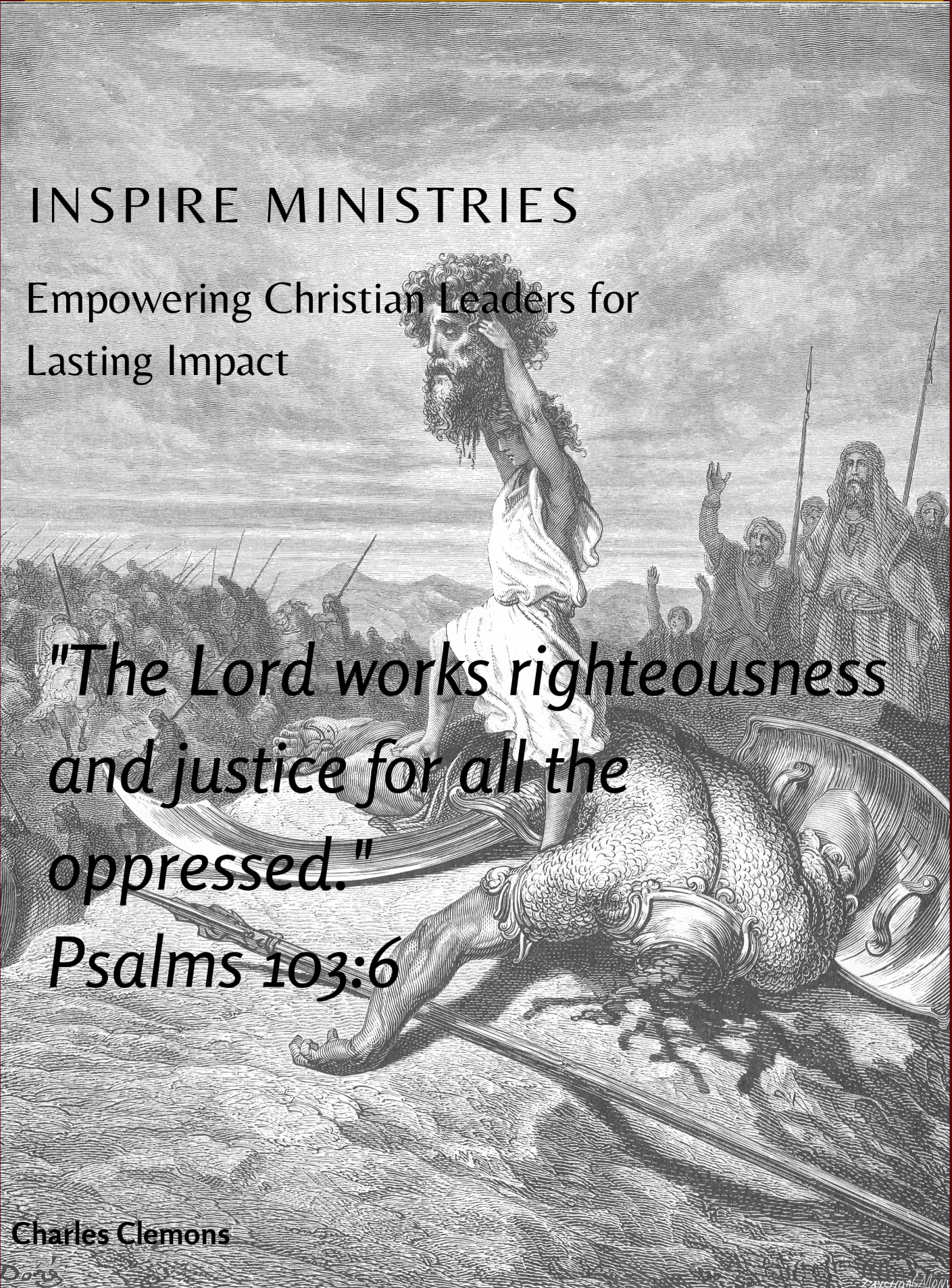


INSPIRE MINISTRIES

Empowering Christian Leaders for
Lasting Impact



*"The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all the
oppressed."
Psalms 103:6*

Charles Clemons

Reflecting the Life and Teachings of Jesus: Responding to Injustice, Bullying, and Abuse

Psalm 103:6 reminds us, “The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.” This powerful truth is not just ancient wisdom—it is a living call for every Christian to reflect the life and teachings of Jesus Christ in our daily walk, especially when confronting injustice, bullying, and abuse.

A Childhood Lesson in Justice and Grace

When I was seven, I attended the Long Branch Neighborhood Community Center, a place meant to be safe and nurturing for children. Yet, the reality was different: supervision was lacking, and the environment could be harsh. On my first day, I was punched and humiliated by another child, with no adult stepping in. I returned home, bloodied and shaken, to a mother who comforted me with prayer and wisdom. She reminded me, “Not everybody loves you, Charles, but God does.” She taught me to stand up for what is right, even if I must do so alone, echoing the courage of David facing Goliath (1 Samuel 17).

