

*To His Glory and for Our Good*  
*Reflecting on Hurricane Harvey Relief Work*

Text: Romans 8:28-29; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; *Ephesians 4:15-16*

Thesis: The God whom we follow can take everything that happens, good or bad, and weave it into a beautiful tapestry to his glory and for our good.

It has been a wild ride over the past two weeks. Hurricane Harvey was a disaster meant for evil. But, I believe the Lord has been working to turn it all around for good.

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers (Romans 8:28-29).*

Listen to Romans 8:28-29 in the Message paraphrase:

*That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good. 29 God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him (Romans 8:28).*

Over the past 2 weeks, we have seen the Lord at work. Not everything that happens to us in this world is good. But, the God whom we follow can take everything that happens, good or bad, and weave it into a beautiful tapestry to his glory and for our good.

Today, I think it is important to pause and reflect on what the Lord has done to prepare us for such a time as this. And, it is important to reflect on what the Lord is doing in and through us.

At Calvary, we have a three part vision. It is a holistic vision that is our foundational understanding of what the Lord has called us to be and to do.

1. **Establishing people in intimacy with God**
  - a. Intimacy: embracing a reflective lifestyle where we listen to God and give our word to what he is doing to redeem and restore people, systems, and institutions to their redemptive calling.
  - b. We co-create with the Lord.
  - c. Key outcome: Awareness
  
2. **Expressing true Christian community**
  - a. Community: learning to become an authentic community of shared lives that leads to shared vision.
  - b. Key outcome: Authenticity (open, honest)
  
3. **Extending the kingdom of God in the earth**

- a. Kingdom: engaging in radical obedience which leads to a missional life
- b. We are on mission with Jesus in this world as he makes things right.
- c. Key outcome: Action

**Keeping in mind what the Lord has called us to be and to do, I want to share some thoughts about the past 2 weeks.**

**1. We know that the Lord spoke to us and we gave our word to something way bigger than our selves.**

- a. We gave our word to opening our doors as a shelter for people with a commitment of only 20 volunteers from Calvary. Most of our church members were stuck in their subdivisions because of flooded roads.
- b. In the natural, there was no way to pull off that commitment. But God...
  - i. God mobilized an army of volunteers, 500 on the first day and probably around 1,000 people over the course of 2 weeks.
  - ii. The Lord flooded our building with provision of food, clothing, bedding, mattresses, and medical supplies.
  - iii. Our God mobilized Brandon McCoy and his team with a food truck to feed us and many others. McCoy Butcher Block provided between 1,700 and 3,300 meals a day for almost 2 weeks. Other restaurants chipped in: Texas Road House, Outback, Alicia's Mexican Restaurant, Freddy's Steak Burgers, Dominoes Pizza, CFISD food services, Starbucks, St. Mary's Orthodox Church, the Sikhs, and so many others helped to feed us.
  - iv. The Lord brought people to touch our lives with fun, grace, help, and beauty: violinists, cartoon characters, Trinity Vineyard Church, Christian Family Church, people to read to the children, medical missionaries, chiropractors, many nurses and doctors, chefs, and so many others
  - v. We had 130 people in our shelter at one time. And, we had many more people than that who came and went through our church for food, cleaning supplies, clothing, and much more. We touched the lives of several hundred people with the love of Jesus.
  - vi. All of our shelter guests told us how grateful they were for our love, care, protection, and help.
  - vii. Because of our love and their experience with the presence of the Lord, many of our guests made significant progress in their spiritual journey. Lives were touched and changed by the love of the Lord.

**2. We know that every part is important.**

- a. There are no insignificant parts in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).
- b. **Wherever you served, you made a difference.**
  - i. Some people served through prayer, because they couldn't get to Calvary to serve in the shelter. (Some people were out of town;

others were stuck in their subdivisions; still others were the primary care givers for loved ones.)

- ii. Some people served their immediate family as they dealt with flood damage and looked for temporary housing.
- iii. Some people served their neighbors and friends, bringing relief and rescue to flood victims.
- iv. Some people helped with communication, posting and sharing needs and mobilizing people and resources.
- v. Some people served in our shelter, sacrificing time, energy, and resources to care for our guests.
- vi. Some people served on teams to help muck out homes and save personal property.
- vii. And, there is so much more that people have done and are doing.

c. **Whatever part you have played and are playing, remember that you are making a difference** (1 Samuel 30:1-25).

- i. *Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Ravine. They came out to meet David and the people with him. As David and his men approached, he greeted them. 22 But all the evil men and troublemakers among David's followers said, "Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go." 23 David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and handed over to us the forces that came against us. 24 Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike." 25 David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this (1 Samuel 30:21-25).*

3. **We know that every part must do its part for the body to be whole and healthy.**

- a. *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work (Ephesians 4:15-16).*
- b. It was exciting to see people step up and to express their gifts and passions. Calvary, you stepped up in a big way. You stepped into roles and assignments with zeal and expertise that amazed me. I am so proud of this church and this community. Thanks for stepping up and stepping out as the hands, feet, and mouth of Jesus.

4. **We know that the Lord did so much more in us and through us, but there isn't time to talk about all that God did in this message today.**

- a. **We took another step in being intentional** out there, like we did in our compassion emphasis earlier this year.

- b. **We know that this place is a place of encounter and a portal place.** You could feel presence of God here. People felt safe, loved, and cared for.
  - c. **We lived into Isaiah 58** in a real way in our season of fasting and prayer for September 1 - 30.
  - d. **We are a part of something bigger than us: a net that works.** We have networked with individuals, churches, ministries, communities, and companies from all over the USA to help direct funds and supplies to where they are needed.
5. **In closing, let's give praise and glory to our Father God, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.**
- a. *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).*
  - b. I am so glad that our God can take everything that happens, good or bad, and use it for his glory and for our good.
  - c. *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35-39).*

### Ministry Time

- 1.