



Messenger

St. Mark's
United Methodist Church

1902 Vance Jackson San Antonio, TX 78213
210-344-8393

Regular Weekly

Activities:

† We are now meeting
in-person for worship.

When God's Timing Calls for Making A Difference

Part 3

Exodus 4:18-23

Exodus 4:27-31



See more on

PAGE 4

Exodus 4:18-23 NIV

Moses Returns to Egypt

¹⁸ Then Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Let me return to my own people in Egypt to see if any of them are still alive." Jethro said, "Go, and I wish you well."

¹⁹ Now the LORD had said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all those who wanted to kill you are dead." ²⁰ So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt. And he took the staff of God in his hand. ²¹ The LORD said to Moses, "When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. ²² Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son, ²³ and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me." But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.'"

Exodus 4:27-31 NIV

²⁷ The LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he met Moses at the mountain of God and kissed him. ²⁸ Then Moses told Aaron everything the LORD had sent him to say, and also about all the signs he had commanded him to perform. ²⁹ Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, ³⁰ and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, ³¹ and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

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Follow us on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Marks-United-Methodist-Church/217072428313881?ref=hl>



APPRECIATION

October is National Clergy Appreciation Month: Clergy Appreciation Day is always the second Sunday in October, and all of October is celebrated as Clergy Appreciation Month. The celebration was established in 1992 with a mission of uplifting and encouraging pastors, missionaries and religious workers.



SURVEY

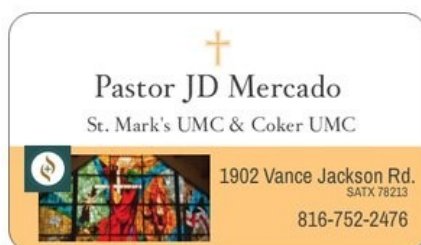
A few weeks ago a letter and survey was sent from Pastor Mercado to the church family. If you have not completed and returned it yet, feel free to bring it with you to next week's worship service and place it in the offering plate. If you're unable to locate it, let us know and we will send you another one.



FACEBOOK VIDEOS

Here is the link where you can access the videos of Sunday services held July through September due to COVID-19 precautions. You do not need a Facebook account.

https://www.facebook.com/pg/St-Marks-United-Methodist-Church-217072428313881/videos/?ref=page_internal



PASTOR: Rev. Jose David Mercado 816-752-2476
Pastor Email: jmercado@riotx.org

SECRETARY: Lillian Herrera CUSTODIAN: Johnny Mendoza
WESLEY NURSE: Rose Miranda

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 a.m - 2:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday Closed Friday

EMAIL: stmarksumc@grandecom.net WEBSITE: www.stmarksumcsa.com

PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULE HOURS MAY VARY DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS.



With Your Help The United Methodist Church is Making a Difference

CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF MINISTRY

Born in Puerto Rico, the oldest of three siblings, Olga Elsie González comes from a long line of Methodist pastors and church workers. "My father and his siblings grew up in the Methodist Church in Puerto Rico. I also had an uncle who was a Methodist pastor for almost 20 years. I have another uncle that was a missionary for 50 years and now is a pastor in Costa Rica. My aunt was always a Sunday School teacher. So, from my Dad's side I have my heritage with the Methodist church, said González.

However, there were challenges. González says, "my parents divorced when I was eight years old. So, as the oldest daughter, I helped my mom at home with my siblings. My dad passed when he was 44 years old. Growing up without my dad at home was always difficult for me. Then during my teenage years, I stopped going to church. When I look back, my heavenly father was always with me. "But the greatest joy was and is when I had my personal experience with Jesus Christ in 1993. Since then I have been serving him and I don't want to change the life he has given me for the life I lived before then."

After receiving a Bachelors' degree in Secretarial Sciences and a Master's degree in Social Work, González became a Church and Community Worker missionary (CCW) with Global Ministries in 2012. "Since then I've been growing

in the knowledge of God more than ever. I served four years as CCW with a mission in the West Side of the city of Syracuse, New York. I helped plant a Hispanic church in Syracuse and served for 2 years with a mission for children and youth. Now I am serving at Lyndonville United Methodist Church in Lyndonville NY," she added.

