

# THE FIRST WORD for .... November 24, 2024



## First Baptist Church Eden

A Place of Grace to  
Believe, Belong, and Become

101 Burleson Street (325) 869-3681

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday Small Groups 9:30 am

Sunday Worship 10:45 am

Pastor: John Curry (432) 923-2163 edenpastor@frontier.com

Worship Ministry Leader: Mike Turner conchospringsgolf@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry Leader: Loren Briggs (325) 656-3234 loren3484@hotmail.com

Children's Ministry Leader: Pam Young (432) 413-3205 jeunejoven@gmail.com

Adult Ministry Leader: Teresa Escue (325) 450-7279 edenfbcsec@frontier.com

**FBC Eden exists to bring glory to God by becoming a "3E community":  
Embracing God in worship, Encouraging one another in love to become  
fully-devoted disciples, and Engaging the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

**November 24:** 11:00 am—2:00 pm Brisket Plate Benefit for Wendy Galindo  
3:00 pm Nursing Home Ministry

**November 25-29:** Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving

**December 3:** 1:00 pm Decorate the Church for Christmas

**December 10:** 10:00 am Community Ladies Gathering at FBCE

**December 14:** "Let's Celebrate Jesus!" Ladies Christmas Luncheon

Today's Message  
"Thankful Anticipation"  
Ezra 1:1-6, 3:10-13  
Hebrews 13:14-16

### FOR THE RECORD ...

Worship ..... 95  
Small Groups..... 56  
Wednesday Night..... 63

### Are You Handy?

There are a few areas in the church that could use handyman type skills. If you would be interested in helping with one, check with Fred. The list includes: glue Formica on the bar in the fellowship hall; glue the base in the fellowship hall and kitchen, install fans in men and women's restrooms; install & run wiring for emergency lights; spray and burn lot west of church; install lights in mechanical closets.

### A Reed Swayed By the Wind

*What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Matthew 11:7*

There was a well-known parable in Jesus' day known as *The Reed and the Oak Tree*. According to the parable, a thin reed and a giant oak tree were planted by a river. Whenever storms came, the deep roots of the oak tree enabled it to remain firmly in place. The reed, however, would bend back and forth, even with the slightest breeze. The message of the story was that the oak tree could end up losing its life in a storm because of its refusal to bend or compromise, while the reed would always survive because of its fickleness...its swaying in the wind.

As soon as Jesus asked the people this question regarding John, "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" the people knew exactly what he meant.... "Did you really think a true prophet of God would be compromising in his beliefs and his teachings?"

Have you ever stopped to consider how often people watch us to see if we are sturdy oaks or bending reeds? Almost daily, we are faced with situations that force us to react...someone cuts us off in traffic, someone speaks rudely to us, a disaster or tragedy befalls us. Those of us who wear the name of Christ instantly come under scrutiny. The rest of the world wants to know if our faith is strong enough to support us, or if we will compromise our beliefs in order to survive.

One day, I heard a couple of students talking about what they would do if someone hit them, talked about them, talked about their mamas, etc. Both students adamantly stated that they would definitely fight. I knew one of the boys was a church going boy, so I asked him, "Is that what Jesus would want you to do?" His response was, "Who cares? I'm gonna stand up for myself and not let anyone mess with me."

I've learned that's not a response limited to teenage boys. I wonder how many of us put aside our righteousness and godliness when it gets in the way of what we want to do. I wonder what we would do if we ever found ourselves being persecuted for our beliefs. I wonder what we *will* do the next time we have to make a choice between satisfying the flesh and satisfying God. Will we stand firmly, or will we sway?

Sometimes, taking an uncompromising stand for God may cost you. It may cost you friends, family, jobs, embarrassment, and even your life. Are you willing to pay the price to truly follow the Messiah, or are you a fair-weather friend...a reed swaying in the wind?