



# MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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## MOVED BY COMPASSION

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Esther 8:6*

*For how can I bear to see the calamity that is coming to my people? Or how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?*

Esther's people were in deep trouble in a foreign country. Inflamed by a petty slight, a cruel official had ordered the extermination of the Jews within the far-flung Persian empire under King Ahasuerus. As Queen, Esther could access the ear of the king, but it was a dangerous process. The prevailing protocol was that no one – not even the queen – could approach the king's presence without being invited/summoned by him. Any who violated this protocol would be summarily ex-

ecuted unless the king proffered grace. Esther had already risked her life once to expose the plan of the wicked official (Esther 3:15-16), but now she must risk it again to try to reverse the edict which had already gone out.

Esther faced a tough choice. To allow the destruction of her people, all she had to do was Nothing. To protect her people all she had to do was risk Everything – without any guarantee of success. What should she do? What would she do? Deeply moved by the desperate plight of her people, Esther decided to put it all on the line - again. She chose to risk her life to save theirs. Listen to the plaintive cry of her heart: "How can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?"

There is something about understanding the plight of people that evokes compassion in us. When Christians understand the dire danger

of unsaved people, I believe our hearts will be moved as deeply as Esther's was. Our problem is we are often so distracted by the noise and bustle of our busy lives that we forget that people around us – our friends, our families – are in eternal danger so we fuss about trifles while they trudge on to a dreadful, eternal calamity.

Would you pray with me that God would open our eyes to see the real need of lost people? Would you pray that our hearts too would cry: "How can I bear to see the calamity that is coming to ... people?" And would you pray that we would be so moved by compassion that we would risk sharing Christ with them?

God bless you,  
Pastor James

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
TUE @ 7 PM

**JAN 31**

Join us via Zoom video  
Please contact Pastor James for log on information at [rcantio@gmail.com](mailto:rcantio@gmail.com)

**YOUTH GROUP**  
FRI @ 6:45 PM

**FEB 3**

In-person at church.  
For teens ages 13 and over

**EVENING SERVICE**  
1st & 3rd  
SUN @ 6 PM

**FEB 5 & FEB 19**

Join us in-person at church

**KIDZONE & NURSERY**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**FEB 5**

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service  
Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

**GROWTH GROUPS**  
THU & FRI @ 7 PM

**BEGIN in FEB**

Plan to attend one convenient to you. Sign-up on our website or the Info. Ctr.

**FEB 9 & FEB 10**

In-person at church.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**FEB 5**

In-person service & livestream

Livestreaming is only on Facebook and our church's website.

- Baptism February 12th following the Morning Service.
- Growth Groups begin February 9 & 10 at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Center or online to attend one convenient to you.
- Carmelo Garcia is to be received into membership. If you have any comments, please contact Pastor James.
- Join us on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 3:15 at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.
- Bible Reading plans for 2023 are available at the Information Center. Also, read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings via the link on our website.
- Calvary School of the Bible (CBS) offers a 3-year program with courses on Christian living, ministries, theology, and Bible book surveys. Check out this link to some uploaded classes [www.cbcpoconos.org](http://www.cbcpoconos.org) and contact H. Lee Thompson directly at [hleet1412@gmail.com](mailto:hleet1412@gmail.com) for more information.

### QUICK TIPS ON WAYS TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

Traditional during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!