Still, González had dreams of going further in ministry. "Because I was a Church and Community Worker with Global Ministries, I went to their website to find help to pay for college. I found out about the World Communion scholarship and made an application. Now thanks to the churches who gave to World Communion Sunday offering I am working on a Master of Divinity at Northeastern Seminary at Robert Wesleyan College. To receive this scholarship has been a great blessing. It is because of this scholarship that I have been able to go to school. My plan is to be a missional pastor. My life has changed because of your support. May God multiply abundant blessings to our donors. Thank you for your generosity," said González.

One of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The UMC, World Communion Sunday calls the church to reach out to all people and model diversity among God's children. The special offering provides World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program. Umcgiving.org



Apportionments

ST. MARK'S FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR MONTH OF AUGUST - 2020

Operating Cash Balance on July 31, 2020	7,762
Non-Designated Contributions - August	10,280
Operating Expenses	19,230
Other Income/(Expense)	121
Operating Cash Balance on August 31, 2020	(1,067)

August receipts were lower than budgeted. August operating expenses were lower than budgeted. Mission Giving was favorable to the budget as we are only paying amounts specifically donated for apportionments and no payment was made in August. Trustee expenses were unfavorable primarily due to higher utilities as a result of the summer heat.

Pastor compensation was favorable due to the transition to our new pastor. Lay personnel compensation was favorable to budget due to a budgeted position remaining vacant. We received \$1,500 from the Conference to help with compensation during the pandemic.

Our operating cash balance on August 31, 2020 was negative \$1,067.

We continue to spend more each month than we receive in contributions. This will result in our need to use reserve funds to pay our monthly obligations. If you have any suggestion on how we can increase our monthly contributions, please let us know. The Finance Committee thanks you for your support to St. Mark's. God Bless you all.



From Rev. Jose David Mercado When God's Timing Calls for Making a Difference - Part 3

October
2020

After having read and studied all of Moses' excuses and God's positive responses, we see that he finally decided to do God's will. Ready or not, he was venturing to become one of the most important people in the Old Testament, to the Hebrew people and to all Abrahamic traditions, including Christianity to this day. Let us reflect and study *Exodus 4:18-23, 27-31*.

Moses was preparing for his trip. First, he tells his father-in-law that he will visit his family in Egypt. He did not share anything about God's plans and the real reason he was leaving. This trip back to Egypt was a journey of approximately 530 miles, or 2 weeks of hiking. So, it was obvious that he would not say anything about what God had sent him to do in Egypt, as he would take his family with him.



To put this journey in perspective, refer to the map on the left.

Scriptures tell us that Moses took his family and the staff of God to return to Egypt (v.20). A question to consider here is; **did Moses really know the dangers they were going to face?** And the answer is, yes. The risk that Moses was taking was one of great courage, but at the same time God had given him a staff with which God would perform miracles and wonders in the land of Egypt. Today you and I have that staff in which God manifests his people and the world, that staff is the Bible.

God had already warned Moses about what would happen when faced the Pharaoh and the words he would say (v.21-23). God had already planned everything for the liberation of his people and their redemption. Moses and Aaron met at Mount Sinai to plan and organize, and then began the task that God had entrusted to them (v. 27-31).

I would like to make several salient points in this passage that incline me to reflect on *Making A Difference*.

- Moses is obedient to God knowing the challenges he would face.
- Moses took his family and the staff that God would use for the miracles in Egypt and his entire ministry. In addition, we see a Moses without excuses and determined to do the will of God.
- Moses knew God's plans.

