

THESE ARE SCANNED IN SERMON NOTES FROM MY PREACHING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE. THEY ARE NOT IN ORDER AND MANY TIMES ARE SIMPLY THE SLIDES I USED IN THAT DAY'S SERMONS. I PRAY THEY WILL BE A BLESSING AND A BENEFIT TO YOU. MIKE JONES (Ps. 16:11)

When I Ran Away

1-30-94 4 Red

11 AM GRACE WVLC
First Part only

Possible Mary

Told of Birth events
Now

JESUS; THE REBEL

Luke 2:41-52

Only time curtain is opened and we get a glimpse of the childhood of Christ. We know from other scriptures that Jesus was the elder brother to a number of brothers and sisters. He was raised in a small town, was probably poor, and lost His earthly Dad at some time between the time He was twelve and thirty.

We know Mary and Joseph tried to raise their children in a proper manner- Trips to the Temple in Jerusalem: Luke 2:41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. Weekly attendance in the Synagogue at Nazareth: Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day,

We know that Mary and Joseph were people of good moral character- Joseph is called a "Just Man" (Matt 1:19) and Mary is called "Highly Favored" (Luke 1:28). We know that they were also willing to follow directions from God; even if they were hard and difficult- Marriage, Trip to Egypt, Live in Nazareth.

Yet, here we have, in the only revealed moment in the child hood of Christ, a time of Rebellion, Running away from Home, and Rebuke for His mother instead of Repentance.

The Law required that every male of Israel go to Jerusalem for the Feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. Because of distance, Many Jews were only able to go to one feast a year, and they picked the most important, Passover.

The Amazement:

- 1) Of the Doctors of the Law at answers of Christ. He was not as smart as he was going to be- vs 52 during the next 18 years he "increased in wisdom"- but he had a insight into God's Law that astounded these men who spent all their life studying the law.
- 2) Of Mary and Joseph that Christ would act so irresponsibly. Evidently this was a complete change from the way He had acted in the past.

A few observations: - Handout sheet

1. The proper place (location) for the Child is important- God wanted Christ raised in Nazareth and not Jerusalem or Bethlehem so He arranged for him to be driven out.
2. Financial Security is not necessary for proper growth- a) The offering when Christ was presented at the Temple was the least expensive indicating the poverty of family. b) A carpenter in a small city such as Nazareth would not make much. c) Joseph is not mentioned after Christ is 12 so he probably died before Christ was 30.
3. God Like Living by the Parents is needful: a) his parents went to Jerusalem each year for Passover (vs 41). b) Mary was called "Highly favored" by the angel (1:28). c) Joseph was called a "Just" man Matt 1:19 (Do you pray about WHERE and HOW you live?? Do you think it's more important to let the Child have the latest toys than for the mother to be home guiding him as she should??)

- I. BEFORE 12 vs 40 He grew, waxed strong in spirit, was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.
1. Grew- Proper food, exercise, home care, etc.
 2. Waxed strong in spirit- He knew the Word of God and the Father
 3. Filled with wisdom- Educated (Jesus knew at least 3 languages: Read from Hebrew scroll, talked in Aramaic, and talked with Pilate in Greek.)
 4. Grace of God was upon Him- God helped parents raise him!

II. JESUS AT 12- He had his Bar Mitzvah and was now a "Son of the Law". This meant he was now to take an active part in discussing the Scriptures.

- He was interested in learning from the scholars at the temple
- His understanding astonished the Doctors at the Temple
- He realized at this early age the need of being about the Father's business. (He was usually so obedient that His parents just assumed He was with them in the crowd when they left Jerusalem).

III. JESUS FROM 12-30 He lived in Nazareth and was subject to his parents (Even though they did not have as clear an understanding of His purpose as He did!!). He increased in:

1. Wisdom- Mental Maturity (Paid attention to what he saw, studied)
2. Stature- Physical Maturity (Played, worked, etc)
3. Favor with God- spiritual Maturity (Studied the Word- Needed when he began His ministry and was tempted! Regular in Church- 4:16)
4. Favor with man- Social Maturity (Able to mingle with people- First miracle at a wedding, often had "fellowship suppers")

Today we need to help each child realize that God has a plan for their life; help them develop mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually; and look to God for the help needed to raise them right.

JESUS AS A TEEN IN LEBANON

Luke 2: 40 - 52



Are you willing to be a "Purple Cow" or will you simply run with the herd??

Would Jesus Obey His Parents?

Even though Jesus was smarter than his parents and misunderstood by his parents he "was subject unto them" (vs 51).



Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Exodus 20:12)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. (Ephesians 6:1)

Jesus developed in ALL areas of His life as a Teen- "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." (Luke 2:52)

Mentally (Wisdom)



Physically (Stature)



Spiritually (Favor with God)



Socially (Favor with Man)



Would Jesus make Fun of others because they were "different"?



And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:32)

Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:14)

Would Jesus spread gossip about other Teens?



Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:16)

Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: (James 4:11)

What would Jesus advertise on His body? Think T shirts or Tattoo



Would Jesus' clothes testify of His belief or His body? Think Modest

Would Jesus jump in the head of the line and fill his plate without regard for those in line behind them? Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5)

1) Christ was willing to GO where His Father Chose- God had only one Son and He was a missionary.



When You Go with God you will ALWAYS GO RIGHT!

2) Christ was willing to BE whatever His Father chose- Phil 2:6-9



3) Christ was willing to DO whatever His Father Chose-

A> The Frequency of Obedience- *And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. (John 8:29)*

B> The Purpose of Obedience- *For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. (John 6:38)*

C> The Length of Obedience- *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. (John 17:4)*



Jesus performed His first
Miracle at a Wedding Feast.

Jesus knew the best place to
catch Fish



Jesus enjoyed a Good Time- "The
Son of man is come eating and
drinking; and ye say, Behold a
gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a
friend of publicans and sinners!"
(Luke 7:34)



Are YOU willing to be a "Purple
Sheep" in order to attract
people to your Shepherd?



2008 VBS Adult Class
Tuesday, June 17, 2008
Helping Physical Problems

Luke 5:17-26, Mark 2:1-12

1. Name some types of Illnesses

- A) Physical Illness
- B) Mental Illness
- C) Emotional Illness
- D) Imagined Illness
- E) Stress / Exhaustion Illness (Depression)
- F) Sin Illness

2. What are some obstacles that keep people from receiving adequate medical care today?

- A) Overwhelmed Medical Providers
- B) Excessive Financial Cost of Medicine/Treatment
- C) Fear of Lawsuits by Doctors
- D) Patient Discouragement

3) How can Christians help people with Physical Problems?

- A) Encourage them- A merry Heart does good like a medicine (Prov 17:22)
- B) Transport them- (Good Sam law in SC).
- C) Help them overcome obstacles (Educate and illuminate). (Azora- Zemica).
- D) Point them to Jesus as a way to deal with their heart problem before they deal with their physical problem.

5 steps from the Hog Pen to Heaven

- 1- Realization: "He came to Himself"
- 2- Expectation: "Bread enough and to spare in Father's House"
- 3- Determination: "I will Arise"
- 4- Declaration: "I have sinned" 7 times said
- 5- Action: "He Arose, and came to the Father"

Elder son

in the field - No concern - No Telling the father (Prayer)
called one of the servants - No communication
he was angry and would not go in - No Compassion

His Trust:

many years I do serve thee - Length of Service
Neither TRANSgressed I the commandments - Self Righteousness

His Complaint: (I don't enjoy life!)

You never gave me a kid / But you Party with the Prodigal

The Father's Answer:

You are even with me
All that I have is thine
Meet to make merry

Relationship
Riches
Resurrection

WHEN IT'S RIGHT TO DO WRONG

Luke 14:1-6

Again, Jesus is in the home of a Pharisee for a meal. This time it is one of the CHIEF Pharisees- Again, note the fact that Jesus socialized with people a great deal, even those who were trying to trap Him.

* This time a man with Dropsy is brought into the assembly (Probably a trap, the Pharisees would not normally allow such a one to attend such a special dinner. Is this the reason for Jesus' comments in vs 12-14?). Dropsy is a disease with fluid retention and swelling. Dropsy is a symptom of disease of the heart, liver, kidneys, or brain. The condition involves the accumulation of water fluid in the body cavities or in the limbs. This is said to be a man whose arms and legs were swollen

Jesus declared the very question they wanted to ask, "IS it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?" and then followed it with the healing of the man. Then Jesus answers the question by a statement about an ox or an ass who fell into a pit and would be removed on the sabbath in order to preserve it's life and prevent suffering.

In other words, Jesus is saying, "Normally it would be wrong to violate the law against work on the sabbath but the circumstances of this case make it alright."

