

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2025.02.02

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Jamie Rinehart

Title: Wisdom of Men and of God

Recording:



Speaker-PM: Steve Helterbrand

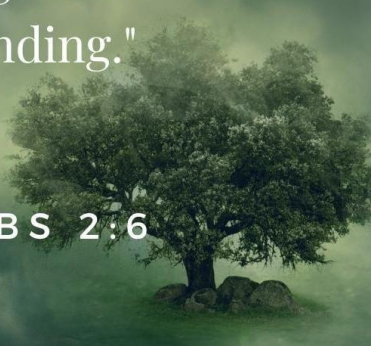
Title: Searching for the Impossible

Recording:



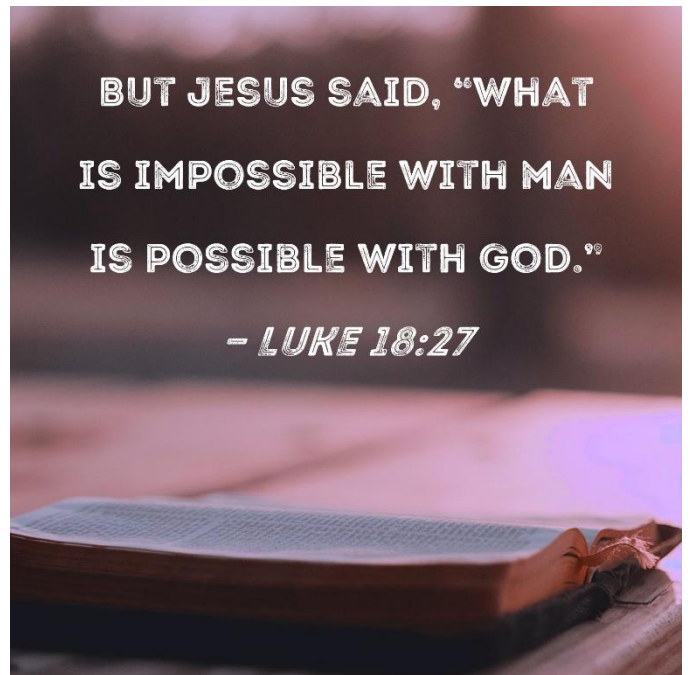
"For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

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PROVERBS 2:6



BUT JESUS SAID, "WHAT IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH MAN IS POSSIBLE WITH GOD."

- LUKE 18:27



News and Prayer Requests

- Nancy Stratton was in Rolla hospital having issues with Lupus.
- Nowak's were traveling in KC.
- Amos had the flu and Josiah and John were not feeling well.
- Joe Vinyard as he goes through cancer treatments.
- Mike Simpson's friend John and his family in need of prayers.

Who Moved the Stones? 2/3/2025 by David Gibson

Only Matthew tells us that “an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it” (Matthew 28:2 NASB).

But when Jesus came to Lazarus’ tomb, He said, “Remove the stone” (John 11:39). It would have been easy for Jesus to move the stone miraculously as the angel would soon do at Jesus’ own grave, but He didn’t.

When Jesus said, “Remove the stone,” Lazarus’ sister Martha objected, “Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.” Jesus replied, “Did I not say to you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” “So they removed the stone” (John 11:39-41).

Evidently, Jesus was testing Martha’s faith and the faith of others present on that occasion. Jesus was in no hurry to arrive after receiving Mary and Martha’s urgent message that their brother was sick. Raising a man dead for four days would have a far more powerful impact than healing him.

Jesus’ goal in raising Lazarus was to bring many to faith (John 11:4, 15, 41-42), which worked! (11:45; 12:9-11, 17-18). The impact of this one miracle was so strong that Jesus’ enemies despaired because of its positive influence on so many (John 11:45-48; 12:9-11, 17-19).

Yes, letting Lazarus die caused great grief to his sisters as well as others. But as Guy N. Woods so wisely observed, “Not infrequently, when our petitions are not granted, it is because the Lord is withholding the less in order to bestow the greater blessing.”

To Martha’s credit, she yielded to Jesus’ order, “Remove the stone.”

Obedience to Christ, even when we are in great distress and cannot understand the ways of God, will bring us the greatest blessings -- as Martha soon discovered.

And so will we.

Principles in Politics, 9/27/24 By Doy Moyer

Two prime principles should help Christians navigate through the various political systems of this world, whatever they may be:

1. Worldly powers are ultimately in God’s hands. “It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings” (Dan 2:21). Likewise, “the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes and sets over it the lowliest of men” (Dan 4:17). At the end of the day, God has this, and Christians need to trust Him as in all matters.

2. Christians, as citizens of heaven above all else, are also to be valuable citizens wherever they live on earth. Even as God’s people had gone into Babylonian exile because of their sins, they were nevertheless told to build houses and plant gardens, to get married and have children. “Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare” (Jer 29:7). This is an important principle for God’s people. Though we long for our eternal home with God, we live in our present circumstances by God’s will and to do God’s will on earth as it is in heaven (Matt 6:10). We ought to be a blessing to the nation in which we live and demonstrate our love for neighbors. Any political activity, then, needs to have this principle in mind so that ultimately God is glorified.