**Christian Life Church (Murfreesboro)**

Sunday Services - November 2022

Re-Dig the Wells

**Notes to Production Team:**

* Things **highlighted in yellow** can go on screens
* If time or prep is limited, the most helpful parts to be on screens would be the scriptures.
* Please do not put up a title screen until I get to the pary highlighted in yellow where I share the title.

**RE-DIG THE WELLS**

Message Outline:

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Message Intro:

* Keys playing - Brandon will talk & pray to begin
* Prayer
* Family introduction (Brandon will call for photos)
* I turned 40 this year

**Everything about our culture right now is fascinated with the NEW…**

* Lines out the door for the new iPhone…
* Entire weekends reserved to binge the new series being released…
* New music released by your favorite artist goes right to the top of your apple music library

**We like new, because we add up that newer works better than old.**

* Does anyone else buy into the theory that they purposely slow down your old phone in order to make you buy the new one?
* New is faster
* New is sexier
* New makes my life easier

**Our generation is in the process of remaking everything.**

Everything is instant… convenient… now “contactless”

If I’m hungry… Uber eats

If I don’t want to go to the store… Instacart.

If I want coffee but I’m running late, Starbucks mobile order

If I want any item under the sun, Amazon.

If I want any item under the sun NOW, Amazon Prime NOW.

If you want to learn your heritage, don’t bother taking a trip to grandma’s house… there’s [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

If I want sex, TINDER, Coffee Meets Bagel, Friends With Benefits, How About We, Bumble, Happen, Hinge, Match, OK Cupid, Down….

Millennials are willing to pay up to 40% more for the same thing if they can get it faster…

**Culture is even finding language around this….**

* It’s now a slap in the face to point out that someone is from an older generation than you… OK BOOMER

**We add up that NEW is better than OLD.**

But...

**I want to make a case for us today that it’s time to be who JESUS has called us to be… as the Church… as believers….Because the stakes have never been higher.**

**I am more proud than ever to be a Christ follower.**

I am more proud than ever to be a church builder.

* It’s not a popular time to be church going believer
	+ So many people: I love Jesus, but not the church
* It’s not a popular time to promote a Biblical worldview
	+ Our nation has entered a period of time that is dominated by conversations on worldview
* We can pass all the laws we want, and elect whoever we want for president (we have that right)... but you cannot legislate morality… politics will never lead people to a place of repentance or a healed heart….
* Jesus stands as King today… the only hope for our broken and divided world.

**If we’re going to be the Church Jesus has called us to be….** If we going to be potent in a raging world… light in darkness… effectively offer Jesus as a drink of water to those who are thirsty…

I want to make the case tonight that there are some things we need to get back to.

Tonight, I’m going to call us higher. I’m going to call us to return to some things.

**I want to call us to RE-DIG THE WELLS**

**Genesis 26:18 NASB**

“Then Isaac **dug again the wells of water which had been dug in the days of his father** Abraham, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham; and **he gave them the same names which his father had given them**.”

Context:

* Isaac has returned to the land his father had lived in
* During the time since Abraham had lived there, the Philistines had filled in the wells with dirt, debris and garbage.
* **Wells were important.** They lived in the desert… so water was essential.
* **Their first act returning to the land was to re-dig the wells of their fathers.**
* **He also named them the same names His father had given them.**
* This was not the land they had been promised (Canaan), this was a land provided for them for rest.

**Water in scripture is significant.**

Not only is water essential for people living in the desert...

JESUS Himself is our living water!

**John 4:10 NIV**

“10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

**John 7:38 NASB**

**38** He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’”

For the purpose of this talk...

**A deep well represents the big, full, open, free-flowing life God has called you to.**

Speaking to us corporately...

**A deep well represents a House we have built that offers a new, and better way to a world desperately trying to find hope.**

**God has perfectly positioned you in the places and spaces of life he has called you to occupy so you can offer Jesus (living water) to dry and thirsty people around you.**

If no one has told you recently, let me remind you:

* You are separated and called out by God to be his ambassador to the world.
* You are anointed to bring the good news of the gospel to everyone you meet.

You are positioned where you are because of the perfect plan of God for your life.

**God has strategically placed you in the environments in which He wants to use you.**

* God wants to use you in your workplace
* God wants to use you at your gym
* God wants to use you at those little league games
* God wants to use you

But if I’m honest...