Obedience to God help us to always meet the challenges of this world and for us stay on the road to *Make the Difference*. The risks we take for God will always include our loved ones, indirectly or directly. The bible is that miraculous staff that helps us to be the instrument of change in the community and *Make A Difference*. When we rely on the word of God, we have no excuses. Regardless of what happens in life, you and I know God's plan for his people, he says:

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

These are God's plans not only for us, but also for the community that surrounds our church and that awaits people like Moses with a message of hope and liberation to make a difference in their lives.

Questions to ponder:

Are you aware of the challenges you will face when you decide to be obedient to God?



Are you willing to take the risk and carry a message of hope that brings liberation to the hopeless?



TO BE CONTINUED...

Haciendo la Diferencia

Éxodo 4:18-23 NVI Moisés regresa a Egipto

18 Moisés se fue de allí y volvió a la casa de Jetro, su suegro. Al llegar le dijo: —Debo marcharme. Quiero volver a Egipto, donde están mis hermanos de sangre. Voy a ver si todavía viven. —Anda, pues; que te vaya bien —le contestó Jetro. 19 Ya en Madián el Señor le había dicho a Moisés: «Vuelve a Egipto, que ya han muerto todos los que querían matarte». 20 Así que Moisés tomó a su mujer y a sus hijos, los montó en un asno y volvió a Egipto. En la mano llevaba la vara de Dios. 21 El Señor le había advertido a Moisés: «Cuando vuelvas a Egipto, no dejes de hacer ante el faraón todos los prodigios que te he dado el poder de realizar. Yo, por mi parte, endureceré su corazón para que no deje ir al pueblo. 22 Entonces tú le dirás de mi parte al faraón: “Israel es mi primogénito. 23 Ya te he dicho que dejes ir a mi hijo para que me rinda culto, pero tú no has querido dejarlo ir. Por lo tanto, voy a quitarle la vida a tu primogénito”».

Éxodo 4:27-31 NVI 27 El Señor le dijo a Aarón: «Anda a recibir a Moisés en el desierto». Aarón fue y se encontró con Moisés en la montaña de Dios, y lo besó. 28 Entonces Moisés le comunicó a Aarón todo lo que el Señor le había ordenado decir y todas las señales milagrosas que le mandaba realizar. 29 Luego Moisés y Aarón reunieron a todos los ancianos israelitas, 30 y Aarón, además de repetirles todo lo que el Señor le había dicho a Moisés, realizó también las señales a la vista del pueblo, 31 con lo que el pueblo creyó. Y al oír que el Señor había estado pendiente de ellos y había visto su aflicción, los israelitas se inclinaron y adoraron al Señor.

Después de haber leído y estudiado todas las excusas de Moisés y las respuestas positivas de Dios, vemos que finalmente decidió hacer la voluntad de Dios. Listo o no, se estaba aventurando a convertirse en una de las personas más importantes del Antiguo Testamento, para el pueblo hebreo y todas las tradiciones abrahámicas, incluido el cristianismo hasta el día de hoy. Hoy reflexionaremos y estudiaremos Éxodo 4:18-23, 27-31.

Moisés se estaba preparando para su viaje, primero le dice a su suegro que visitará a su familia en Egipto. Interesante que no le contara los planes de Dios y la verdadera razón por la que se iba. Este viaje de regreso a Egipto fue en sí mismo un viaje de aproximadamente 530 millas, o 2 semanas de caminata. Así que era obvio que no diría nada sobre lo que Dios le había enviado a Egipto a hacer, ya que se llevaría a su familia con él.



Aquí les dejo un mapa de ese tiempo para que tengan una idea de esa travesía.

Las Escrituras nos dicen que Moisés tomó a su familia y la vara de Dios para regresar a Egipto (v.20). Creo que la pregunta en cuestión aquí es, ¿Moisés realmente sabía de los peligros que iban a enfrentar? Y la respuesta es sí. El riesgo que estaba tomando Moisés era de gran valentía, pero al mismo tiempo Dios le había dado una vara con la cual Dios realizaría milagros y maravillas en la tierra de Egipto. Hoy, tú y yo tenemos esa vara en la que Dios se manifiesta a su pueblo y al mundo y esa es la Biblia.

