

New Song News

Psalm 121 (ESV) ¹I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? ²My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. ⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

1 Peter 3:13–18a (ESV) ¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God...

Today

- ✓ First-time guests, fill out a blue Welcome Card & drop it in the offering plate. We invite you to take one of Pastor Herb's books as a welcome gift
- ✓ **This week's Bible Recap readings:** The Bible Recap: Read days 109-116
If you use the Chronological Guide read: p. 50-51

This Week

- ✓ **Learning Communities, Thurs 7pm, Fri 1pm, Sun 9am**
- ✓ Wednesday, 10am, Women's Bible Study, see Nancy Seman.
- ✓ Friday, 10am, Women's Bible Study, see Ginger Rogers for info
- ✓ Saturday, Monthly Men's Study "Iron Sharpening Iron", 8-9:30am.
- ✓ Sunday, 9am, toddler & elementary Sunday school, Learning Community

Looking Ahead

- ✓ New Song Shirts available to order... Polos - \$30, Long sleeve shirts - \$35. Please mark your size & color on the sign-up sheet at the end of the hall
- ✓ Volunteers needed to clean the building monthly...
- ✓ All-Church Clean-Up Day, Saturday, May 16, 9:30am-2:30pm-ish
- ✓ **Recycle your aluminum cans** – Proceeds support Children of Promise. Bring them to H.Q. & put them in the wooden enclosure to the left of the front door.
- ✓ Submit Prayer Requests: email or text newsongpittsburgh@gmail.com
- ✓ New Song FB Live: <https://www.facebook.com/NewSongPittsburgh>
- ✓ Sunday sermons, outlines & other studies can be found on New Song YouTube Channel & Spotify. Use the QR code to access



Gen. Offering	Budget	Family Assistance	Children of Promise	Building Fund
4/12/2026 \$ 2,709.53	\$ 4,106.88	4/12/2026 \$ 10.00	4/12/2026 \$ 0.00	4/12/2026 \$ 0.00
To Date \$ 82,608.13	\$ 61,603.27	Balance: \$ 2,799.97	Month Total \$ 30.00	To Date \$ 740.00
Please print name and amount on offering envelope to receive credit.				

New Song Notes

Pastor Herb Shaffer

Chasing Donkeys or Chasing God

April 19, 2026 The Bible Recap Study, week 16

Isaiah 40:29–31 ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. **Isaiah 40:29–31 (ESV)**

† We live in two realms but prioritize one.

Chasing donkeys is a metaphor for living focused on the **Earthly Realm (ER)**, that which is **Seen**, in contrast to **Chasing God**, which is living focused on the **Heavenly Realm, (HR)**, that which is **Unseen**. We are always living in both, but we are always prioritizing one. This is God's foundational reality.

† God's place in our lives is determined by what we fear most

1 Peter 3:13–18 (ESV) (pew Bible page 1015/ Bible Recap page 1921)

Learning to chase after God instead of "donkeys"

CONTEXT: Israel demands a king

1. Saul literally and metaphorically chases donkeys.

- ✓ Saul chosen by God as king but embraced for external qualities
1 Samuel 9:1–2, 15-16 (ESV) (page 231 in pew Bible/ Bible Recap page 504)

1 Samuel 10:1, 9-10 (ESV)

- ✓ Saul focused on **donkeys** instead of God
1 Samuel 10:14–16 (ESV)

- ✓ Saul **hides after** Spirit comes upon him
1 Samuel 10:20–24 (ESV)

→ **Saul's focus is ER, trajectory is compromise out of fear**

2. David chases after God.

- ✓ David's shepherd years: intimacy and alignment developed

✓ David chosen by God because of inward qualities
1 Samuel 16:6–13 (ESV) (page 238 in pew Bible/ Bible Recap Bible page 517)

✓ David humbly serves though Spirit was upon
1 Samuel 16:14–21 (ESV)

✓ David driven by loyalty to God
1 Samuel 17:10 and 26 (ESV)

➔ *David's focus is HR, his trajectory is SLO out of awe*

3. Us – chasing donkeys or chasing God?

† We follow what we fear most

Proverbs 9:10 (ESV) ¹⁰The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

† Fear doesn't always look like fear...

Matthew 10:28–33 (page 815 in pew Bible/ The Bible Recap Bible page 1624)

Hebrews 13:5–6 (ESV) ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

What do we do with this?

- ☒ What stuck out to you?
- ☒ What is God saying about what stuck out?
- ☒ What do you need to do in response?



2026

Matthew 20:28 (ESV) “even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”