRST PETER 1:8

...and although you have not seen the Lord, you love Him...and although you do not see Him now, but believe in Him...you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory...

FIRST PETER 1:9

... obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

We have a God of mercy...a God of peace...a God of comfort. When you are not seeing these things in the world...when you are not hearing about these things in the world...take heart...for the things opposite of mercy and peace and comfort are not from God. If you want to see God's hand in anything, you have to look in a different direction that the world is encouraging you to look. Your peace in not in the world's viewpoint...it is in the heavenly viewpoint...the divine viewpoint...the point of view that God and His Word express. God has prepared us day by day in our lifetimes, through faith in Him and in His Word, to live in a tyrant's kingdom and to thrive in the midst of it.

When you hear things designed to elicit fear...respond with faith. Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verses 6 to 9...

SECOND CORINTHIANS 5:6

Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we believers in Christ are at home in the (physical) body we are absent from the Lord—

SECOND CORINTHIANS 5:7 ...for we walk (in our lifestyles) by faith, not by sight—

SECOND CORINTHIANS 5:8

...we believers in Christ are of good courage, I (Paul) say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home face-to-face with the Lord.

SECOND CORINTHIANS 5:9

Therefore, we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

Is your lifestyle in this crisis pleasing to Him? Do you see His hand guiding you through this crisis? Are you walking by faith and not by sight? Are you

listening to Him and not to the World? When we return from our fiveminute break, we'll take your offering, and then we'll consider a couple of more ways to see His hand in this crisis...

FIVE MINUTE BREAK

NOBODY Casting Crowns

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Where is the Lord's Hand in Times of Crisis?

In today's offering we tap into the wisdom of Solomon, the world's richest man ever, who recommends wise investments at all times in Ecclesiastes, Chapter 11, Verse 1...

ECCLESIASTES 11:1 *Cast your bread on the surface of the waters...for you will find it after many days.*

There is no wiser investment than an investment in spreading the gospel message worldwide. Be generous with your giving during this time of fear and anxiety and scarcity. Show your confidence in the Lord through your giving...give with faith in what the Lord will do with your gift and what He will do for you in every circumstance. Let's welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall with the offering message.

THE OFFERING

Deacon Denny Goodall

OFFERING VERSE

SECOND CORINTHIANS 4:16

Therefore, we believers in Christ do not lose heart...for even though our outer man (the physical body) is decaying...yet our inner man (the soul and the spirit) are being renewed day by day.

OFFERING VERSE

SECOND CORINTHIANS 4:17

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For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison...

OFFERING VERSE

SECOND CORINTHIANS 4:18

...so, we look not at the things which are seen...but at the things which are not seen...for the things which are seen are temporal...but the things which are not seen are eternal.

OFFERING SONG *THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU*

David Bauer, Instrumental

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Where is the Lord's Hand in Times of Crisis?

SONG INTRODUCTION

Let's listen to some music! The world is discouraging...the Lord is not! That's why I can't be discouraged. The Lord has prepared me to handle discouragement by being "Teflon" ... all of Satan's crap just slides off of me. Psalm 19, Verses 7 and 8...

PSALM 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul...the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

PSALM 19:8 The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart...the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

In Matthew, Chapter 4, Verse 4...

MATTHEW 4:4

...Jesus answered Satan and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone (physical food) ... but man shall live on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (spiritual food).""

Here's Lauren Daigle to tell us what our Lord thinks in her song YOU SAY.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

YOU SAY Lauren Daigle

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Where is the Lord's Hand in Times of Crisis?

For my whole life, I have been pelted with discouragement. A friend reminded me this week that from birth I wasn't wanted by my father or my mother or my family...that I've been being told my whole life that I am nothing...that I will never measure up...that I can't do it...that I'm a minority...that I was married to women who were not on my side and who reminded me constantly that I was not enough...a life filled with friends who get close and then betray. Thanks, friend, for the reminder! But then she said that God has prepared me perfectly to lead during a crisis! Amen?