**When I look around at the church in the US and North America right now, I feel like I’m seeing some stopped-up wells.**

* In the climate of 2020, I feel that we’ve allowed some wells to be filled in by prevailing culture...
* **It’s time for us to re-dig some wells that our father’s dug, call them by the names our Father’s gave them, and carry water to a world who needs Jesus now more than ever.**

Our potency as Jesus’ Church is not going to come from popularly, relevance, or looking like the world…

Our potency as the Church of the living God is going to come from POWER… Us being so full of the things of God… the Word of God… the presence of God… that we STAND OUT.

**What wells do you need to re-dig in your life so that the living water of Jesus can flow through you to your world?**

It’s time for us to RE-DIG THE WELLS.

**RE-DIG THE WELLS:**

\*SLIDE - list all of these in one list

The well of prayer

The well of worship

The well of reading the Bible

The well of fasting

The well of holiness

The well of forgiveness and reconciliation

The well of baptism

The well of the Sabbath

The well of serving

The well of honor

The well of obedience

The well of love

The well of justice

The well of faith

The well of the fruit of the spirit

The well of commitment

**There are four wells I didn’t put on this list that I feel especially strongly about right now…**

**The well of being planted in the church.**

OK Boomer… it just seems so old school…

**Psalm 92:13 NIV**

**13 “**Those who are planted in the house of the Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God. **14** They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,”

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**We live in a season being called The Great Resignation.**

* Millions and millions of people have quit jobs, many exiting the workforce altogether.

**Quiet Quitting is everywhere.**

* This is the belief that you should “act your wage”
* If a company wants you to go above and beyond, they can pay you to do it.
* For now, I’m going to do the bare minimum.

Sadly this has made it’s way into the church.

The Debris of **Self Protection** (add this on to the same slide as point #4 below it)

**Our culture is making claims that places like the church are things you need to protect yourself from.**

* All the church wants is your time
* All the church wants is your money
* They’re going to take advantage of you

This is not how Kingdom people think!

If Quiet Quitting was Kingdom culture…

* We wouldn’t have men who wrote scripture from prison attempting to pass the gospel along to the next generation.
* We wouldn’t have men and women who sold everything… gave their lives… to advance the gospel
* This church wouldn’t exist.
* We wouldn’t have salvation… because Jesus certainly didn’t have to leave heaven to come to an earth his father created to seek and save the lost.

Think about how much your life has been blessed because someone else went ALL IN for Jesus and His Church.

* The chairs you’re sitting in
* The building we’re gathering in
* The stage I’m standing on

**The well of guarding our hearts.**

it just seems so old school...

**3 John 2 NASB**

“Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.”

The Debris of **FOMO** (add this on to the same slide as point #4 below it)

**One of the biggest issues facing our generation is the sharp decline in mental health.**

But the vast majority of Gen Z young adults report that their phones are more important to them than mental health, and refuse to consider life without them.

* We fear missing out on life… information… connectedness...

**We are living in an anxiety filled time.**

* This week, I spoke to or heard of multiple Christian leaders who have stepped out of ministry due to mental health issues….anxiety, depression…

**The town square of our day is social media.**

Social media is a terrorist of our hearts at times.

* It was bad enough before COVID… with comparison, FOMO
* Now we add onto that worldview clashes, highly polarized culture…

**Proverbs 4:23 NASB**

**23**

Watch over your heart with all diligence,

For from it *flow* the springs of life.”

**I believe God wants to meet some of you and replace your anxiety with JOY.**

**The Well of the Holy Spirit**

I believe this is the most important well we need to re-dig.

We are Holy Spirit people.

**Your life and leadership can be empowered every day by the helper… the counselor…**

You were never supposed to do this on your own.

The Debris of **Self-Sufficiency** (add this on to the same slide as point #4 below it)

The result is **ministry results in natural strength.**

**The result of all this?**

**Genesis 26:32 NASB**

“Now it came about on the same day **(as the treaty they made)**, that Isaac’s servants came in and told him about the well which they had dug, and said to him, “We have found water.”

When you commit to re-dig the wells, you will find more of JESUS.

**Close: These last 18 months, I’ve re-dug some wells in my own life.**