

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 3 Issue 7

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Gone Fishing (Following Jesus)



"You're not thinking clearly!" "You're being irrational!" "You need to stop being so emotional!" We might hear these expressions from friends or family who disagree with a decision we're making that doesn't make sense to them. The question is, do we listen

to them and take their advice or go ahead with our choice?

According to Wikipedia, the psychology of reasoning studies how we reason. In other words, what process do we use in drawing conclusions to solve problems and make decisions? We use reasoning daily, even when we take a day off from making big decisions. The ability to reason is hardwired, even when we're irrational.

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Waiting (The One)



Are you a patient person? Or do you start to fidget when you're waiting, desperately trying to expel nervous energy? Some of us pace when anxious or just move our legs in place. Others simply can't wait and go about doing instead of waiting for someone else to do what

they believe needs to get done.

Those who subscribe to the famous Nike slogan "Just do it!" may be prone to doing rather than waiting. While this sounds admirable, sometimes waiting is the best course of action. Mainly when we're waiting for someone more qualified. It's not so wise to take apart whatever isn't working if you don't know how to put it back together.

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EVERYONE
HAVE A
WONDERFUL
AND SAFE WEEK!!



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Those known as the descendants of the "people of the Exodus" learned patience, but it took a generation of God's intervention for it to sink in. Freed at last from cruel oppression in Egypt, the ancestors of those living in first-century Palestine learned to trust God for everything from basic needs to meaning in life.

Perhaps their special status or uncommon practices drew negative attention toward them. Sadly, they should be admired rather than criticized. Or maybe it's simply that God chose to document their plight as lessons for all humanity. The friends, family, neighbors, and acquaintances of Jesus knew both the struggles of their people and the divine promise of a Messiah who would free them once and for all.

God didn't just speak through one prophet, and some signs signaled God's plan unfolding. Isaiah told of a voice crying out in the wilderness that all should repent of wrongdoing in preparation. Micah speaks about a Messiah leading the people to freedom. And Malachi promises God's intervention into human affairs and a day of reckoning.

It feels like Christmas is coming soon whenever I start talking about the person commonly called John the Baptist. He goes by a variety of titles. Some parts of Christianity know him as John the Forerunner, while others call him John the Immerser. In Islam, he is referred to as the Prophet *Yahya*. Regardless of which modifier we added after his name, John was different.

First, John was a Nazarite. Not much is said about this practice, but according to the Book of Numbers, Nazarites vowed complete dedication to God and abstained from any kind of drink made from grapes or containing alcohol from fermentation. Second, Matthew tells us that John's clothes were made of camel's hair, he wore a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

John was more than a fashion statement or an entertaining sideshow. He was a charismatic preacher that drew large, diverse crowds from around the region. And John was candid about God's expectations for people, calling out leaders in particular. His titles, however, come from his practice of immersing persons in water as a sign that they chose to repent of wrongdoing and make changes in their life.

Most important, however, was John's message that he wasn't the One that the people were waiting on. Instead, John was just as a messenger. His purpose was revealed to his father, Zechariah, before John was born. And Jesus first met John while in His mother's womb when Mary visited John's mother, Elizabeth, when they were both pregnant. God also revealed to their mother's that something extraordinary was underway. Just watch!

We all know who John refers to since we know what happens next. But as often as I've read the stories. I still find surprises whenever I revisit them. So I've learned to be patient even though I think I know how the story ends.

I love how Angela Hunt tells the story using conversations between persons not featured in scripture. For example, one of the younger brothers of Jesus tells how their mother shared God's revelation about her relative's son. In her book, Jude hopes to find his brother in the crowd gathered to hear John speak.

"Are you the Christ we have been waiting for?" a man shouts from the crowd listening to John speak. "No" was the simple answer. In Angela's scripture quotation, John the Baptizer responds, "I immerse you in water for repentance. But the One coming after me is mightier than I am; I am not worthy to carry His sandals. He will immerse you in the *Ruach ha-Kodesh* and fire."

Ruach ha-Kodesh comes from Hebrew. It refers to the Spirit of God. And what it means to be immersed in the Spirit of God continued to unfold throughout history. And the mystery continues today.

One day, Jesus showed up in the crowd as John was speaking and baptizing. And He asked John to immerse him. John protested at first, sensing that Jesus may very well be the One he was talking about when he said someone else was coming after him.

Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you are hearing and seeing ..."

Matthew 11:4

Sometime later, John would send messengers from a prison cell asking Jesus straight up. Are you the One? The answer Jesus gave offers insight into the heart of God. Jesus told them, "Go back and tell John what you hear and see. The blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor."