Responding to Injustice, Bullying, and Abuse: A Christian Perspective

As a trauma-informed Christian coach and counselor, I have encountered youth who were bullied and physically assaulted by racists. I have worked with Christians struggling with an overbearing, insensitive spouse who resorts to tantrums and bullying to get their way. I have worked with professional adults who survived neglectful, abusive parents and are learning not to have to care for everyone to know that they have worth and value in God’s sight. In my organizational consulting, I have worked with leadership teams who have experienced the trauma of colleagues or administrators using bully tactics—name-calling, blame-shifting, manipulation, intimidation—to drive their agenda. Sadly, on the highest levels of government, whole groups of people have been categorized criminally and subjected to violence and injustice.

When I think back on that day of being bullied, I remember most the silence of those who were supposed to provide supervision for me, the complicity of the crowd, and the pride of the bully who represented them. I take comfort in the truth that “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6)

How Christians Can Respond Like Jesus

1. Stand Up for the Oppressed

Jesus consistently stood with the marginalized and oppressed. He calls us to do the same:

- Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8-9).
- Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed (Psalm 82:3-4).
- Resist evil but do so with love and nonviolence (Matthew 5:39, Luke 6:27-28).

2. Break the Silence

Silence in the face of bullying and abuse can be a form of complicity. Jesus never ignored suffering. He confronted injustice, even when it was unpopular (John 8:3-11). As Christians, we are called to:

- Rebuke the oppressor; defend the rights of the oppressed (Isaiah 1:17).
- Carry each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2).
- Be a voice for those who have been silenced (Proverbs 31:8).

3. Offer Compassion and Healing

Jesus' ministry was marked by deep compassion for the hurting. He listened, healed, and restored dignity to those who were abused or marginalized:

- Bind up the brokenhearted (Isaiah 61:1).
- Comfort those in trouble with the comfort we, ourselves, have received from God (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
- Remind survivors of their worth and value in God's sight (Psalm 139:13-14).

4. Confront Pride and Abuse with Humility and Truth

God "opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). Jesus confronted the prideful—whether religious leaders or bullies—while extending grace to the humble and repentant.

- Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).
- Do not repay evil for evil but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:17-21).
- Pray for those who mistreat you, but also set healthy boundaries (Luke 6:28, Matthew 18:15-17).

Connecting Our Stories to Christ's Mission

Every ministry, every act of service, and every moment of compassion is an opportunity to reflect Christ's love and mission. Our newsletters, conversations, and actions should help others see the connection between what we do and the life Jesus calls us to live. Let us use every platform—not just to inform, but to inspire and invite others into the ongoing story of God's redemptive work.

A Call to Action

As you reflect on your own story, ask yourself:

1. How can I let Jesus rewrite my responses to pain and injustice?
2. Where can I show faith, love, and courage in my community?
3. Who needs to hear, through my words and actions, that God loves them, especially those who have suffered bullying, abuse, or injustice?

Let us go forward inspired and empowered, to live and love as Jesus did—standing up for the oppressed, breaking the silence, and bringing healing and hope wherever we go.



Preaching in Portland - Men's Mental Health Panel Discussion

From May 14th to 18th, I was blessed to preach the Gospel and participate in a transformative Men's Mental Health Conference in Portland, Oregon. It was truly uplifting to join with partnering churches, ministers, and their choirs in heartfelt worship of Jesus Christ and to witness men coming together, seeking God's guidance for their lives and families. The unity and hunger for God's presence were inspiring reminders of the hope and healing found in Christ. Later that week, I had the honor of sharing alongside dedicated counselors and coaches who serve men facing mental health challenges. With suicide now the second or third leading cause of death among young men ages 15-34, our sons, brothers, uncles, and fathers need our prayers, support, and encouragement more than ever. But we are not without hope—Christ Jesus, our living Hope, walks with us and empowers us to lift one another up. Together, as a community of faith, we can bring light, compassion, and strength to those who need it most.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR INSPIRE MINISTRIES

1. For the health, strength, and peace for the Clemons Family and in particular the care of my mother in Oklahoma City.
2. For the ongoing preaching of the Gospel through visiting partnering churches and their ministries.
3. For the healing of people who receive Christian counseling, addressing trauma and intense life challenges.
4. For ongoing monthly support to continue to provide Christian coaching, counseling, and consulting to church leaders, members, and people within the community, free of charge.

PRAISES

1. For survivors of abuse and bullying who are now pursuing God's vision for their life in victory.
2. For coaching seven people so far this year who have expressed a greater clarity in their purpose of vision.
3. For Daphne Williams, Editor of my upcoming book, "Faithful or Fearful: Responding to the Politics of Fear."
4. For the opportunity to travel home to New Jersey, this June 1st, for work and Family visits.

Join Us for Upcoming Ministry Events!

We invite you to partner with us in person or prayer as we bring Barnabas' legacy of encouragement and bold preaching to these locations:

Portland, Oregon – Men's Conference

May 14-18, 2025

Christ Community Church - Winnetka, CA

June 22nd, 10 AM



Community Bible Church – Ventura, CA

· July 13th & 20th, 10 AM

· September 28th, 10 AM

· October 5th, 10 AM



Giving via Check

If you would like to give via check, you can mail your check to:

Vinia

PO Box 790

Somis, Ca 93066

Please specify in the memo line that this donation is for "Charles Clemons."

"Donate"online at <https://vinia.org/charles-clemons/>

Contact Us

Charles Clemons

Inspire Ministries

818-321-7281

charlesleeclemonsjr@gmail.com