In a life of discouragement, you learn not to listen to the discouraging words. You learn instead to lean on the encouragement of God and His Word. And that's why my soul is armed DAILY with the Word of God...so I can be encouraged...and so I can encourage you.

When you hear things designed to elicit fear...respond with faith!

When you hear things that are designed to produce anxiety...respond with prayer. Philippians, Chapter 4, Verses 6 to 8...

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Be anxious for nothing (stop worrying about anything!) ... but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God the Father.

PHILIPPIANS 4:7

And the peace of God the Father, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds...you who are in union with Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true…let your mind dwell on these things.

Amen?

When you hear things that cause thoughts of scarcity...as if things are going to run out...as if you will lose everything...think with abundance. John, Chapter 10, Verses 7 to 10...

JOHN 10:7

So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."

JOHN 10:8

"All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them."

JOHN 10:9

"I am the door...if anyone enters through Me (maybe you will and maybe you won't...you have a choice) ... he will be saved...and he will go in and out and find pasture.

JOHN 10:10

The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy...I (the Lord Jesus Christ) came that the sheep may have the resurrection life, and have it abundantly.

In fear? Faith. In anxiety, prayer. In scarcity? Abundance. Expect God to come through. God ALWAYS delivers. My spiritual eyes see Him at every moment. How about you? What are your eyes looking at? What are your ears hearing? Listen to Him!

GOD WANTS YOU!

Make the Most Important Decision of Your Life

The closing moments of our study are for the benefit of anyone who does not have a personal relationship with the Sovereign God of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We want you to know that GOD WANTS YOU.

What God wants you to know is that thirteen words tell the story of how to be saved! The first word is GOD. There is ONE AND ONLY ONE God as it says in Isaiah, Chapter 45, Verse 5...

GOD

ISAIAH 45:5 "I am the Lord and there is no other...besides Me there is no other God."

The one and only God reveals Himself in ways that make sense to human beings. He's the One who wants to save you.

The next word is MANKIND, a name for all of God's human creatures. John, Chapter 1, Verse 3...

MANKIND

JOHN 1:3

All things came into being through the Lord (God the Son) ... and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

God created you.

The next word is SIN. All of us were born in a state of sin. Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 23...

SIN

ROMANS 3:23 ... for all creatures have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 10...

SIN

ROMANS 3:10 ... as it is written, "There is no creature who is righteous...not even one..."

First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 22...

SIN

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:22a

For all in union with Adam at physical birth (and that is every human who comes to earth) are set to die the second death in the Lake of Fire...

It's not our fault that we were born in a state of sin but it is our circumstance. Sin separates us from God.

As a result of being born in a state of sin, all of us need a Savior. The next word is JESUS...the Name above all names...that magnificent Name...The God-Man...the Christ...The Jewish Messiah...the Savior of the whole world. John, Chapter 3, Verse 17...

JESUS

JOHN 3:17

For God the Father did not send God the Son (as the Lord...Jesus Christ) into the world to judge the world...but the Father sent the Son into the world that the world might be saved through Him.

Jesus Christ is God and He wants you to be saved.

The next word is CROSS. The Lord Jesus Christ chose to become a sin sacrifice for you by shedding His blood on a Cross so you wouldn't have to die for your sins. Philippians, Chapter 2, Verse 8...

CROSS

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

Being found in appearance as a man...the Lord Jesus Christ humiliated Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death...even death on a Cross.

John, Chapter 3, Verse 16...

CROSS

JOHN 3:16

"For God the Father loved the world unconditionally...and He loved the world so much...that He gave His uniquely born Son (the God-man...the Lord Jesus Christ...to be crucified on a Cross) ... so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Jesus Christ had you in mind...by name...personally...as He hung from a Cross to pay for the sins of the whole world.

The next word is RESURRECTION. Three days after Jesus Christ's crucifixion, He proved Himself to be Deity...just as He said...by being resurrected from the dead...in Luke, Chapter 24, Verses 5 and 6, an angel asks to women who have come to anoint Jesus' body on the third day after His crucifixion...

RESURRECTION

LUKE 24:5-6

"...why do you seek The Living One among the dead ones? // Jesus is not here...but He has risen (from the dead...just as He predicted) ...