What can we learn from this response? Later, Jesus will tell His followers that they are to continue His work. So our answer lies in how we believe God is calling each of us to participate in continuing His work.

Jesus ended His response to John's messengers with this promise, "How happy are those who have no doubts about me!"

I invite you to follow along with us during our series. You can obtain a copy of Angela Hunt's book online, in bookstores, or look for it at the library. Our copies went fast, but you can contact our office if you need help finding a book. We have more copies coming.

You can join us each Sunday in person or online by clicking the button on our [website's](#) homepage - [Click here to watch](#). This button takes you to our [YouTube channel](#). You can find more information about us on our website at FlintAsbury.org.

A reminder that we publish this newsletter that we call the *Circuit Rider* each week. You can request this publication by email. Send a request to connect@FlintAsbury.org or let us know when you send a message through our [website](#). We post an archive of past editions on our website under the tab, Connect - choose [Newsletters](#).

Pastor Tommy

Our series was inspired by and relies on content provided by Angela Hunt. *Daughter of Cana*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2020.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Kevin Croom
Sylvia Pittman
Richard Oram



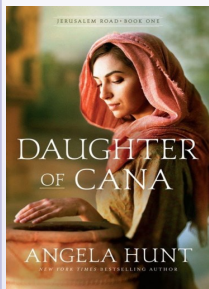
FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE
HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Virginia Bigger Nancy Elston
Norma Buzzard

PASTOR BOOK CLUB NEWS

Pastor Book Club is still meeting via Zoom, but we are also gathering in the Asbury Library Conference Room at 12Noon every Wednesday, unless otherwise noted.

Please call the Church Office for more information, as things could change (810-235-0016).



This month's book series is called "Daughter of Cana" by Angela Hunt. This book will take readers on a tour of the many characters found in scripture and a few that didn't get mentioned.... I hope you all will join us each Wednesday at 12Noon.



Our Asbury member Nancy Elston is now at Brairwood Nursing Center. Please keep her in your prayers.

Please continue your prayers for Virginia Bigger. She is now home but still recovering.



**COMING UP THIS WEEK
MAY 8- MAY 14**

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| May 8 | Mon | 3:00PM | Staff Meeting |
| | | 6:00pm | Worship Team |
| May 9 | Tues | 10:00am-12:30pm | Food Distribution |
| May 10 | Wed | 11am-12N | Angel Closet at
South Flint Soup Kitchen (see flyer on pg 15) |
| | | 12Noon | Pastor Book Club |
| May 11 | Thu | 1:00pm | United Women in Faith |
| May 12 | Fri | | |
| May 13 | Sat | | |
| May 14 | Sun | HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL! | |
| | | 10:30am | New Beginnings |
| | | | Contemporary Worship |

(We are live on [Facebook](#) and our newly launched [YouTube channel](#). You can find these links along with more information about us on our website at [FlintAsbury.org](#).)

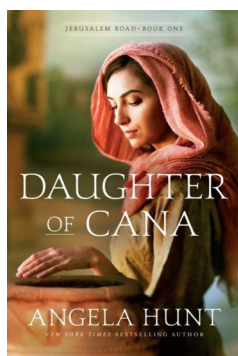
Upcoming Worship Series "Water into Wine"



According to scripture, Mary, the mother of Jesus, attended a wedding in Cana. The guest list was apparently quite long and included Jesus and other friends of the family, relatives, and friends of friends. Weddings lasted multiple days, and the groom was expected to provide ample food and wine for all guests to have their fill. And this wedding was no different. But a problem was brewing.

The Gospels are full of stories void of detail. Rather than a fictional novel where an author takes us through every twist and turn, building characters with dialogue and description, the bible leaves us hungry for more.

Book Club News



The very first Easter marked the beginning of a new era in human history. God chose to live among humans, and, as a result, life

would never be the same.

We begin a new worship series called *Water into Wine* in

the spirit of new beginnings. Our companion book was written by best-selling author Angela Hunt. This book is a part of her *Jerusalem Road* series that takes readers on a tour of the many characters found in scripture and a few that didn't get mentioned.

Although Hunt's book is fictional, her attention to details in scripture challenges our knowledge of the Bible. With each character, we meet the questions that percolate inside us. What parts of her description are likely genuine,

and which are made up? Was Thomas really like that? Did Thomas have a twin sister?

