



## News from KCC

December 7, 2016



### **Sunday Morning Sermon Series!**

We kicked off our Christmas sermon series entitled, "Unbelievable" with a look at the story of Jonah. There are some unbelievable aspects to that story, yet it is all true. The most unbelievable, however, is that Jonah could hate as much as he hated the Ninevites.

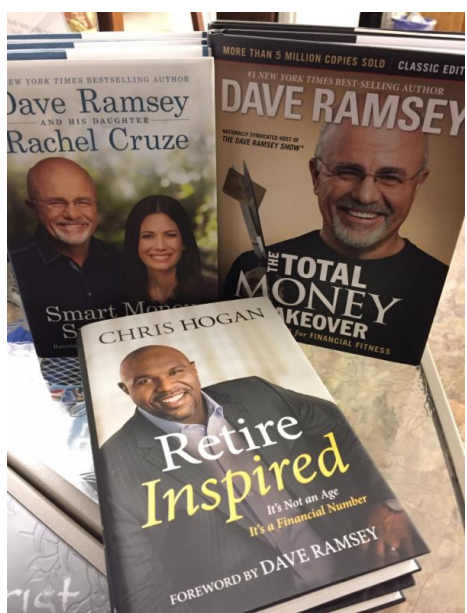
This week we will look at another of my favorites from the Old Testament. It comes from Daniel chapter 3 and has to do with a fiery furnace. There is one verse in there that captures what I hope my faith in God is like. Bring a friend and we'll see you Sunday! ~ Andy B.





# THANK YOU KALKASKA!

We cannot thank our volunteers, area businesses and families enough who donated to this year's "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas"! Your outpouring of God's love on our community was simply AMAZING! We were able to serve over 260 families and over 860 children and help bless them a little for Christmas. Thank you SO MUCH to those of you who sacrificed so many hours in organizing and setting up this event as well as those who sacrificed their Saturday to work it! To the many people and businesses who reached deep in their pockets and toy boxes to donate, THANK YOU!! Merry Christmas!



## Great Deals of Christian Books for Christmas!

Check out the selection of Christian books available in the church lobby. They make great Christmas gifts! Pick up Dave Ramsey's "Total Money Makeover" or Rachel Cruze's "Smart Money Smart Kids" or "Love & Respect" with DVD each for only \$10.00.

### Are You Being "Sifted" Today?

*By Tim Severance, Associate Minister*

**"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat."  
- Luke 22:31**



This verse was in my daily Bible reading this past week. I had never noticed it before. Jesus was speaking to former fisherman turned apostle, Simon Peter, AKA "The Rock." Peter would go on to be one of the pillars of the early church in Jerusalem. But right now we come upon the scene in Luke 22 right before Jesus would invite Peter along with James and John to join him in prayer on the Mount of Olives. This late-night prayer vigil precedes His arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

Satan makes a request of Jesus regarding his followers. Just let that sink in. Satan, Lucifer, the Devil is asking to shake up, tempt, and disrupt not just Simon Peter, but ALL of the Apostles with deception, pride, and lies. Do you recall this ever happening in scripture before? Remember Job?

In the opening chapter of the Old Testament book of Job, Satan comes to God and makes some type of cosmic deal over the life of this godly man. Satan's accusation is that Job would curse God to His face if he were allowed to take away everything he has - his wealth, his family, his health. In a startling moment God says basically, "Go for it!"

What!? Are you kidding? What about "guardian angels" and hedges around God's people?! How could God just "allow" Satan to work his deception and destruction upon one of God's faithful!? And Why? Why would God allow it?

Now, in the New Testament, with the Apostles we see a similar scene. God is allowing



Satan access to followers of Christ to do as he pleases.

I would have expected Jesus to say, "Nope! Sorry. Those are my guys. I have just spent 3 years teaching and training them. "You can't touch this (them)!" BUT HE DIDN'T! His response?

**"But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." - Luke 22:32**

Really?! "I'm praying for you?" That was Jesus' response? No "Don't worry about this. I got your back? No "He can't harm you. I've covered you with my protection!?" Nothing except, "I'll pray for you?!" What?!!!!!!