This is where I must be extremely careful. Jesus is not teaching SITUATIONAL ETHICS in which right or wrong is dependent on situations instead of having a steadfast anchor. Situational Ethics are a very dangerous mind set. Situational Ethics allow you to justify any sin or sinful way of living by declaring it's right in your situation- For example, Charlie finally finds a girl crazy enough to go out with him (!). They want to get married but can't do so and expect Don and Kathy to continue to pay for his education. So they decide the Situation (their love for each other) overrules God's rules about living together outside of marriage and they move in together. Or, you would never think about stealing something from a store but a tornado comes through, destroys many buildings in Lake City, and many other people are looting so you feel the situation makes it alright for you to steal also.

What Jesus is saying here, however, is that IT'S RIGHT TO DO WRONG WHEN THE WRONG IS REALLY RIGHT. And in this case, some examples may be worth a thousand words:

Israel
Egypt
stealing
Promised
Land

1) **WHEN A THIEF IS NOT A THIEF:** (Prov 6:30-32) Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; {31} But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. {32} But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. Not a matter of desire but of desperation.

Take
A Bible

2) **WHEN DISOBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN OBEDIENCE:** Jesus healed 10 lepers. His ORDERS to them was to go to the priest. One of them (A Samaritan) turned back (Disobeying Jesus' instruction) but he is the one that Jesus commended and preachers preach on!!

Use
Ten
Volunteers

3) **WHEN CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IS RIGHT:** Jesus overturning the tables of the money changers to show His disapproval of the way the people were dishonoring God's House. Me driving 90 to get dad to the Hospital.

& Violated sabbath on 7 occasions - was p 228

3 parables describe the essence of the Outreach Ministry
10-8-95 11AM WULC

YOUR PLACE AT THE PARTY

Luke 14:7-11

Most people wear an invisible sign that says, "Please make me feel important". If we heed that sign then we will succeed at human relations. If, on the other hand, we say or do things that make others feel insignificant, people will respond by becoming angry and resentful.

Today Jesus is going to show how the RIGHT PLACE and the RIGHT PEOPLE are not what God expects out of His followers. The world emphasis reputation, God looks at Character. God is more interested in how you live than in where you sit.

"Try not to become a man of success, but try to become a man of value" Albert Einstein.

(Prov 25:6-7) Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men: {7} For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen.

Taking the lowest place was not a "gimmick" that guaranteed promotion. False humility is just as bad as pride.

(James 4:6) But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Humility is a fundamental grace in the Christian life. If you know you have it then you have lost it! Humility is not thinking meanly of ourselves; it is not thinking of ourselves at all.

Our modern world is very competitive, and it is easy for God's people to become more concerned about profit and loss than they are about sacrifice and service.

Jesus knew that host normally invited guests for 2 reasons: 1) To pay them back for some past favor. 2) to put them under social debt.

You can't get your reward twice. When we serve others from unselfish hearts, we are laying up treasures in heaven and become rich toward God.

In Jesus' day when you invited guests to a dinner, you told them the day but not the exact hour of the meal. A host had to know how many guests were coming so he could butcher the right amount of animals and prepare sufficient food. Just before the feast was to begin, the host sent his servants to each of the guests to tell them the banquet was ready and they should come. Each of the guest in this parable had already agreed to attend the banquet and were now making excuses.

1> No man would buy a piece of land without first observing it

2> No man would buy 10 oxen without first testing them

3> No man would not know that he was going to get married. He should have turned down the invitation when it was first issued

The food would have gone to WASTE if someone did not come for it. So the host sent out his servants to get those people who would really want the food

People refuse the invitation because they settle for second best.

essence of outreach

3 PARABLES that describe the outreach

Parable 1

05 vs Row Goldman

W.K. Hill

YOUR PLACE AT THE PARTY

Most People wear A
SIGN

Luke 14:7-24



"Work not to become a man of Success but work to become a man of Value"
Albert Einstein

Need & succeed
make feel insignificant

& respond with Anger & Resentment

What we want to see is what Jesus said was important for your Place at the Party

The World emphasis REPUTATION,
God looks at CHARACTER

God is more interested in
**HOW YOU LIVE, than in
WHERE YOU SIT**

HUMILITY is not thinking
lowly of ourselves, it is not
thinking of ourselves at all

False
Humility
is
as
Pride

Humility - if you know you have it you
Lose it!

Parable #2

People normally invite
guests for 2 reasons:

- 1) To Pay them back for a past favor (Friendship, Funds, Family)
- 2) To Put them under Social Debt



Parable #3

An Excuse is simply
justification for Rejection

good
Bad

Hear them All the Time About why you

- miss church
- won't take Responsibility

Good Excuses

- 1) Land - view
- 2) ox - Test
- 3) marriage - Brad

said would come at
First invitation but
Refuse at Last minute

Jesus was concerned with those who couldn't
Pay Back - GRACE = UNMERITED FAVOR

6 10

Most people's problem is that it's
easier to settle for SECOND BEST

Easier Not to Agonize in Prayer

Easier Not to ~~stand~~ visit others

Easy Road becomes a Rut

God does not WASTE His
Resources. He will keep looking
until He finds someone to use them

Can you see Reasons I must Print, Publish
Audio & Video sermons

PICK out one thing to emphasis

Jesus was concerned about
THREE THINGS in these
Parables about Parties:

- 1) Attitude- HUMILITY
- 2) Attitude- CHARITY
- 3) Attitude- COMMITMENT



All things are ready, COME

1) God makes it a HABIT to
Have ALL THINGS READY

Prepared Earth before man
Prepared Canaan before Israel ^{Iniquity} Full
Preparing Heaven for our arrival

2) When People miss the
Blessings God has prepared its
because they settle for Second
Best

It's Ready but you aren't willing

3) Come at the invitation or
forfeit your place at the table.

God will not waste what He has prepared.
If you won't accept His Blessings then
He will give them to someone else.

Open Doors of Church

C/Ay

GABRIEL: The Voice of DISCLOSURE

Luke 1:13-20 1:26-37

His name means "strong man of God."
His appearing always has something to do with a MAJOR Announcement from God (Usually involving God's Working thru Israel to the Gentiles)

**MICHAEL: Who is like God?"
Fights for Israel- Persia, Rev 12**

5 Times in Scripture Gabriel brings messages from God:

1) To Daniel about the Meaning of King Belshazzar's Vision of the Ram (Media-Persia) and Male Goat (Greek). (Dan 8:19-25) And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be. {20} The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. {21} And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. {22} Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power. {23} And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. {24} And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. {25} And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

2) To Daniel about how to interpret the vision of 70 Weeks

(Dan 9:21-24) Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. {22} And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. {23} At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. {24} Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

3) To Reveal John's Birth to Zacharias- Luke 1:11-20

4) To Reveal the Holy Conception of Jesus to Mary- Luke 1:26-37

5) To "encourage" Joseph to Marry Mary- Matt 1:18-24

Angels are sent to minister to Saints (Heb 1:14) but they only interfered in Human affairs when it involved God's overall Plan

In Disclosing God's Plan Gabriel dealt with the source of our Fears:

- 1) The Fear of the Power of Government
- 2) The Fear that when Chaos comes God has lost control
- 3) The Fear of Human Weakness-Old
- 4) The Fear of Inability-Conception without a man
- 5) The Fear of Being Made to Look Foolish-Joseph.

An Angel's First Words are always "Fear Not". God's Call to you today is to stop Fearing and start having Faith in His Power, His Protection, and His Plan.

The only thing you have to Fear is not having Faith in God. Fear that above all

ZACHARIAS: The Voice of Doubt

Luke 1:

Zacharias= "The Lord Remembers"
The Most common name in the Bible.

How long term problems can cause us to doubt God's ability and willingness to correct the situation.

His CHARACTER: (Luke 1:6) And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

His CONDITION: (Luke 1:7) And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

How Sad to be Defined by something beyond your control

His DUTIES: (Luke 1:8-9) And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, {9} According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

A "Once in a lifetime" Opportunity to serve God in the limelight.

Where will YOU get your 15 minutes of fame to shine for the Lord?

His DISBELIEF: (Luke 1:18-20) And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. {19} And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings. {20} And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

His Disbelief was:

- 1) Understandable- Old
- 2) Evident- Unable to Speak
- 3) Lifted- When he acknowledged the instructions of the Angel and called his son "John"

What are some signs of YOUR failure to Believe God about areas in your life???

His DELIGHT:(Luke 1:64) And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God.

(Luke 1:67) And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

When Doubt is overcome then Praise and Prophecy come forth.

10-31-94 Home Coming GRACE 6-20-04 Prayer Meet
News Paper Mt 6-22-04 Tabernacle

LIGHTING THE WAY HOME

No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. (Luke 8:16)

*midst of Memorial Rev
churches*

1. THE SACRIFICE OF A CANDLE

- A) Willing to be set on Fire
- B) Fire must come from outside candle

2. THE SHINING OF A CANDLE

- A) Can't hide under a Vessel- Busy
- B) Shouldn't put under a Bed- Idleness

3. THE STANDARDS OF A CANDLE

- A) Put UP on a Candlestick. Holy people for a Holy God
- B) Light for those that seek to see-

God has given us a unique privilege to be a Candle to a Million people a month. We have the opportunity to reach multitudes with our faith and our finances; but it demands our faithfulness. It's a sin to have the light and yet let men stumble around in the dark.

