

Briefing Document: Synthesis of the Wednesday Lesson

March 11, 2026

Executive Summary

The following document synthesizes the key themes and insights from the March 11, 2026, lesson at New Life Benson. The central message focuses on the necessity of total reliance on God versus the spiritual barrenness of trusting in human strength. Drawing heavily from Jeremiah 17 and supported by several New Testament passages, the lesson posits that God often allows or creates challenges to test believers and demonstrate His necessity in their lives.

Critical takeaways include:

- **The Contrast of Trust:** A "cursed" life is defined by reliance on the "flesh," leading to a desert-like spiritual existence, while a "blessed" life is rooted in God, resulting in a fruit-bearing existence that thrives even in times of "drought."
- **Divine Intervention:** Recent testimonies of medical recoveries (Terry and Brother Peralta) and providential encounters (Sarah in the ICU) serve as evidence of God's active presence and the importance of "letting your light shine" in difficult moments.
- **The Role of the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit serves as the "Helper" who provides liberty from bondage, such as anxiety and depression, and reminds believers of Christ's teachings.
- **Accountability and Submission:** Daily submission to God and honest fellowship with other believers are essential for maintaining spiritual discernment and avoiding the "generational sin" seen in the historical context of Judah.

Church Announcements and Missions

The session opened with several logistical updates and calls to action for the congregation:

- **Lighthouse Medical Missions:** This month's featured mission consists of volunteers who provide medical treatment and share the Gospel to help and heal those in need.
- **March Memory Verse:** The congregation is encouraged to memorize *Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Men's Breakfast:** Saturday, March 14.
 - **Women's Fellowship:** Saturday, March 21, at 11:00 AM at the Benson City Grill.

- **Turning Point Town Hall:** Featuring a Q&A session with speakers and refreshments.
- **Resurrection Sunday:** SonRise service scheduled for April 5 at 6:00 AM.

Testimonies of Faith and Healing

The lesson was framed by several recent accounts of what was described as miraculous divine intervention and opportunities for ministry:

Medical Recoveries

- **Terry's Recovery:** After undergoing extreme abdominal surgery, Chris Davis's brother Terry was considered near death. Surgeons initially doubted he would survive surgery or the immediate aftermath. However, he experienced a "miraculous turnaround" and is now expected to return home.
- **Brother Peralta's Appendectomy:** Following a period of illness, Brother Peralta underwent an emergency appendectomy. Despite the sudden nature of the surgery, he was able to use the time to minister to hospital staff, specifically identifying a fellow Christian in a nurse named Stacy.

Providential Encounters

- **Sarah and Chris Davis in the ICU:** A chance encounter at Tucson Medical Center (TMC) led to a prayer opportunity with a woman named Sarah. Sarah has cared for her husband, a quadriplegic since age 16, for many years. Sarah noted that in 20 days of staying at the hospital, no one had offered to pray with her until that moment.
- **The "Crack" for Light:** Chris Davis emphasized that believers should look for "cracks" or small opportunities to let their light shine and listen to others' stories, as seen by Valinda Turrell during a routine visit to a collision center where witnessing occurred despite the circumstances of an accident.

The Theology of Trust: Jeremiah 17

The core of the lesson examined the stark contrast between human and divine reliance as presented by the prophet Jeremiah.

The Historical Context of Jeremiah

Jeremiah, known as the "weeping prophet," served in Jerusalem during the final decades of the kingdom of Southern Judah. His ministry was defined by:

- **Gloomy Messages:** He predicted the destruction of Jerusalem and the Babylonian exile due to Judah's persistent idolatry and injustice.

- **Deep-Rooted Iniquity:** The sin of the people was described as being "engraved on the tablets of their hearts." Practices included the worship of false gods (Asherah poles) and even child sacrifice to the god Molech.
- **Hardness of Heart:** The people were so entrenched in sin that it was described as requiring a "diamond-pointed pen" to inscribe anything on their hearts.

The Cursed Path vs. The Blessed Path

The speaker contrasted *Jeremiah 17:5* and *Jeremiah 17:7* to illustrate the outcomes of one's trust:

- **Reliance on Flesh:** *Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord." (Jeremiah 17:5).* This individual is likened to a "shrub in the desert" inhabiting parched, salt-filled lands where nothing can grow. Relying on human ingenuity or political alliances leads to spiritual barrenness.
- **Reliance on God:** *Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is in the Lord. (Jeremiah 17:7).* This person is compared to a tree planted by water. *For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and it will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will it cease from yielding fruit. (Jeremiah 17:8).*

Grace, Liberty, and the Holy Spirit

The lesson transitioned to the New Covenant, emphasizing that while man's nature has not evolved—remining capable of evil—believers now have the Holy Spirit as a constant guide.

The Purpose of Grace

Referencing *Titus 2:11-14*, the speaker noted that grace is not merely for salvation but for daily transformation:

- *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11-14).*

Freedom from Bondage

The Holy Spirit provides "liberty" from personal struggles such as anxiety or depression. The speaker contrasted "man-made solutions" found in psychology with the "answer" found in faith.

- **The Helper:** *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. (John 14:26).*
 - **Liberty:** *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2 Corinthians 3:17).*
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Conclusion: The Necessity of God

The lesson concluded with the reflection that "the Lord will never create a life for us that makes Him unnecessary." Whether through the intense judgment described in the Old Testament or the daily guidance of the Holy Spirit in the New, the goal remains the same: a life of fruitfulness and peace that cannot be found in wealth or human strength.

- **Forgiveness:** Believers are reminded of the promise in *1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
 - **Final Thought:** True peace (unlike the temporary success of figures like Solomon or Mike Tyson) only comes when one stops "crowding God out" of their life and listens for the daily assignments He provides.
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Greek Vocabulary Guide *No Greek words were used in the source context for this lesson.*