Allow our author's creativity to ignite your creativity in exploring the stories of Jesus. Here's what the publisher says about the book:

Thomas and Tasmin, twin siblings hired to oversee a wedding feast in Cana, worry when the host runs out of wine . . . until a guest tells Tasmin to have the servants fill the pitchers by the gate with water from the cistern. Reluctantly, she obeys and is amazed when rain-water becomes the finest wine ever tasted in Cana.

Asbury Staff

Rev. Dr. Tommy McDoniel	Pastor & Exec Dir
Connie Portillo	Office Manager
Sylvia Pittman	Empowerment Arts
Jim Craig	Board & Leadership Chair
Kevin Croom	Exec Chef & Dir Opers
Mike Sampson	Farms Manager
	South Campus Bldg Mgr
Israel Unger	Finance Director
Kim Sims	Connections Suprv
Terrance Williams	Arts Center Mgr
Katelin Maylum	Sr Prog Mgr Local Foods
	South Flint Soup Kitchen

Leadership in Worship & Service

Tony & Mirium	Welcome Team
Anthony & Jim	Ushers
Jonathon & Terrance	Production Team
Yasheah & Mirium	Nursery
Cyndi	Worship Leader
Christine & Norma	Cafe

Upcoming Worship Series—“Water into Wine” ...cont from pg 5

Who is the twin brother of Thomas, or is she his sister? Who else was in the room when Jesus washed the feet of His closest allies? Who prepared the meals? What did they eat?

Beginning the first Sunday after Easter, join us as we explore possible answers to questions left hanging from Nazareth to Jerusalem. We start with a story of Jesus as a young boy gone missing as His family returned home from celebrating Passover in Jerusalem.

We won't dive into every story, but all of the tales add to a greater familiarity and a deeper understanding of the Gospels.

We won't allow best-selling author and theologian Angela Hunt to fill in some of the details behind the stories. Each week, after reading the story as told by Angela's creative imagination and gift for storytelling, we will dig into what scripture actually tells us. And we will imagine and share our own versions, as we find ourselves immersed in the stories of Jesus.

In a book from her *Jerusalem Road* series, *Daughter of Cana*, Angela follows Jesus from Nazareth to Cana, Capernaum, and Jerusalem. Along the road to Jerusalem, we will meet other characters, some only mentioned by name or reference, nevertheless, witnesses of God living among us.

You are invited to join us on Wednesdays at Noon to dig deeper into each week's message. You can purchase Angela Hunt's book, look for it at the library, contact our office for a copy, or pick up a copy before or after worship on Sunday.

I pray that you will join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 am. We share our weekly episodes on our **YouTube channel**. We go live at 10:30 am. You can find these links along with more information about us, or join our live broadcast on our **website** at **FlintAsbury.org**.

Pastor Tommy

For example, before beginning this article, I googled the "psychology of logical reasoning." And I scanned a couple of the suggested articles to get an idea of whether this topic is helpful, given the content of the chapters from Angela Hunt's book that I'm using to inform this week's message. And I quickly concluded that presenting this topic's technical description is unnecessary. But how did I get to this conclusion? I used logical reasoning.

In *Daughter of Cana*, Tasmin, and Jude travel in search of their siblings. Tasmin is convinced that her twin brother, Thomas, is not thinking rationally. Jude has similar thoughts about his older brother, Yeshua. Their conclusion is based on observing the behavior of their brothers in light of what they believe to be true about how the world works. They used logical reasoning.

In their conclusion, Yeshua and Thomas are not thinking clearly, being irrational, and perhaps letting emotions interfere with sound decision-making. Thomas should be home in Cana helping with date farming, and Yeshua is a skilled carver with work waiting for him in Nazareth. Their siblings aim to convince them to return to their respective homes. And they planned to use logical reasoning.

The problem, however, centers around Jude's brother. Yeshua is derived from ancient Hebrew and is more commonly known as Jesus. Thomas is one of several persons traveling with Yeshua and hanging on to His every word. "Where is the logic?" our story's main characters wonder in their thoughts and conversations.

We know from Scripture that Jesus selected a team of twelve persons as His inner circle. What isn't clear is how Jesus determined His choices and why those He invited didn't ask more questions before joining Him. Where is the logic?

Jesus said to them, "Come with me, and I will teach you to catch people." At once they left their nets and went with him.

Matthew 4:19-20

Matthew tells us that Jesus met Peter and his brother Andrew while walking along the shore of Lake Galilee. The two brothers were using a net to fish in the lake when Jesus said, "Come with me, and I will teach you to catch people."

While Jesus' offer to teach them something new was perhaps intriguing, Matthew offers no other context for how they both conclude to leave their nets and go with Jesus. We only know that they did. But did they use logic to make their decision to change vocations?