\$12000 to Foreign Missions this year (Paid Preacher \$12000 so far)

\$5200 to Church in India

\$9800 to Outreach (\$3900 to Radio)

\$6956 to Helping Hand.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (John 3:19)

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. (John 3:20)

But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. (John 3:21)

LIGHTING THE WAY HOME

No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. (Luke 8:16)



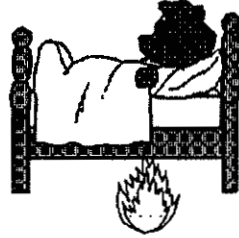
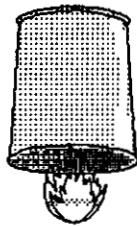
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2-19-95 Nam WULC 1 Red

Grace

STEADFASTNESS

Luke 9:51-62

Beginning in Luke 9:51 and continuing through Luke 19, Dr Luke tells the story of Jesus' final trip to Jerusalem. This long "death march" is a good example of the work of Christ as He sends out missionaries, reaches out to save under strange circumstances, and teaches some of His most beloved parables about the Love of God for Lost humanity.

This "Death march" begins when Jesus Steadfastly sets His face to go to Jerusalem to be Crucified. He has told the Disciples that they must take up their cross. He has talked with Moses and Elijah about His coming cross. Now the time has come to stop talking about the cross and begin walking toward the cross.

As He does so He encounters Four Hindrances that every Christian faces as they steadfastly take up their cross and put God first in their life. Once we see the hindrances I hope we can determine how we can avoid their entrapment as we commit our lives to God's Plan.

He had a MISSION

A) More than a DREAM- A Dream cries over the lost in Africa while ignoring your neighbors and family

B) More than a BURDEN- A Burden that does not prompt you to work is like a dead faith.

C) More than an EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE- Emotions swing down as well as up. They aren't enough to drive you to the cross.

He faced OBSTACLES:

A) Opposition from the Samaritains

B) Discouragement from one who didn't count the cost

C) Rejection from one who went back home to Dad

D) Desertation from one who put hands to plow and looked back.

52-56- Rejection by the Samaritans--God's power is not for personal vendettas

57-58- Stability not found-- Born in a hired manger, killed on another's cross, buried in another's tomb

59-60- Sickness not an excuse (Family)

61-62- Singleness of Purpose required- No looking back

First man was too fast. Second was too slow.

Consideration- No Home to call own

Dedication- Nothing more important

Consecration- No Looking Back

Christ expects complete commitment

Christ demands complete loyalty

God created us to enjoy Him as our Creator and to commune with Him

WHAT DO I WANT YOU TO DO?

1. Come to Christ for forgiveness of sins
2. Commit your life and your future to Christ
3. Find your work and steadfastly do it.

Things that can defeat steadfastness:

1. Opposition- Journey on- Problems
2. Possessions- Faith in God's Provision-- Comfort
3. Right Time-- Family
4. Society/Friends pull back.

STEADFASTNESS

Luke 9:51-62

Luke 9:51 thru
Luke 17 gives the
details of Jesus'
"Death March" to
Jerusalem and the
Cross.

1 Cor 4:2
it is required in
stewards, that
a man be
found faithful.

Jesus was Steadfast because
HE HAD A MISSION

A) More than a DREAM



*CRY over Lost in Africa
While ignoring neighbors*

B) More than a BURDEN

*must prompt you to
work*

*CAN'T have a Burden for
A WORK you can't and won't do
Satan*

steadfastness

*Emotions swing up & Down
won't drive the long haul
to the Cross*

C) More than an
EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Our Mission comes from our Outlook

1. Farmer- Sows Seed, Trust God

2. Laborer- Do Work, Expect Pay

*Fruit
@*

3. Merchant- Trade Goods, Profit

*Goodwill as much as
Goods Praise*

Promotion

4. Soldier- Does not entangle himself with the Affairs of this life.

Known Orders
Known Enemy
Expect Death

He Faced **OBSTACLES** to Steadfastness

1. Opposition- Samaritians

Some will not accept

2. Discouragement- No Count Cost

Some will bloom too quick

3. Rejection- Unwilling to Put First

Some will put their want before The Right Goal

4. Desertion- Put Hands to Plow and Looked Back

- Demas has forsaken me
Love & present world.
- Children of Israel Turned
Back to Egypt in Heart

Christ expects
COMPLETE COMMITMENT
Christ demands
TOTAL LOYALTY

Are You Steadfastly Doing your Duty?



Has your Love grown Luke warm??

*If any man come after me
Let Him deny Himself, Take up his cross
and follow me.*

CHRISTIAN WORKERS

Luke 10:1-3

This incident of Jesus sending out the 70 is recorded only in Luke. As Jesus continues His journey toward the Cross at Jerusalem, He sends out these workers to announce His coming.

We march today under the same orders- (Mat 28:18-20) *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

The fact that He called Seventy is significant-

1) The Hebrew recognize 70 nations that came into being after the Flood (Gen 10). Therefore these could represent going to all nations.

2) When Jacob went to dwell in Egypt there were seventy souls that went with him (Exodus 1:5). From this amount there sprang a great nation that eventually fled Egypt. So the 70 could represent the nation of Israel and God's ability to bless and increase it under Christ.

3) When Moses needed help with the Children of Israel in the Wilderness he selected 70 elders to assist him. This was the beginning of the Sanhedrim (Seventy); which some believe exist as a major force (Secretly) in the world economy today. This Sanhedrim was the Jewish governing body and the 70 would represent Jesus appointing a new governing body for His coming Kingdom.

It is also interesting to note that the Nation of Israel was sent into captivity for 70 years and the last of these years is what we call the Tribulation time- (Dan 9:24-26) *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. {25} Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. {26} And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*

1. CALLED BY GOD- Appointed to prepare the way for Christ
2. COOPERATION NEEDED- Sent out Two by Two (One Mission, many directions).
3. SUPPLICATION URGED- Pray for more Laborers. (Note- The laborers were to pray for more laborers. This was not Spectators praying for someone else to do a job you were unwilling to do.)

3 Constants in Ministry:

1) Problems- Easy to win if you have no opposition but problems will come if we do any work- (Prov 14:4) *Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.*

2) Potential- God can do great things for us if we will continue to do our duty. (Union soldier who was wounded and told to go to the rear). When he went back he found fighting. When he went east he found fighting. When he went west he found fighting. Finally, he returned to his captain, requested his rifle back, and said, "I might as well fight, there is no rear in this battle!"

3) Practice is Necessary- Can't minister on the sidelines. Must get involved if you are to accomplish anything.

*Farmer
Laborer
merchant
soldier*

2 Compulsions to Ministry:

1) Burning Heart- (Jer 20:9) *Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.*

2) Accountability to God- (2 Cor 5:10-11) *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. {11} Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*

CHRISTIAN WORKERS

Luke 10:1-2

Matt 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All Power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:

The sending of the Seventy is found only in Luke. Why 70??

1) 70 Nations in Genesis 10.
Represent nations of the world

2) 70 went with Jacob into Egypt and came out a great nation.

3) Moses chose 70 elders to help him rule Israel- start of the Sanhedrim

4) 70 years of Captivity with the last being the Tribulation

3 DISTINCTIVIES ABOUT CHRISTIAN WORKERS:

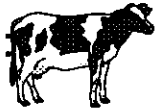
1. Called of God- To Prepare for Christ Coming

**2. Cooperation Needed-2X2
(One Mission, Many Directions)**

**3. Supplication Urged- Pray for
more Laborers (By Laborers
instead of Spectators)**

3 CONSTANTS IN MINISTRY

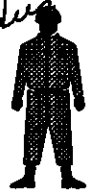
**1) Problems- Where no
oxen are, the crib is clean,
but much increase is by
the strength of the ox.**



who will help me shovel manure?

**2) Potential- If you
continue to do your Duty**

*Farm
Labor
merchant
soldier*



**3) Practice- Must be
Involved**

2 COMPULSIONS TO MINISTRY

**1) BURNING HEART
2) ACCOUNTABILITY**



**TO GOD- 2 Cor 5:10 For we
must all appear before the
judgment seat of Christ; that
every one may receive the
things done in his body,
...whether it be good or bad.**



THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN

Jesus had met a need in the life of these women- Healed of Evil Spirits and Infirmities.

Luke 8:1-3



1. WORK FOR THE LORD

Luke 8:1-2
Showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God...and certain women...

Teach
Meals
Nursery
Missions
Music

LIMITATIONS:

I Tim 2:12 suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man...

I Cor 14:34 Let your women keep silence in the churches; for it is not permitted to them to speak...