This begs the question: Why does God (Jesus) allow Satan to "sift" those who follow Him? There must be a purpose, a reason behind it all.

The answer lies in the words of James, the brother of Jesus, when he writes this:

**"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."**

He continues:

**"Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."**

Whoa...this is a different perspective. Instead of security and safety, maybe trials, testing, and perseverance are what the Christian should be rejoicing with. Perhaps the purpose of Jesus allowing Satan to "sift" us goes much deeper than we thought. Maybe in breaking us down, we can actually come back stronger than before. James seems to be saying that. After we go through "the fire" we exit "mature and complete." What more do we need? NOTHING, says James.

Are you being "sifted" today by Satan? You may not even know it. However, God may be allowing it. Maybe it's in your finances. Family. Marriage. Work. Some area of your life may be stressing you out and you are unsure how to handle it. Don't give up. Get stronger. Rise above it! Persevere beyond it!

Jesus had full confidence that Simon Peter would win in the end. He said, "when you have turned back," help your brothers. You can overcome Satan too! How do I know?! Because I know that:

**"...the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" - 1 John 4:4**

**KIDSTUF** is **THIS SUNDAY at 11:00am** in the Lower Level  
for all kids Kindergarten through 5th Grade!

We continue our look at joy in [Luke 1:5-25; 57-79](#). After God had been silent for about four hundred years, an angel suddenly showed up and made a promise to Zechariah and Elizabeth. The angel told Zechariah that they would have a son, even though they were well past the age of having children. The day John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus, was born to them the Christmas story was set in motion. Zechariah broke into a song and his house celebrated. They realized firsthand that they could have joy because anything is possible with God.



Bottom Line: **I can have joy because anything is possible with God.** Knowing that God can do the impossible has the possibility to fuel our joy. God may not always choose to do the impossible right away or at all, but that doesn't mean He isn't faithful. God can give us joy as we learn and grow during those impossible seasons of life.

## Upcoming Events

# GROUNDDED

## Coffee Shop

KCC Lower Level

Caffeine,  
Cookies &  
Conversation!

Proceeds to Benefit Baby Pantry



1st & 3rd Wednesdays: 7-9PM  
2nd & 4th Wednesdays: 8-11AM



The Grounded Coffee Shoppe is open **TONIGHT from 7:00 - 9:00pm!** Come join us



## Children's Christmas Program

KCC Kids will have their Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 11th at 10:00am. Join us during the faith training hour in the Worship Center as we celebrate Jesus' birth. This program will include children from KCC's Sunday and Wednesday programs.

## KAIR Christmas Food Drive

THIS Sunday, December 11th is "Bring Back Sunday". Pieces of paper with non-perishable food items (stuffing, gravy packets, corn & green beans) were taken last Sunday at Offering time. Bring the food items back to KCC **THIS SUNDAY** and leave them in the Lobby. The food will be taken to Kalkaska Methodist Church on Thursday, December 15th from 5:00 - 7:00pm where they will be assembled into food baskets for area families in need.





# Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

**Saturday, Dec. 24th at 10:00pm**

Christmas  
Worship Schedule at KCC

**ONE WORSHIP SERVICE  
AT 11:00AM ONLY!**

Sunday Dec. 25th &  
Sunday Jan. 1st

## Christmas Worship Schedule at KCC!

On Christmas Sunday, December 25th & New Year's Sunday, January 1st, KCC will have ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11:00AM. We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior with you & your family!

**TODAY - Wednesday, December 7, 2016**

- **3:00 PM** - WASP - After school program for kids Kindergarten - 5th grade

- **6:00 PM** - FUEL - Middle School Youth Group
- **7:00 - 9:00 PM** - Grounded Coffee Shoppe



## This Sunday - December 11, 2016

- **8:30 AM** - Worship
- **10:00 AM - Children's Christmas Program**
- **11:00 AM** - Worship
- **11:00 AM** - KidStuf in the Lower Level for kids Kindergarten - 5th grade
- **6:30 PM** - FUEL - High School Youth Group

[Check out kccwired.com for a full list of upcoming events!](http://kccwired.com)

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