Being resurrected from the dead separates Jesus Christ from all who pretend to be gods.

The next word is SALVATION. Acts, Chapter 4, Verse 12 credits Jesus Christ with the salvation of the whole human race...

SALVATION

ACTS 4:12

"And there is salvation in no one else...for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved (except the name of the Lord Jesus Christ)."

If you are to have salvation, it is ONLY available through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Accepting His work on your behalf at the Cross saves you from an eternity in the Lake of Fire.

The next word is GRACE. Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 8 and 9...

GRACE

EPHESIANS 2:8

For by God's grace you have been saved through faith (in Christ for salvation) ... and that grace and that faith and that salvation are not from the source of yourselves...it is the gift of God....

GRACE

EPHESIANS 2:9

...therefore, being saved is not as a result of works (deeds you have done in self-righteousness) ... so that no one may boast (about saving himself).

A God who is "full of GRACE" provides your salvation free of charge.

The next word is FAITH. Mathew, Chapter 17, Verse 20...

FAITH

MATTHEW 17:20

"...if you have faith the size of a mustard seed (the smallest of all seeds...and you do) ... you will say to this mountain (any obstacle), 'Move from here to there,' and it will move...and nothing will be impossible to you."

God gives you the gift of faith to spend on your own salvation.

The next word is REPENTANCE. Second Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 9...

REPENTANCE

SECOND PETER 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise of salvation, as some accuse Him of...instead He is patient toward you unbelievers...not wishing for any of you to perish (in the Lake of Fire) but for all of you to come to repentance.

When you repent, you have a change of mind about having a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The next word is RIGHTEOUSNESS. Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 21 says...

RIGHTEOUSNESS

SECOND CORINTHIANS 5:21

God the Father made Jesus Christ who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God the Father in union with Christ Jesus.

Righteousness is your admission ticket to heaven. When you believe in Jesus Christ, absolute righteousness is credited to your account by a merciful God.

The next word is TRUTH. John, Chapter 8, Verses 31 and 32...

TRUTH

JOHN 8:31

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine..."

TRUTH

JOHN 8:32

"...and you will know the truth...and the truth will make you free."

Thirteen words tell the story of how you can be saved. There is a GOD...He is the creator of all MANKIND...and SIN separated mankind from having a relationship with Him. JESUS CHRIST saved the day by dying on a CROSS to pay for the sins of all mankind. His RESURRECTION from the dead three days later proved that He is God. As a result, we have a "so

great" SALVATION, provided free of charge through God's GRACE...a salvation you cannot work for. By spending our gift of FAITH, we can be saved. When we REPENT, we change our minds about having a relationship with Christ, and God the Father credits His own absolute RIGHTEOUSNESS to our account...a righteousness that is our admission ticket to heaven. When you know this TRUTH, it will set you free from slavery to sin and from bondage to the law. The power of the thirteen words can be summed up in just one word...BELIEVE. Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

BELIEVE

ACTS 16:31

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and everyone in your household who also believes."

When we BELIEVE, we take God's word for it concerning what it takes to be saved. So, heed the warning in John, Chapter 3, Verse 36...

BELIEVE

JOHN 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has the resurrection life right at that moment... but he who does not obey the command to believe in the Son will not see the resurrection life...instead the wrath of God (the Lake of Fire) abides on him."

So, use these thirteen words that all boil down to one word...BELIEVE...to get on the Lord's team. Just take God's word for it concerning what it takes to be saved, and you will be saved! Do it right now!

SONG INTRODUCTION

Let's close with music! In Mathew, Chapter 11, Verses 28 to 30, the Sovereign God of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ says...

MATTHEW 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

MATTHEW 11:29

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me...for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

MATTHEW 11:30

"For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

There is a word that describes the people this Sovereign God welcomes to Himself? WHOSOEVER! Here's June Murphy to sing about it.

CLOSING SONG *WHOSOEVER June Murphy*

CLOSING PRAYER *Let us pray...*

Thanks for coming! Thanks for watching! Thanks for listening! www.barahministries.com