II. WEALTH FOR THE LORD

Luke 8:3 ...which ministered to him of their substance.



The Lord welcomes money without regard to race, sex, or national origin.

III. WITNESS FOR THE LORD

Last at Cross

First at Tomb

Luke 23:49 And the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.

Luke 24:10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary, the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.

AN EXAMPLE OF SERVICE BY A WOMAN

--Sacrificial Service Mk 14:3 9

--Served because of Love.

1. Do Little Things Well; they lead to big things
2. Develop Character, not just Talent
3. Greatest is Servant
4. DO what you can

Women's
Ministry

Interesting that Zach was of the Low Line of Priest and Joseph was a humble Carpenter. 1 12-12-93 11 AM GRACE Church gave \$2000 WULC

ZACHARIAS- SIGNS AND SERMONS

Luke 1:57-80

Pray without ceasing

1. THE SON IN ANSWER TO PRAYER- ^{is there anything you have prayed for for a long period of time??} God's answers sometimes come in ways that provide only Him with Glory.

Doubt
Sin
2. THE SILENCE IN ANSWER TO UNBELIEF- dumb (Maybe deaf also- see vs 62). Faith makes us a witness, unbelief causes us to lose our testimony. This was a long problem (9 months). This was a public problem (Was supposed to lead in the final prayer when he left the altar of incense. Unable to preach or teach). This was a Family problem (Unable to share the excitement and encouragement of childbearing with Elisabeth). - Learn to Trust God

3. THE SPIRIT IN ANSWER TO OBEDIENCE
NOTE the number of times in this chapter that people are filled with the Holy Ghost:

Nazarene
Character
3. John- from his mother's womb- Luke 1:15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

Miracles
3. Mary in conception- Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Emotion
3. Elisabeth in greeting Mary- Luke 1:41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

Preaching
3. Zacharias when he named John- Luke 1:67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, The filling with the Holy Ghost caused them to speak: Eph 5:18-19 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; The filling with the Holy Ghost caused them to glorify God

4. THE SERMON IN ANSWER TO A FILLED HEART (Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks) John means "Grace of God". As the messenger for the Messiah he would announce the one who would bring Salvation through the grace of God. Zacharias' sermon exalted God for:

God saves
A) Redeeming His People- Luke 1:68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

God can
be trusted
B) Confirming His Covenant- Luke 1:69-75 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; 70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: 71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; 73 The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, 74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

God has
a plan
C) Sending the Messiah's fore runner- Luke 1:76-77 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; 77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

God
gives
light
D) Proclaimed the Dawning of a new day- Luke 1:78-79 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, 79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

1



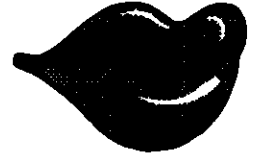
ZACHARIAS
John's Father

1. The Son in Answer to Prayer
2. The Silence in Answer to Unbelief
3. The Spirit in Answer to Obedience
4. The Sermon in Answer to a Spirit Filled Heart

2

Silence of Unbelief

1. A LONG Problem
2. A PUBLIC Problem
3. A FAMILY Problem



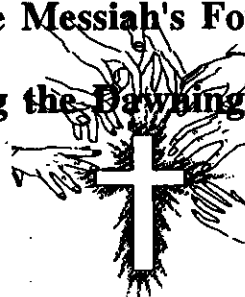
FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

1. Caused them to Speak
2. Caused them to Glorify God

3

THE SERMON---Exalted God for:

- 1) Redeeming His People
- 2) Confirming His Covenant
- 3) Sending the Messiah's Fore Runner
- 4) Proclaiming the Dawning of a New Day



12-12-93 9AM Grace
Used Perfecto

ELISABETH, THE EXAMPLE

Name-Zacharias- "Jehovah has remembered"

Elisabeth- "My God is an Oath"

John- "God is Gracious"

Linage- 1:5 Elisabeth was also of the daughters of Aaron- this was considered a double Blessing and the following of the law in which a woman was to marry within her own tribe. This made John the Baptist of the PRIESTLY tribe. The course of Abia- There were 24 courses of priests that ministered at the temple a week at the time. The course of Abia (Abijah) was the eighth in order.

Jesus was of the tribe of Judah and as such had no claim on the priesthood- Judah was the KINGLY tribe

Character- 1:6 Righteous before God, Walked right before men, Barren, well stricken in years (Nearly 60). God wanted to show from the beginning that it was just as impossible for a man to save himself as it was for a woman well stricken in years or a virgin to have a child.

Modest- 1:24 Hid for 5 months

Gave God Glory- 1:25

Friend to Mary- 1:39 Where was Mary's Mother

Filled with Holy Ghost- 1:42-45

Womb Warriors- Jeremiah- Jer 1:5 *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

John--Shall be filled with the Holy Ghost from the womb-

Willing to stand for God (John's Name) 1:578-61

This is the last we hear of her. Evidently she and Zacharias died because John moved into the Desert (Even though he had the right to serve as a priest and receive a set salary for life).

Titus 2:3-5 *The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

Tertullian- among his works is a treatise, To his Wife, which includes the following beautiful description of Christian marriage: How can I paint the happiness of a marriage which the church ratifies...the benediction seals, angels announce, the Father declares valid...What a union of two believers-one hope, one vow, one discipline, and one worship! They are brother and sister, two fellow-servants, one spirit, and one flesh. Where there is one flesh, there is also one spirit. They pray together, fast together, instruct, exhort, and support each other. They go together to the church of God, and to the table of the Lord. They share each other's tribulation, persecution, and revival. Neither conceals anything from the other. They delight to visit the sick, supply the needy, give alms without constraint, and in daily zeal lay their offerings before the altar without scruple or hindrance. They do not need to keep the sign of the cross hidden, nor to express slyly their Christian joy, nor to suppress the blessing. Psalms and hymns they sing together, and they vie with each other in singing to God. Christ rejoices when he sees and hears this. He gives them his peace. Where two are together in his name, there he is; and where he is, there the evil one cannot come.

What's in a Name??

**ZACHARIAS- "Jehovah has
Remembered"**

ELISABETH- "My God is an Oath"

JOHN- "God is Gracious"

ELISABETH the Example

Linage- PRIESTLY tribe

Character- Righteous

Modest

Gave God Glory

Friend to Mary

Filled with Holy Ghost

Willing to Stand for God



Reason offend is so important
Keeps sinners from coming - couldnt live
Keeps saints from serving - offended

DOING YOUR DUTY

Object of sermon Luke 17:5-10

It is not how much
Faith you have but
how much Faith has
you that matters



INCREASE OUR FAITH

1) A Little Faith has GREAT POWER

2) Faithfulness, not Faith, is
the gauge of Service -

*Christianity is not A Theory we Look at
But A Life we Live*

vs 7- A Servant is EXPECTED to Serve

Greatest is servant

Purpose of servant is service.

*Joy is feeling you are doing
something worthwhile and ably
One of the most miserable people in
the world is one who wants just
enough SALVATION to miss Hell with
Put To WORK in Church*

vs 8- A Servant's Day does not end in
the Field- He is EXPECTED to work for
the Master when he finishes his regular
work

*Church work and Ministry must be
more than A Volunteer Activity.*

*Need Commitment to be A Part of Body
my schedule - 2011
outreach*

vs 9- A Servant doesn't EXPECT Praise
for doing what he is supposed to do

*Praise is A Bonus, not your wages
(Praise here - Got Reward already)*

*Don't Have to be Begged or brow beat
to do your job for God.*

*2 Chron 8:14 And he appointed... the courses
of the priests to their service, and he leveled
to the charges, to praise and minister before
the priests, as the duty of every day required:
the porters also by their courses at every gate...*

vs 10- A Servant that does only what is
EXPECTED of him is ONLY DOING
HIS DUTY - ORDINARY work

*Praiseworthy is when go extra mile
Do more than supposed to - PAM
Choir Over*

1-7-96

HAM GRACE
WVLC

most in Children's Church

THE LORD AND THE LEPERS

When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened

Luke 17:11-19

Christ wants to do more than solve your SURFACE Problems

Jesus took the Way Less Traveled THE SAMARIA ROUTE

- 1) To WIN the Woman at the Well
- 2) To HEAL 10 Lepers

Do YOU avoid People or make it your business to be available to them??

