

**MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, 3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27612**  
**NEWS & EVENTS – MAY 2022**

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Sometimes you can get the strangest directions looking for serious answers. We often seek solutions to life from the place of our perception of life at any given moment. Then an answer may come from a source from outside of that place which forces you to think outside of the box in which you're bound. And the answer can seem quite strange to us. The pursuit of our purpose and destiny may be clouded by our experience of the past as well as the limitation of our own best thinking. In other words, we may live repeatedly doing what we've always done without ever considering a new way to live. Change can be incredibly scary. Especially when we don't want to think about it. Or pretend we don't need it. Or consider what God might be thinking in the midst of our crisis. Sometimes it takes the Wisdom of God to help us think and live outside the boundaries of the box, so to speak.

The prophet Jeremiah lived in a time when many around him were doing the same things the same way without encountering the truth. And they were resistant to the word of the Lord as well as those proclaiming it. Jeremiah was called to travel the path of following the Most High God when that path often took him into some strange places and hear some *mighty* strange messages. Maybe he had a few of those *Lord, what are You thinking* kind of moments. Sometimes it's a process to process the authority of the Word of the Lord. Consider he was imprisoned in Jerusalem and God told him that the city would be overrun and decimated by the Babylonians who had laid the siege to it. Then Jeremiah was told to buy some land...*what???* Can you imagine trying to make sense of your future in the midst of a chaotic war zone and hear the message Jeremiah heard? Buying a field in an active war zone doesn't seem like a good investment, at least in the way we're accustomed to thinking.

*And Jeremiah said, "The word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Behold, Hanamel the son of Shallum your uncle is coming to you, saying, "Buy for yourself my field which is at Anathoth, for you have the right of redemption to buy it." Then Hanamel my uncle's son came to me in the court of the guard according to the word of the Lord and said to me, 'Buy my field, please, that is at Anathoth, which is in the land of Benjamin; for you have the right of possession and the redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord. (Jeremiah 32:6-8)*

Two phrases jump out at me here...*the word of the Lord came to me...and...then I knew that this was the word of the Lord..* It is instructive for me to remember that the Most High God has not left us without a direction that can guide us into a vision worthy of pursuit in this journey of following Jesus. And in that journey we are far better advised to spend more time wondering about what God might be thinking than wandering around in our own thoughts (*you can get pretty lost in there*) about the best path to travel. We never go wrong following the path where the will of God will lead us.

Some months ago we shared a vision of what could be at the campus that we share with Iron Academy. We embarked on a journey that we were a little wary of traveling when Iron Academy proposed to purchase the property. The leadership of Mount Olivet joined together with the leadership of Iron Academy in pursuit of forming a partnership that we believed that the Lord God was leading us into. As we have embarked together as a church and also into this ministry partnership, we often asked the question through the process that kept us thinking about what God might be thinking. *Is this the will of God?*

The sale of the campus property to Iron Academy became final a few days ago and the transition has begun. Mount Olivet is still a part of the Kingdom Campus that Iron Academy has envisioned. I believe now more than ever that the path the church has embarked upon is indeed the will of the Lord. No doubt we'll encounter challenges that we may or may not have anticipated. But our direction to make disciples in a rapidly changing cultural, and often chaotic, environment is well planned by the Perfect Planner. Only the Most High God knows what His perfect plan completely looks like. But if we follow Jesus every day we will get to where He calls us to be. It's shared on the church sign out front...*Faithful Foundations Building Lasting Legacies*. While we don't always know where God is leading us we can know we'll be known by what we leave behind. I am extremely excited to be on this journey together...knowing God and making Him known...a worthy mission from King Jesus...Most Worthy of Worship!

*Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the second time, while he was still confined in the court of the guard, saying, "Thus says the Lord who made the earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it, the Lord is His name, 3 'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know. (Jeremiah 33:1-3)*

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam