



And Also With You

MAY 2016

Grace Anglican Church 817 Estella Street Fairhope, Alabama 36532
251-929-1606 www.visitgrace.net Facebook/GraceAnglican

MAY

SUNDAYS

10:00 am
Worship
(nursery provided)
6:30 pm
The Union's
Worship Service

MONDAYS

10:45AM
INTERCESSORS
706-897-6381
6:30pm-Graham
Cooke Group-
Information: 455-
5940

WEDNESDAYS

10:30 am
Women's Bible
Study-Information:
990.2973

FRIDAYS

8:15 am
Men's Group-
Information:
751-5266

CHALICE BEARERS

May 1
Bob & Jane
Grafe

May 8
Becky Johnson
Jan Bogue

May 15
Susan Jones
Maggie Rockett

May 22
Janic Terry
Kitty Barksdale

May 29
Julian & Maggie
Carnes

Three Snake Pictures



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

To quote Harrison Ford in *The Raiders of the Lost Ark*, "I hate snakes! Why snakes?" I, too, hate snakes and so what does the Lord do but give me three pictures about snakes in order to teach me

several spiritual lessons.

The first picture is of a freshly plowed field. The soil is turned and ready for planting. The word with the picture is that where you have plowed soil, there you will have serpents. It is easy for serpents to burrow into the ground when the soil is loose. When the soil is packed, then it is difficult for snakes to burrow into it.

The areas where God has prepared the soil to receive the seed are the places where you will find snakes. The snakes represent hindrances that come due to spiritual warfare that tries to prevent the Word from being planted. If the sower is bitten or has to avoid planting certain rows then hell wins. The Lord, however, makes it clear that knowing the serpents are there is a large part of the battle. He gives this picture so that we have advanced warning, especially what to look out for re any new work or ministry for His kingdom.

The second snake picture begins with



me walking along a path. There are low hanging branches laden with fruit along the way. The fruit appears luscious, abundant, and pleasant to the eye. The word with the picture is that where you have fruit, you will have snakes. The Lord then reminds me that mankind's first encounter with evil involves a tree and its fruit.

The lesson from the second picture is that snakes will not only be in the places where God is planting but also the harvest. The fruit is the harvest and is the result of the any new work. The enemy wants the fruit. The enemy guards the fruit so that we will be afraid to pick it. He knows that if the fruit gets picked then it will nourish us in the present as well as give life for the future (seeds).

Just as in the first picture, the Lord makes it clear that the snakes will not harm us as long as we know that they are there. Once we are aware of their presence, we should expect heightened spiritual warfare at these strategic junctures. It is the naïve who unknowingly get bit as they reach for the fruit without watching. Did not this happen to Eve in the Garden? She lives in a perfect world and does not expect danger, only to fall into the enemy's trap and lose Paradise.

The third picture is that of a snake in its lair with eggs. The snake wants to leave the nest in order to venture forth and wreak havoc in other places yet it will not. If the snake wants to eggs to hatch

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then it is bound to its nest until the next generation of evil matures.

I sensed the snake's frustration while also recognizing a similar frustration of my own ministry.



There are times when God begins a work but the work takes a long time to hatch and mature. The incubation period is frustrating because the parent cannot go on to other work if it wants the future protected, hatched, and brought to maturity.

The lesson in picture number three is that evil is bound by the same rules that the righteous are bound by. There are times I have wrongly thought that evil somehow gets to cheat and does not have to abide by the same rules as the righteous. Evil does cheat and it seldom plays by the rules. However, spiritual principles apply the same to the righteous and to the unrighteous. If the good are bound to new life that takes large amounts of time and energy to bring to fruition, the same is true for evil. The rain falls on the just and the unjust indiscriminately. There are realities that apply to both kingdoms, and the dark side does not have an advantage over the soldiers of light.

To summarize the three truths:

- Expect the enemy around *new work*.
- Expect the enemy to be *close to fruit*.
- The enemy is *bound by the same terms and conditions* that bind the righteous—no more, no less.

I find it curious that in Mark 16:17 it says, "And these signs will

accompany those who believe in My Name...18 they will pick up snakes with their hands..." I have never understood that verse until I given these three snake pictures. Knowing where the enemy congregates is nine tenths of the battle. Blessings, Scott +

Guest Preachers

May 1—Jon Holland of Christ Church, Mobile will be the guest preacher 5/1.



May 8—Ovie Moore, Pastor of The Union will be the guest preacher on Mother's Day.



Ovie will also be on call for Scott while he is away on some R&R.



Thanks for Donations And Workers

who helped with the garage sale. We made \$600.



High School Senior

Congratulations to Mackensie Terry who graduates from Daphne High School this month in the Class of 2016.

Mackensie is the daughter of Beverly and Janic Terry and granddaughter of Ruth England.

Mackensie is not only brilliant (literally!) but is an avid soccer player.

She will begin her freshman year playing soccer for Birmingham Southern.

We will miss seeing Mackensie every Sunday but are very happy for her as she



moves on with God's plan for her life.



May Birthdays

- 5 Leo Smith
- 17 Tirra Clark
- 18 Kyle Roth
- 22 Olivia England
- 27 Hannah Pate
- 31 Gracie Roth