Passed thru - stay Holy *Didn't make home there*

Trouble Knows No Boundary

Nationality makes no difference when you are dying

- Leprosy attacks the Nerves so victim cannot feel pain.
- Infection easily sets in causing the tissues to degenerate
- The Limbs become deformed and eventually fall off

LEPROSY WAS:

- Deeper than the Skin
 - Spreads - *Hand's NO CONTACT*
 - Defiles - *clean/0:at sickwep's*
 - a person considered "dead" - *Decad in Progress*
 - Isolated the person - *No Relationship, NO Real Love*
 - caused the clothes and possessions of a leper to be burned - *Hell*
 - could only be pronounced clean by the Priest - *High Priest is Christ*
must come God's way
- not how you feel*



X-Ray

PRESCRIPTION FOR CLEANSING

- 1) Seek Mercy from Master - *CALL Party*
- 2) Trust the Word of Christ - *Be sure Results*
- 3) Abandon Old Ways - *leave Laper Colony*
- 4) Public Proclamation - *Thank would confid*
- 5) Worship the Lord - *Fall at Feet*

Do YOU have a Surface Problem (Maybe Hidden) that is eating you up; and destroying both you and those around you??

Call on Jesus for Mercy today. He may have come by this way just for you.



DEFICIENCIES IN DISCIPLES

Luke 9:37-62

2 Tim 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind

- 1) Lack of Power
 - 2) Lack of Love
 - 3) Lack of Dedication
- Root- THE SPIRIT OF FEAR

DEFICIENCIES DEMONSTRATED

A) LACK OF POWER-

- Dead Sermons and Dead Service result
- Pharisees more interested in the Sabbath than the Sick
- Sadducees more interested in mind games than spirit work



2) LACK OF LOVE

- Want to be great workers instead of washers of feet
- Suspensions replace Supplications
- Rights replace responsibilities



3) LACK OF DEDICATION

A "Sound Mind" is one in which "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose"



THE ROOT OF THE DEFICIENCIES

- A) Fear of the FUTURE-
News of the Cross decayed their consecration



If certain circumstances happen

we are happy

RETURNING JOY TO YOUR RELIGION

Luke 15:-

There are joys which long to be ours. God sends ten thousands truths, which come about us like birds seeking inlet; but we are shut up to them, and so they bring us nothing, but sit and sing awhile upon the roof, and then fly away.--Henry Ward Beecher

Joy Always seems to be just out of Reach

We mistake HAPPINESS (When things happen to happen happily) with JOY (A state of Heart resting in God's Peace instead of changing Circumstances)

We Become People who want to GET THROUGH Life instead of LIVE Life

MUSE= Thought

AMUSE= NO Thought

Just want to NOT Think

Today I want to look at A Reason to Rejoice

Jesus Attracted Sinners; Pharisees Repelled Them

What does this say about OUR Church?

Jesus did not CATER to the Lost, or COMPROMISE His Message; He CARED for them. And that is what they WANTED

2 Major Complaints about Church by Lost:

- 1) Messages - Bore
- 2) Money - Emphasis

God's People Following God's Plan of the don't need world's money

2 KINDS OF PEOPLE:

- 1) Pharisees SAW and MURMURED
- 2) Publicans DREW NEAR and REJOICED

observers Participants

If you LOOK for Fault you will find Reason to Murmur.

If you LOOK for Lost Sheep, Coins, or Sons you will Find them and REJOICE



Outlook determines outcome

When we MAKE THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING we will get people to KNOW and SHOW CHRIST; which simply means people will be Saved and start Serving.



Parable of Lost Sheep and Lost Coin show God's Part is Seeking.

Parable of Lost Son show Man's Part is Repenting and Returning

Lost Sheep- Men (Work)

Lost Coin- Women (House)

Some go into the Wilderness and some Sweep the House



Need Both

Personality

Ability

Is your Goal to Let the Church serve you OR To Build the Kingdom?

Do you just WANT A HEALTHY HAPPY Family

Undirected service is dangerous

If the Lost are not CONVICTED by our Service for God then WE need to be Convicted about our Service!!

Need

- The Lost was:
- 1) Out of Place
 - 2) Out of Service
 - 3) Into Danger

GOAL

We JOY when they are Back in Place, Back in Service, and Out of Danger

Recognize Why People are Lost

Sheep lost because of FOOLISHNESS
 Coin lost because of CARELESSNESS
 Son Lost because of REBELLION

People are selfish

Our Purpose in Heaven is to Serve God; NOT BE God (Won't get to do anything we want all the time, like fish). That is what Prodigal son wanted; to do his own thing. He had to Come back as a servant so he could be a true son.

The Elder Brother was a son but he never had compassion on the wayward so he had no Joy - service without love is

Dredgery - I Cor 13:1-4

So simple we miss it - The Main Thing

HOW DO WE FIND JOY

1) Seek the Lost until they are found- Not Preach at, Care them to Christ



2) Share the Victory with Friends- "One can endure sorrow alone, but it takes two to be glad."--Elbert Hubbard

3) If you are the one who is lost then return to where you are supposed to serve - Flock, Family, Father

God has, or will, Provided Everyone we need to Accomplish His Plan for Grace Church but they Bring no Joy NOR Get no joy sitting on the sidelines

There are 4 JOYS available here today:

- 1) For the Person FOUND
- 2) For the Person FINDING
- 3) For the Person's FAMILY
- 4) In HEAVEN- vs 10

Likewise, I say unto you there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

The V is A Restless Hunter, seeking only God - He wants to be found By you today.

RETURNING JOY TO YOUR RELIGION

Luke 15-

There are joys which long to be ours. God sends ten thousands truths, which come about us like birds seeking inlet; but we are shut up to them, and so they bring us nothing, but sit and sing awhile upon the roof, and then fly away.--Henry Ward Beecher

Remember the difference between Happiness (Happiness is when things happen to happen happily) and Joy (Joy is wonderful state of heart resting in God's Peace instead of changing Circumstances).

The problem with today's society is that people have stopped desiring to Think- MUSE= Think A-MUSE= NO Think (Greek "A" means No). We have become people who want to get Through life instead of enjoying life.

Jesus attracted Sinners; Pharisees repelled them. (What does that say about our Church?) How did He do that? Jesus did not CATER to the Lost (Entertain the World) or COMPROMISE His Message (Ease up on the Wicked); He CARED for them. How can we make our Church more "Sinner Sensitive" so they will want to come here? (Most people list 2 major complaints about Church- Sermons are boring and all they ask for is money. We deliberately do not receive an offering when we have a

2 Kinds of People involved in the influx-

Pharisees and Scribes saw and MURMURED

Publicans and Sinners drew near and REJOICED

If you look for Fault you will Find Fault and Murmur

If you Look for Lost Sheep, Coins, or Sons you will Find them and Rejoice

How do you get Joy in your Religion-MAKE THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING- "To Know and Show Christ" simply means to get people Saved and Serving.

And this will produce a wonderful CYCLE- (Psa 51:12-13) *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

God's Part is Seeking. Man's Part is Repenting

Lost Sheep appealed to Men (Work)

Lost Coin from wedding necklace appealed to Women (House)

Different Service to Find Lost- Go into the Wilderness, Sweep the House. (Martha- coffee, fold Child Bulletin, Help Pastor, Nursery)

4 JOYS: For the Person Found For the Person Finding them For the Person's Friends and Family In Heaven- (Luke 15:7) I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. (Luke 15:10) Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Sheep lost because of Foolishness

Coin Lost because of Carelessness- Jewish Women wore head band of ten coins (Same as wedding Band today)

The Lost was Out of Place- Sheep out of Flock, Coin out of Necklace,
Son away from Father.

Out of Service

Into Danger

Saved is Back in Place, Back in Service, Under God's Protection

Our Purpose in Heaven is to Serve God; not BE God (Won't get to do anything we want all the time, like fish). That is what Prodigal son wanted; to do his own thing. He had to Come back as a servant so he could be a true son. The Elder Brother was a son but he never had compassion on the wayward so he had no Joy

If People are not convicted to be saved because of our service for God then we need to be convicted about our Service.

HOW DO WE FIND JOY

- 1) Seek the Lost until they are found- Not Preach at, Care for
- 2) Share the Victory with Friends- One can endure sorrow alone, but it takes two to be glad.--Elbert Hubbard
- 3) If you are the one who is lost then return to where you are supposed to serve - Flock, Family, Father

WHEN YOU LOSE YOUR INFLUENCE

Luke 14:34-35

Salt was an important commodity in Jesus' day. In fact, Salt was part of a soldier's Pay- The word Salt and salary are related- "He's not worth his salt"

Salt has many uses--Preserves, Purifies, Flavors, Makes Thirsty...

Jesus says in this parable, however, that if Salt loses it flavoring ability then it is no longer any good. In the context of the Scriptures, He is talking about People who lose their INFLUENCE (ability to produce the results God intended). Jesus says that this kind of "Salt" is

- not Fit for the Land (To Destroy Weeds)
- Nor for the Dunghill (To Destroy Waste).
- Only fit to be thrown away and walked on by men.