And Jesus was not quite finished recruiting.

Walking further, Jesus comes upon two other brothers, James and John. They were in their boat with their father Zebedee, getting their nets ready for fishing when Jesus called them. Like Peter and Andrew, the two left the boat and their father and went with Jesus. Where is the logic?

Nevertheless, the decisions of these individuals, whether based on logical reasoning, gut feeling, intuition, or rumors they believed to be true about Jesus, were life-changing. More importantly, their decisions impacted persons they would never have met with a different conclusion.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS & MORE:

Jesus said to them, "Come with me, and I will teach you to catch people." At once they left their nets and went with him.

Matthew 4:19-20

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS

1. Read the story of how Jesus choosing four of His disciples in Matthew 4:19-20. Can you imagine yourself in this story? Why or why not? What do you guess is left out of the story? Why? What is left out that you want to know?
2. Read this week's articles titled *Gone fishing*. How do you go about making important decisions Are you a logical person? Do you use gut feelings as often as logic? What is the logic behind choosing to follow Jesus? Is it really a logical decision? Why of why not? What is your answer to Jesus?
3. How can the members of your group help you this week and on-going to help you to be more receptive to hearing and understanding the Word of God? Pray for each other to have the Holy Spirit bless you with more courage.

“Feed Flint”



“Feed Flint”



A meal goes a long way for a senior living alone, a family struggling to make ends meet, or a child fearful of empty shelves at home. But for the residents of Flint who carry the effects of lead-tainted water, nutrition is critical. Feed Flint provides locally grown, chemical-free, fresh produce to residents living in and around Flint. And we're hoping that you can help us provide 10,000 meals this summer.

Feed Flint includes takeout meals, produce boxes with recipes, and home deliveries as part of our work to guide and support families in moving to sustainable abundance. The reality is that Michigan's food insecurity levels got worse during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this summer's recovery is leaving behind those at the most risk of having to miss meals.

Flint families continue to struggle with the ongoing effects of the water crisis.

We're bringing together the resources of the Asbury Community Development Corporation. This includes Asbury Farms, the South Flint Soup Kitchen, the Asbury Community Help Center, multiple food pantries, and our Sizzling Culture Mobile Food Trailer. Our plan is to care for our neighbors when they need it most. We accept all people as they are, and our doors are always open to anyone.

Asbury Farms provides locally grown produce used to create fabulous and nutritious meals. Our seed-to-table approach is community-based. This not only helps families make it through emergencies and crises. We help move families towards sustainable abundance.

Our Sizzling Culture program provides jobs and new skills to our city's youth. This includes year-round employment. Our staff and most of our volunteers come from the neighborhoods we support. We call this sustainable abundance because families move from need-based on scarcity to enough based on community-generated abundance.

Our work is also about food and justice. Our vision is a revitalized community where every resident can use their talents and passions for the common good, where children grow into active citizens. And all residents can enjoy safety, good health, and a culture that fosters life-long learning and satisfying lives. This summer, help us address food insecurity and strengthen Flint's budding local food system by supporting the Feed Flint campaign. Thank you for taking the time to see what we're doing and considering how you can help.

Donate to our Feed Flint Campaign by visiting:
flintasbury.org/feed-flint-donate

FLINT ASBURY WATER BOX IS IN FULL OPERATION
SERVING FRESH WATER – PLEASE JOIN US
ON TUESDAYS FOR A 5 OR 2.5 GALLON OF WATER.
STOP BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10:00AM AND 1:00PM.



COMING SOON FLINT ASBURY DELICIOUS AND WHOLESOME MEAL KITS!!!

STAY TUNE ...

WILL POST MORE IN

OUR WEEKLY ASBURY

CIRCUIT RIDER!!





ASBURY FARM FRESH

- TRY OUR WEEKLY VEGGIE BOX FOR \$10.00 -

SIGN UP FOR A FREE ASBURY FARMS ACCOUNT TODAY

AND

Receive a \$15 credit on your account for your first purchase

CREATE YOUR OWN VEGGIE BOX

Select what goes in your box from each week's harvest. Get \$5 off your next order when you fill your box with \$15 of produce.

WANT US TO DECIDE FOR YOU?

