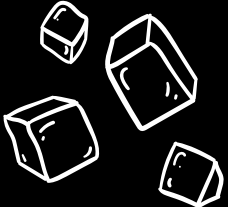


AVAILABLE
WILLING &

Week of December 31st, 2023

WILLING & AVAILABLE

Speaker: Pastor Elmer Cañas Jr.



ICEBREAKER

What is the most ridiculous New Year's resolution you've ever made?

Introduction

- Have you ever asked, "God do You really want ME to do this? What if others don't like ME? But others are more qualified than ME? Why ME?" Why not you?
- Pastor Elmer said, "Your resume doesn't impress God..." How does that make you feel? What ways are you trying to impress God?
- Nothing outside of Jesus can bring us to God. What other ways other than through Jesus have you or are you trying to get to God?

God's Grace at Work

- Moses missed out on entering the promised land all because he took matters into his own hands. What is God telling YOU to do, and what are you actually doing? Share a time where you thought you were disobedient but God still provided
- Have you ever felt the pressure of making water come out of the rock for thirsty people? Isaiah 48 reads, "God will not share His glory with anyone." How does it make you feel to know that it's not you, but God who makes the water flow?
- Moses used his staff as a security blanket. What is your security blanket? When do you tend to take matters into your own hands instead of relying on God? Examples?

- When you see results in your life, do you give God glory first or pat yourself on the back for your accomplishments?

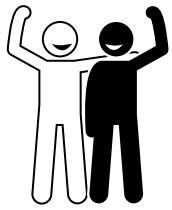
Peace without Answers

- Are you carrying weight that was never intended for you to carry, or even to understand? What weight are you carrying that has been hard for you to put down?
- We sometimes seek peace in substances, drugs, alcohol, pornography, relationships, and sex, yet nothing changes on the inside. We should simply remember that "our Redeemer lives". What are some of your favorite truths of God? When have you blindly trusted God?
- Do your feelings come out of your human emotions (reactive) or are they evidence of the fruits of the spirit? How do you know?
- Pastor Elmer talked about how it was only when he turned to scripture, that he was able to overcome. What pain, worry, and/or anxiety are you holding onto? What are practical ways or scriptures that help remind you that God's grace is sufficient?

We are Called

- God can work through us even in the little moments. Can you say "I am here," at all times of the day? (at work, with your family, on the computer, etc.) If not, what is causing you to be too busy to answer the daily callings of God?
- God doesn't call us to be experts. He calls us to simply be servants that respond to His call. What task is God telling you to do? Are you hesitant? Explain.
- How do you feel about this? Lean into the pain and let it allow you to serve others despite the pain.
- When we respond to the Lord, everything you need to finish the task will be supplied by Him. Do you let the world tell you what you are capable of or do you trust God to guide your steps?

ACT ON IT



ENCOURAGE

While prepping for a new year, it's easy to start coming up with a list of things we can do to ensure the next year will be better than the last. But as the year starts to unfold, we get distracted or discouraged because our plans don't go as expected. For 2024, leave the resolution list alone and find rest in knowing that all we need to do is be willing and available for the plans God has for us. And while it sounds daunting but remember, in our strength, we fall short, but God's grace is sufficient. God will convey His message regardless of the condition of the vessel. We're not called to be experts, we're called to be servants that simply respond to the call of God. We have to be ok with letting go and resting in what we know to be true about God and in the fact that the Lord is our peace. This is how we can stand firm and peace in the unknown, when we don't know the answers. When we respond to the Lord, everything we need for the tasks before us will be supplied by God. We spend years planning and waiting for God to make a way when He already has. We have our calling. Walk forward into 2024 trusting the Lord, knowing who He is and that His grace is more than sufficient for anything that lies ahead.



ASK

Are you willing to be pushed out of your comfort zone? Are you willing to be uncomfortable for the sake of others in pain around you? What would it take for you to let go and find rest in the Lord? How is God asking you to be willing and available? Are you willing?



CHALLENGE

Choose to take part in 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting this year and spend some time in prayer getting reacquainted with God and His character each day. Monday through Friday at our Rossvie Campus, we'll be hosting prayer services from 12-12:45pm. If you can't physically join, schedule a prayer time on your calendar that aligns with your schedule. Step up, step forward and respond to the calling of God in your life. Write down whatever that may be and find some accountability that will help keep it in front of you.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for our discussion today. Thank You for the reminder of the calling You have for us, regardless of whether we feel qualified or not. Thank You that we don't have to earn credentials or any other qualifications, all we have to do is be willing and available. As we enter into 2024, help us to be more willing and available than ever. Because Jesus came and died to rescue us from our sin and rose from the dead, hope can now be a part of our stories. God, we belong to You. We believe in Your Word, and we pray that it continues to work inside of us and change us every day. Holy Spirit, speak to us, direct us, and empower us. We pray this over everyone in our lives and anyone that has yet to receive your free gift of salvation. May everyone come to know that with you Lord, we can do all things. With You, we can hand over our sorrow and pain and receive Your joy and peace. With You, 2024 is going to be the best year yet. With You, we can live a life that is willing and available to you, for Your glory. In the mighty name of Jesus, we pray - Amen.