Then He exhorts us to really listen to that message- He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

With that in mind, Today I want us look at some of the things that Influence us and see how Christians should be Influencer instead of the one being influenced. - *Example of Balls*

WHAT INFLUENCES THE WAY WE TALK- Let your speech be seasoned with salt- Col 4:6 Dude, Slang,

WHAT INFLUENCES THE WAY WE WALK- Name someone, and tell how they influenced you for Christ. "I am part of all that I have met" Alfred Lord Tennyson

TV, movies, videos

Music- own, rdo, concerts (Reba Ticket Wait for 2 days)

Friends- Psalm 1:1

Family- What you eat, how you think

School- Peer Pressure, Lessons,

1/4 of America claims to be saved. Why doesn't 1/4 lb of salt effect 3/4 lb of meat.

Don't want to be salt like Lot's wife.

How does Salt lose it saltiness??

How do you others lose their influence for Christ to you? How do you lose your influence for Christ toward others?

WHAT INFLUENCES YOU THE MOST ABOUT THE

- 1) CLOTHES YOU BUY (Name some wouldn't buy)
- 2) MOVIES YOU RENT OR ATTEND (Wouldn't rent)
- 3) FOOD YOU EAT (Why one burger place over another)

God has not called us to change society. He has called us to win society to Christ so Christ will change them, which will change society.

Susan Class - NOV 3rd
 Kathy Class - NOV 4th
 Althea - Object Lesson - 22
 Billie/Mickie - Puppets - 29

5 kids - SP Book

FORGIVENESS

Luke 17:1-4

In this chapter Jesus gave His disciples some of the essentials of the Christian life- Forgiveness (1-4), Faithfulness (5-10), Thankfulness (11-19), and Preparedness (20-37)

It is a serious thing to sin against a fellow believer and tempt him or her to sin- Jesus said this was a serious enough situation until a man would be better off dead than offending!!

(Rom 14:13) *Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.*

(1 Cor 8:8-9) *But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. {9} But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.*

(1 Cor 10:32) *Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:*

Little Ones is not referring to children but to young believers. Jesus is showing how the Pharisees, in criticizing Him, might cause the publicans and sinners to stumble in their faith.

But suppose YOU are not the one who does the sinning. Suppose you are the one sinned against.

1) Personal Concern- "Take heed to yourselves". (Pay attention and always be on your guard--looking out for one another) Be aware that things will happen and Don't allow this to become a stumbling block to you.

2) Encourage to Repent- "If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him." Our aim is not to embarrass or hurt the offender, but to encourage him to repent.

3) Communicate the Problem- "Rebuke Him"- Solemnly tell him so and reprove him. The fact that they SHOULD know they have offended you does not mean that they do. Many problems are solved when we take the time to tell the other person we have a problem.

4) Be willing to give up Resentment and anger- if he repents (says I'm sorry) forgive him.

5) Realize the need for growth- Even if he sins against you seven times in a day, and turns to you seven times and says, "I'm sorry", you must forgive him (Give up resentment and consider the offense as recalled and annulled). Give people the opportunity to change.

How can you do this??

A) Love Them- (1 Cor 13:4-7) *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, {5} Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; {6} Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; {7} Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. True forgiveness always involves pain; somebody has been hurt and there is a price to pay in healing the wound.*

B) Have Faith in God's Power and Judgment- See vs 5 Love MOTIVATES us to forgive but Faith ACTIVATES that forgiveness.

ELDER BROTHER ERRORS

Luke 15:25-32

He worked Hard. He maintained a good reputation. He supported his father. But the point of the Parable is to show HOW WRONG HE WAS!!
The Prodigal (Wasteful) Son came out of the Hog Pen
The Elder Son Came out of the Field Working

- *ANGER- Wouldn't go into his own house.
- PRIDE- ~~Sins were sins of Attitude instead of Action~~ *In his work not his concern*
- SELFISHNESS- Prodigal got Party he wanted
- LACK OF COMPASSION- Everyone in these parables had Joy except the Elder Son. Lived with, but didn't know the Heart of the Father

He labored without Love

He didn't realize his priviledges as Son- He could have had the fatted calf at any time he wanted it. You have not because you ask not.

Possibility of Falling without Going to Far Country- Sins of Attitude instead of Actions *

Possibility of Service without Fellowship- Fellowship was with friends instead of Father

Possibility of Heirship without happiness - *All I have is yours*

Possibility of Sonship without Brotherhood

- A) Saw Full Table but was content not to Share- No Soul Winner
- B) Never Talked to Father about missing Brother- No Prayer
- C) Wasn't there when Brother came Home- No Faithfulness
- D) Did nothing to Bring Brother Home- No Going

Majesty

*Addict To Porn
Preach on Cig each service
This one step on my toes.*

It is important for us to stand back from time to time and see mankind through the eyes of God. Mankind thinks of him self as basically good with just a few faults that need to be corrected or changed. We think that if we just had a little more education or opportunity we could become the perfect people we want to be.

But that is not how God sees us. Listen to how He describes us in Romans 3:10-18 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes."

God sees us with no redeeming value whatsoever. He realizes He cannot just tinker with what we are and make us perfect. He knows the only hope for man is for him to be "Born Again" with his past forgiven because of the Shed Blood of Christ and his future enabled through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

God wants to change you today. Sadly, He must begin by showing how bad you are before He can show you how good you can become by trusting Him. This weeks Scripture is about the SINFULNESS OF OUR HEARTS

Thurs. Eph 2:1-3; Fri. Job 14:4; Sat. Jer 17:9; Sun. 2 Tim 3:2-7; Mon. 1 John 1:8-10; Tues. Gal 5:19-21; Wed. Mark 7:21-23

10-29-95 9 AM Grace
G9G

SEEKING LOST COINS

Luke 15:8-10

Responsive Reading
Announcements
Puppets
Testimonies
Request Prayer/Altar Prayer
Announcements

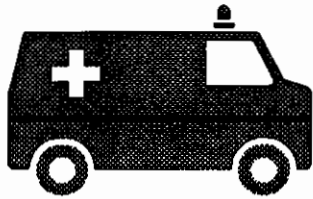
Tell me about the most unusual place you have ever found something lost (VCR Control in seam of Couch)

The MAIN THING we do is try to get people to KNOW and SHOW CHRIST. These three parables show us how God goes about doing that
The Shepherd Seeks- Jesus- Willing to go into the Wilderness
The Wife Sweeps- Holy Spirit shines light on those in darkness
The Father Waits- God the Father- waits for us to repent and return

As Christians, WE help the ministry of the Holy Spirit as He seeks to find those who are lost. This parable shows us how that works

- 1) The PLACE Coin was: *one of 3 places normally lose something*
 - A) Lost in Dust and Dirt- If we would reclaim we must go there
 - B) Lost Under Dresser- Hid from Sight
 - C) Lost on Floor- Plain Sight but overlooked - ~~the man cared for my soul~~
Good But Not saved
- 2) The CONDITION:
 - A) Coin doesn't know it's lost; content where it is at. Must be made aware of the fact that it is lost - *Conviction*
 - B) Must not be Forgotten- Importance of Numbers (9 coins not =10)
 - C) Lost but still claimed by woman - ~~the man cared for my soul~~ *God's love*
 - D) Returned coin had great value- Rejoicing Time (1 sheep out of 100, 1 coin out of 10, 1 son out of 2)
 - E) Coin was lost in the House- Sheep and son in Wilderness but Holy Spirit works on men in the House of their heart
- 3) HOW WAS THIS COIN FOUND? (How Do we Become Soul Winners?)
 - A) Sought by the Woman Personally
 - B) A Matter of Great Concern to the Woman - *No man cared for my soul*
 - C) A Matter of Method- Lit a Candle (Word is Light)
Swept the House- Clean up (Revival) and be willing to gather in excess to get what you are looking for.
 - D) A Matter of perseverance- Sought the Coin until she found it
 - E) A Matter of Great Joy- *He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. (Psalm 126:6)*

MARVELOUS FAITH



Luke 7:1-10



Faith is only manifested when there is a need

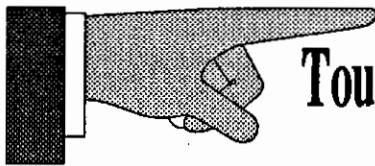
1. TESTIMONY BY THE JEWISH ELDERS

- A) Gentile/Roman Soldier
- B) Worthy of Help:
 1. Attitude- Loved Nation
 2. Action- Built Synagogue



2. TESTIMONY BY CENTURION

- A) Humility- Not Worthy
- B) Faith- Expected Christ to simply say word.



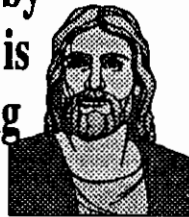
Touch or Trust?

TESTIMONY BY JESUS

- A) Marvelous Faith- Only one other time
- B) Activating Faith- As you have believed so be it done unto you.



Faith is always cultivated by looking at it's object; faith is always weakened by looking at itself. If we look at our faith we will be discouraged; if we look at HIM, our faith is strengthened.



1. What do those around you testify about your attitude and actions?
2. Does your Faith require sight or feelings?
3. When the kingdom supper is served will you be an invited guest?