Choose Veggie Box Subscription and we will fill your order with a variety of each week's harvest. Pay when you pick up your box. **A \$15 VALUE FOR \$10.**

*** CONVENIENT PICKUP AT ASBURY OR AT THE SOUTH FLINT SOUP KITCHEN ***

When Thomas impulsively decides to follow the teacher from Nazareth, he and Tasmin argue. The twins have been together since the womb, and Tasmin can't accept losing her brother to some magician-prophet. But, aided by Jude, younger brother to Jesus of Nazareth, she decides to follow the Nazarene's group and do whatever she must to mend the fractured relationship and bring her brother home.

Angela Hunt has published over 100 books, selling nearly 5 million copies worldwide. Angela, a New York Times bestselling author, received the Times Book Club Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006. She has a Ph.D. in biblical studies in theology and is well-versed in biblical text. Angela can be found online at www.angelahuntbooks.com.

If you prefer to avoid groups or live too far away, I encourage you to join us via Zoom for our Wednesday gatherings. Alternatively, you can call in by phone, be heard, and hear what others say by calling (929) 436-2866 -- enter the meeting ID, 282 039 5568#.

We are a diverse group and are delighted when new people join us. I hope that you will join in on our discussion.

You can contact our office with questions, by phone or simply type your question or enter a prayer request on our website's homepage — FlintAsbury.org.

Pastor Tommy



EXPERIENCE APPLEWOOD AS A VOLUNTEER!!



Have you been looking for a way to serve your community?

The Ruth Mott Foundation is adding to our roster of dedicated Applewood volunteers for the 2023 season.

Applewood was built in 1916 as the historic home of Charles Stewart Mott and his family.

Today, it's a community resource open to visitors from May through October near the Flint Cultural Center.

Volunteers at Applewood play a vital role in programming and customer service. The benefits of volunteering are learning new skills, meeting new people, and serving your community.

If you're interested in learning more about volunteering or signing up, please visit applewood.org and scroll to the Volunteer section.

If you have questions, please contact Julia, Manager of Visitor Services, at jpopler@ruthmott.org.

Visit applewood.org to apply!

South Flint Soup Kitchen

ANGEL CLOSET PROCEDURES

YOU MUST BRING PROOF OF INCOME WITH YOUR NAME AND THE DATE (FROM THIS YEAR ONLY) CLEARLY LISTED ON THE PROOF. CLIENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE ANGEL CLOSET SERVICES IF THEY MEET THE FOLLOWING:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE ANNUAL INCOME:

1 - \$17,667

2 - \$23,803

3 - \$29,939

4 - \$36,075

IF YOU DON'T MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS OR HAVE A PROOF PRESENT, THERE WILL BE A SMALL ADMINISTRATION FEE OF \$5.

QUESTIONS??? CALL 810-239-3427

This is not to say that had one or more of them chosen differently, the world would be different. For example, we don't know if Peter, Andrew, James, and John were Jesus' first choice or if He was turned down by the first dozen or so individuals He asked. We're not told, leaving us to conclude this information isn't relevant. What matters most is these four said yes when given an opportunity to drop what they were doing and risk everything to follow Jesus.

I'm convinced that God finds a way even when we can't imagine a way exists. I'm also convinced that Jesus is always inviting new followers. And each invitation comes with a decision that may seem so illogical as to cause nausea. But, unfortunately, decisions that promise to turn our life upside-down are like that.

More important, I'm convinced a decision to follow Jesus isn't made through ordinary logic. Instead, to choose to follow Jesus while knowing that life will never be the same is to receive a divinely crafted gift. But this doesn't mean Jesus tells His would-be followers to abandon all logic.

On the contrary, Jesus offered illustrations to a crowd to help them realize that there is a cost to following Him. For example,

Luke tells us that Jesus explained that a rational person wouldn't start a major building project without first estimating the cost. Otherwise, Jesus explained, you could run out of money before completion. In this same way, while our decision follow is a gift and not based on our capacity for complex logic, we need not abandon logic altogether.

How about you? Have you made a decision to follow Jesus? If so, what is the logic?

I invite you to follow along with us during our series. You can obtain a copy of Angela Hunt's book online, in bookstores, or look for it at the library. Our copies went fast, but you can contact our office if you need help finding a book. We have more copies coming.

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Pastor Tommy

Our series was inspired by and relies on content provided by Angela Hunt. *Daughter of Cana*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2020.

MAY GIVEAWAYS!

Angel Closet - May 10th & 24th, 11am-Noon
*\$5 or proof of income needed, see back of flyer for details.

Food Giveaways - May 17th & 31st, 11am-Noon

NO APPOINTMENTS NEEDED!

**SOUTH
FLINT SOUP
KITCHEN**

3410 FENTON ROAD

3 blocks north of Atherton Road
Flint, MI 48507



MORE INFO

810-239-3427