

Aveleigh's Year of the Bible, Sunday July 8, 2018
Sermon series BETTER LIVING
Sermon JABEZ, AVERAGE IS NOT BETTER
TEXT, 1 Chron. 4:9-10 p. 429

Call to worship

L: Today is a day of joy.

P: May our eyes be clear to see it.

L: Today is a day of meaning.

P: May our minds be open to receive it.

L: Today is a day of growth.

A: May we give ourselves wholeheartedly to God.

Confession

Holy God, we are a people of unclean lips. We find it easy to make promises, and easier still to wriggle out of them. We slip into gossip, in the guise of sharing necessary information. We berate other drivers for weaving in and out of traffic. We are rude to neighbors, friends, and to those we do not know. How can we praise you when our mouths are so familiar with curse words? Yet you call us to be your messengers despite our imperfections. In your mercy, take away our guilt and blot out our sin. Help us to use our gifts to tell the good news of your Son that all might discover BETTER LIVING. AMEN.

MITCH 's pastoral prayer: Faithful God, we seek your favor upon all believers this day who have considered the cost and yet reaffirm their commitment to follow Christ, to seek your will, and to serve you all the days of their lives. May they live in your Spirit and be guided by the power of the Spirit, that they may grow in wisdom and understanding, knowledge and counsel, faith and love. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to whom we give honor and glory forever. Hear our prayers, provide for our needs, grant us Better Living. LORDS PRAYER, Amen.

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INTRO; Jabez was a man who literally stood out in a crowd. In a list of over 600 names, God singled out this one man for special recognition. What made Jabez BETTER?

THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF BETTER LIVING

1. BETTER LIVING MEANS YOU NEED A GREAT AMBITION

Vs. 10. . . *enlarge my territory!*"

THREE Common misconceptions:

- * 1. We tend to confuse humility with fear.
- * 2. We tend to confuse contentment with laziness.
Philippians 4:12 *"I've learned to be content in every situation."*
- 3. We tend to confuse little thinking with spirituality

2. BETTER LIVING MEANS YOU NEED A GROWING FAITH

vs. ¹⁰ Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me,

FAITH protect us from: accusers, excusers, choosers

Jabez -- ordinary, yet above average

To live BETTER . . .

3. BETTER LIVING MEANS OU NEED A GENUINE PRAYER LIFE.

Vs 9 "Jabez prayed . . ." or Jabez cried out to the LORD"

THREE REQUESTS:

* He prayed for _____ in his life.

"Bless me..."

* He prayed for _____ in his life.

"Let your hand be with me . . ."

* He prayed for _____ over his life.

"Keep me from harm so I will be free from pain."

CONCLUSION: Are you ready for BETTER LIVING ?

PRAYER:

LIVING GOD, Jabez prayed, "Lord, would You give me Your presence? Lord Jesus, live in our lives this next week. Jabez prayed for God's power. Lord Jesus, give me Your power for tomorrow morning as we face a new week. Jabez prayed, Lord give me your protection. Lord, Jesus please protect us from all things that could harm us." In Jesus name , AMEN.

Four For The Road Ahead:

1. What does being average mean to you?
2. In what areas if any have you tried to be better than average?
3. What three things did Jabez ask of God?
4. How might you ask God to start to live Better than average?