ZACCHAEUS' CONVERSION

Luke 19:1-10

- A Man became a Child - *RAN, Climbed Tree*
- A Seeker became Found - *sought Christ - Christ sought him*
- A Small Man became Large
- A Poor Rich Man became a Rich Poor Man - *Happiness was in giving, not getting Accumulating*



I. THE OBSTACLES TO CONVERSION

- A) His Occupation-Don't let Work bring you to Wrath *TAX collector - Keeps you from Christ*
- B) His Riches-Whatever controls your life is your God. *Pride, Sin, TV, Music*
- C) His Physical Condition-Limitations can be Stumbling stones or Stepping stones
- D) His Society-
 - Crowd Kept Him from Jesus: Broad way leads to destruction - *Friends, Family*
 - Crowd Complained when he met Jesus: Don't Trip over someone's Tongue

*you from Christ
CAN Do All things thru Christ*

AFRAID of what others will say

II. THE CAUSE OF CONVERSION

- 1) Father Must Will it-John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him
- 2) Son Must Provide it- Vs 10 He is the ONLY sacrifice acceptable
- 3) Holy Spirit Must Bring it- Convict, Convert, Enable to live.
- 4) Christians must tell it- Acts 1:8 Ye shall receive power,...and ye shall be witnesses unto me...

5) You must ~~be~~ Accept it

Where there is real Fruit, there is seed in it for more Fruit.



Your Purpose is not to build the biggest SS Class, Choir, or Church; it is to build People of Christian Character whom God can Bless and use to Build Others.

The Worker is more important than the work.

III. THE CHANGE OF CONVERSION

Turning over a new leaf changes your approach to life. Being Born Again makes you a New Creature

- Actions- Greedy Heart became Generous
 - Attitude- Sinful Heart Repented
- Don't Count Convert until see A Change*

When Zacchaeus sought Christ he found Christ was seeking Him!!

You won't Find Eternal Life until you look for it. Are you Looking for Jesus to come by today??

If you ARE satisfied Being Lost then I CAN'T help you.

3 ATTITUDES THAT KEEP YOU FROM EXPERIENCING GOD.

Luke 18:9-25

Every Wife is SUPPOSED to be a Woman but every Woman is not a Wife. You can be in the house but not part of the Family

1) RELIGIOUS DELUSION- 9-14

The Pharisee was Deluded About:
--Prayer. He prayed with himself in order to tell God how good he was.
--Himself. Thought he was accepted by God because of what He DID or DIDN'T DO.
--The Publican. Thought he was a great sinner but the Publican went home justified instead of the Pharisee.

2) PUTTING PROJECTS ABOVE PEOPLE- 15-17

--You can't love God and Hate His Children!!
--Disciples were always sending away people that Jesus wanted to help
--Prejudice is as bad as Prideful Prayer.



3) UNWILLINGNESS TO COMMIT TO GOD'S REQUIREMENTS-18-25

The rich young ruler wanted a faith that did not CHANGE his values or upset his lifestyle; and that did not REQUIRE that He commit everything to Christ.



God Desires:

--Humbleness instead of Pride
--Sincerity instead of Hypocrisy
--A willingness to learn instead of busy activity
--Total Dedication instead of simply doing what you think is good.



Vs 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Vs 17 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

Vs 24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

3 ATTITUDES THAT KEEP YOU FROM EXPERIENCING GOD

Luke 18:9-25

Delusion

1) RELIGIOUS PRIDE 9-14

Pride in what you DON'T Do- Not as Other Men/Publican
Pride in what you do- Fast Twice a week, give Tithes
This Pharisee was DELUDED about:

1) Prayer- Prayed with himself and told God how good he was. He used Prayer as a means of getting public recognition and not as a spiritual exercise to glorify God.

2) Himself- Thought he was accepted because of what he did or didn't do.

3) The Publican- Thought he was a great sinner but Christ said the Publican went home justified and not the Pharisee

The Publican smote his breast (Heart of the Problem), Wouldn't lift his eyes to God (Humble) and declared himself "The Sinner" (Acknowledged his great need).

"KICKER"- (Luke 18:14) *I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

Is religious Pride separating you from God. Are you depending on your good works or reputation to save you?? Are you comparing yourself with others and using that as a means of justification?

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling

Religious Segregation *can't love God I hate the Children*
2) DELIBERATE SEGREGATION 15-17 The disciples were often trying to send the people away that Christ wanted to minister to- The Hungry crowd, the Canaanite woman, etc. Do WE find ourselves missing an experience with God because we don't want to associate with the People that God wants to Bless?? (Young People are Expensive, Annoying, Tiresome, and LOVED BY GOD. [Our job is not to Entertain them but to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.] We exclude people of other races but God made it clear that they were to be brought into the kingdom of God- Phillip and the Ethopian, Peter and his dream of the net full of animals (Acts 10) and (Gal 3:27-28) For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. {28} There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

"KICKER"- (Luke 18:17) *Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.* *GRAND Child Name*

3) UNWILLINGNESS TO COMMIT TO GOD'S REQUIREMENTS 18-25

He Wanted a faith that did not change his values or upset his life style.

"KICKER"- (Luke 18:24) And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

God likes:

Humbleness instead of Pride

Sincerity instead of Hypocrisy

Willingness to learn instead of busy activity

Total dedication instead of simply doing good.

FORGIVEN SINS

Luke 5:18-26

Sick
Thresher N Korea - Nae.
Wonne

- I. **SOMEONE BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS.** - Church is Hospital, need Ambulance Workers
- A) Concern - No man cared for my soul
 - B) Co-operation - 2 X 2
 - C) Commitment
- II. **JESUS FORGAVE HIM** - Greatest Miracle - met greatest need, cost greatest price, and brings greatest Blessing
- A) The Power of Sin - PARLISE Life - Drug, Disease, Debt
 - 1> to Cripple a person
 - 2> To Hide it's true cause-the darkness of sin
 - 3> To effect those around you
 - 4> To destroy a life
 - B) The Power of Faith
 - 1> His Friend's effected Jesus
 - 2>
 - C) The Pardon from Christ
 - 1> Had to take the word of Christ by Faith
 - 2> Had to let God deal with his Spiritual problem before his Physical problem.
- III. **HE WALKED OUT A DIFFERENT MAN**
- A) Sins forgiven, sickness cured
 - B) Glorifying God
 - C) Testimony to Crowd

Pharisees:

1. Came for the Wrong Reason- came seeking heresy instead of seeking Truth
2. Came to the Wrong Conclusion- Way that seems right to man but the ends thereof are the ways of Death.
3. Came away bitter instead of better

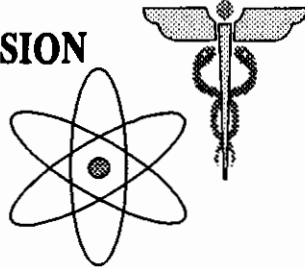
Have you ever prayed the sinner's Prayer?

Are you sure that if you died today you would go To Heaven?

FORGIVEN SINS

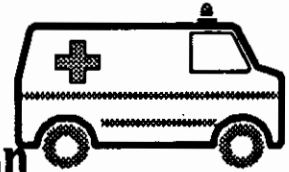
Luke 5:18-26

THE MOST
IMPORTANT DECISION
YOU WILL EVER
MAKE IS YOUR
DECISION ABOUT
CHRIST.



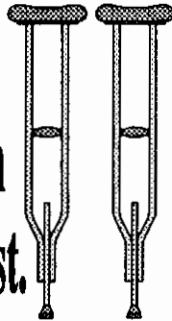
1. SOMEONE BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS

- A) Concern
- B) Co-operation
- C) Commitment



2. JESUS FORGAVE HIS SINS

- A) The Power of Sin
- B) The Perception of Faith
- C) The Pardon from Christ.



3. HE WALKED OUT A DIFFERENT MAN.

- A) Sins Forgiven, Sickness Cured
- B) Glorifying God
- C) Testimony to Crowd



THE PHARISEES

- 1. Came for Wrong Reason- looking for Fault instead of Faith
- 2. Came to Wrong Conclusion- Man's Reasoning versus God's Work
- 3. Left Bitter instead of Better

Have YOU ever knelt at the foot of the cross and asked Christ to forgive your sins and make you a new creature?

He will PARDON your sins and give you POWER for new life.



SECOND HAND FAITH LUKE 5:20

CHRIST SEES:

1. OUR WORKS
2. OUR WORDS
3. OUR THOUGHTS
4. OUR FAITH



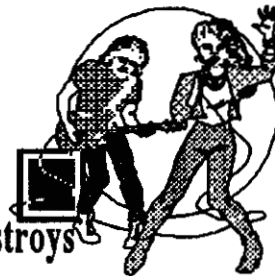
OUTSIDE INFLUENCES EFFECT US:

1. PHYSICALLY- Heat

2. MINDS/MORALS

A) Music- Calms or Stimulates; Builds or destroys character.