Dios ya le había advertido a Moisés lo que sucedería cuando se enfrentaran al Faraón y las palabras que le diría (v.21-23). Entonces Dios ya había planeado todo para la liberación de su pueblo y su redención. Moisés y Aarón se reunieron en el monte Sinaí para planificar y organizar, y luego comenzar la tarea que Dios les había confiado (v. 27-31).

Me gustaría señalar varios puntos sobresalientes en este pasaje que me inclinan a reflexionar sobre Hacer La Diferencia.

Moisés es obediente a Dios conociendo los desafíos que enfrentaría.

Moisés tomo a su familia y la vara que Dios usaría para los milagros en Egipto y todo su ministerio. Además, vemos un Moisés sin excusas decidido a hacer la voluntad de Dios. Moisés conocía los planes de Dios.

La obediencia a Dios siempre nos ayudará para enfrentar los desafíos de este mundo y nos ayuda a mantenernos en el camino de Hacer La Diferencia. Los riesgos que tomemos por *Dios siempre incluirán a nuestros seres queridos indirecta o directamente. La biblia es esa vara milagrosa que nos ayuda a ser esos instrumentos del cambio en la comunidad y Hacer La Diferencia. Cuando nos apoyamos en la palabra de Dios, no tenemos excusas. A pesar de todo lo que ocurra en la vida, usted y yo conocemos el plan de Dios para su pueblo, dice:*

Porque yo sé muy bien los planes que tengo para ustedes —afirma el Señor—, planes de bienestar y no de calamidad, a fin de darles un futuro y una esperanza.
Jeremías 29:11 NVI

Estos son los planes de Dios no solo para nosotros, sino también para la comunidad que rodea a nuestra iglesia cual espera a personas como Moisés con un mensaje de esperanza y liberación que haga la diferencia en sus vidas.

Preguntas para reflexionar:

¿Estás consciente de los desafíos que vas a enfrentar cuando decidas ser obediente a Dios?

¿Estás dispuesto a tomar el riesgo y llevar un mensaje de esperanza que traiga liberación a los desesperanzados?

Con aprecio y amor su pastor, JD Mercado

Feeding Our Community



Saturday, October 17 - 10:00 am
St. Mark's UMC parking lot (1902 Vance Jackson)

The Dellview Community Food Pantry is partnering with St. Mark's to continue to feed Dellview families. A team of volunteers are gearing up for weekly food distributions and hope to include holiday distributions. This is a drive-thru and delivery event.

Community Trunk or Treat - Saturday, October 31

St. Mark's UMC parking lot from 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Free Family



Fall Fun

Drive-thru Event

COVID-19 precautions will be followed (masks, distancing).



Drive-Thru Event

Saturday, Oct 31st

PRAYERS & PRAISE



Bob Ailerson	Michael Mendoza	For justice and peace
Jill Anderson	Eric Miletti	Melinda Molina
Kennedee Bailey	Will Schuetze	Rose Miranda
Kylee Brown	St. Mark's Shut-ins &	Roland Canales
Bucky Coley	homebound friends	Pat Martin
Esdras Cuervo	Those suffering from	Todd Roberts Family
Alice Logan	coronavirus	Frank Garcia Family

*Esther Lopez on the passing of her beloved mother,
Olga E. Lopez, August 31, 2020 (age 95).*



*David Pinegar on the passing of his
beloved father, September 25, 2020.*

*The Hahn Family on the passing of their beloved mother,
Carolyn Hahn, October 1, 2020 (age 87).*

*The Dunetz Family on the passing of
Warren Dunetz, October 7, 2020 (age 93).*



October 9	Shelley Ross
October 16	Malcolm Austin
October 16	Kim Durick
October 18	Susan Philbin
October 25	Irma Swatzell
October 27	Neale Freeto
October 28	Jim Horner

*May you feel the warmth
of God's love surrounding
your heart on your
special day and always.
Prayers for a
happy birthday!*