B) TV/Society- Lot



3. NATIONALLY- Prov 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people.



4. SPIRITUALLY- James 5:15 And the Prayer of Faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.



5. FAMILY-

A) Husband won by Godly wife

B) Philippian Jailor- "Saved, and thy house"



Come out from among them and be separate.

1. Determine to have Positive Influences in your Life.

2. CLAIM your loved ones for Christ.

3. COME to CHRIST.

6-19-94 11am GRAC WULC

Father's Day

BED MEN

Luke 5:17-25

Here is a story of a man who would have died lost and sick without help from some "Bed Men". Can you name 2 or 3 men who stand out in your life- (1) Buster

GOD IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN:

I. TO ASSIST IN BUILDING THE WORK OF GOD.--DEACONS

- A) To free the Pastor for Prayer- Acts 6:2-4
- B) To make sure no one in the Church is neglected (Feed Widows. Need Church members divided into Deacon Responsibility)
- C) To assist the Pastor in Spreading the Gospel- Stephen, Philip

II. TO CARE FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD- Ex 35:30-35- TRUSTEES

- A) To make and keep it a place that would represent the Lord to a lost world- not a crystal cathedral but a house of prayer
- B) To eliminate distractions from the worship of God (Temp, facilities, etc)
- C) To remember they are investing God's money in God's building for God's Glory. A STEWARD of God's Work (Need a Dreamer, a Common Sense, a Middle Men)

III. TO GUARD AND GUIDE THEIR FAMILY - DADS

- A) Adam was told to guard the Garden. Do you stand guard against Satan's attack on your family.
- B) Deut 6- Father is priest of household. He is to teach his children about God all day.
 - 1) Example
 - 2) Exhortation
 - 3) Discipline

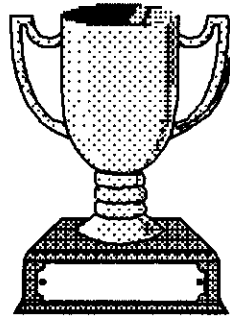
Pray for those nominated.

Pray for Dad

Don't expect the Church to replace Dad

BED MEN
Luke 5:17-25

Can You name 4 Men
who have stood out as
"Special Helpers" in your
Life???



GOD IS LOOKING FOR "Bed Men" to:

**1. ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING THE
WORK OF GOD- DEACONS (Acts 6)**

- A) Free Pastor for Prayer/Study
- B) No one is Neglected- Teams
- C) Spread the Gospel- Stephen, Philip

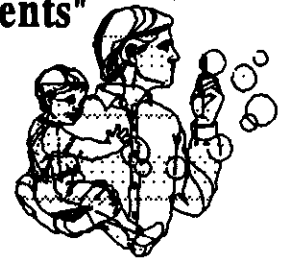
2. To Care for the House of God-Trustees

- A) Place to Represent God
- B) Eliminate Physical Distractions
- C) Be STEWARDS of God's Resources



**3. To GUARD and GUIDE the Family-
DAD**

- A) Against "Serpents"
- B) As Priest-
 - 1. Example
 - 2. Exhortation
 - 3. Discipline



**NO CHURCH PROGRAM CAN
EVER REPLACE A DAD.**

.....
**SPORTS, MONEY, TOYS CAN
NEVER REPLACE A DAD**

**GOD IS LOOKING
FOR "Bed Men"
WHO WILL
BRING FAMILY
AND FRIENDS TO
HIM.**



JESUS HEALS A LEPER

Luke 5:12-13

This is the first miracle in Matthew (Jesus as King) but the second in Luke (Casting out Demons first).

Be much more exciting title if it were "Jesus heals AIDS, Cancer, Drug Addition, etc.". But leprosy is still a problem we must deal with today- Physically and as a symbol of a spiritual problem.

Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease. The infection invades the nerves, skin and mucous membranes; damaging the nerves and causing them to become numb. The resulting insensitivity can lead to unnoticed and therefore neglected injuries; this accounts for many of the deformities- such as loss of fingers and toes- that occur in leprosy. As it advances it can also cause paralysis and blindness.

There are still 10 to 15 million cases of leprosy worldwide. The United States has over 6000 cases with 300 new cases diagnosed each year (Which is an increase of 50% from 10 years ago).

I. THE LEPER-

- A) Faith enough to bypass tradition
- B) Came in humility- If you will, you can heal me?

Leprosy is a Bible picture of Sin:

A) Like Sin, It is Deeper than the Skin- Leprosy was not a surface rash but a real problem. Sin is not just a mistake you make because you are not trying hard enough. It goes to the very Heart of a person (The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart!). Pharisees worried about washing their hands while Jesus taught about cleaning their hearts.

Like Leprosy, Sin works beneath the surface- See it at work in Lust, Anger, Bitterness, Hate, etc.

B) Like Sin, it Spreads- The Priest looked to see if the disease spread because that was a sin of it's seriousness. Sin affects our Attitudes. Attitudes are manifested in Actions. Actions become a way of Life (The example of the pitcher, Perez, who allowed Drugs to destroy his reputation and his \$2 million a year job)

C) Like Sin, it Defiles- The person with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' As long as he has the infection he remains unclean. He must live alone; he must live outside the camp. (Lev 13:45-46) (Page 282- Rules for Sick). The Stain of Sin corrupts your Character, your Reputation, your family.

D) Like Sin, it Isolates- The Leper must get out of the camp and warn everyone when he approached- "Unclean, Unclean". Sin breaks up families, Ruins careers, drives you into the desert of despair without help or hope.

THE SAVIOR:

- A) Willing to touch the unclean (Thus making Himself unclean- He took our infirmities)
- B) Able to cure the worst problems
- C) Wanted to help; not acquire fame. People over Popularity
- D) Told man to observe the normal laws about being proclaimed clean (What a testimony this would have been to Pharisees)

Do you have a hidden sin that is eating away at you? Come to Christ today. He can make you clean.

**JESUS HEALS A DRUG CRAZED,
SEXUALLY PERVERTED, ROCK STAR
AND TURNS HIM INTO A NICE
PERSON. (Subtitle- Jesus Heals a Leper)**



Luke 5:12-16

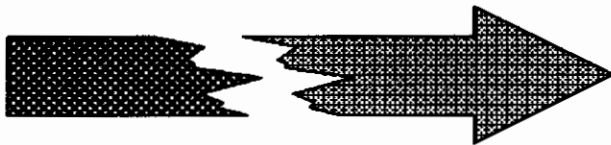
SICKNESS OR SIN??

LEPROSY: A Chronic infectious disease.
It often results in lost of fingers and toes,
the outbreak of sores on the body,
paralysis, and blindness.

There are still 10 to 15 MILLION cases
of leprosy worldwide with 6000 cases in the
US. 300 new cases are diagnosed each year.

THE LEPER:

- A) Faith enough to bypass Tradition
- B) Came in Humility- "If you will, you can heal me"

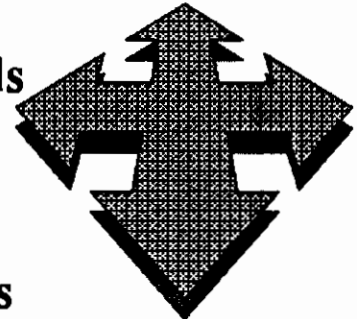


OUR WANTS

HIS WILL

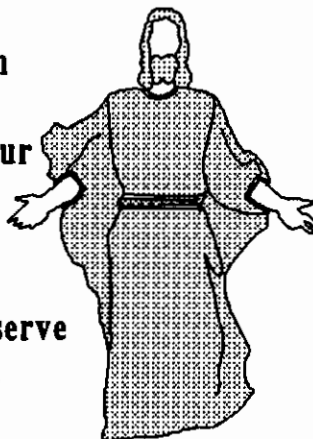
LEPROSY PICTURES SIN:

- 1) It is deeper than the Skin
- 2) It Spreads
- 3) It Defiles
- 4) It Isolates



THE SAVIOR:

- 1) Willing to Touch Unclean
- 2) Able to Cure your Worst Problem
- 3) People over Popularity
- 4) Told man to observe God given laws- as a witness to Pharisees.



**DO YOU HAVE A HIDDEN SIN THAT
IS EATING AWAY AT YOU??**

**COME TO CHRIST. HE IS WILLING
TO HELP IF YOU ARE WILLING TO
LET HIM.**



leprosy

{lep'-ruh-see}

Leprosy, a chronic infectious disease known for many centuries, affects an estimated 10 to 15 million people worldwide. It occurs mainly in tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions of Southeast Asia, Africa, and South America. In the early 1990s the United States had 6,000 cases, with 300 new ones diagnosed each year, up 50 percent from a decade ago. Most newly diagnosed victims are recent immigrants from Asia and South America.

Cause

Once a disease so dreaded that its victims were isolated in so-called leper colonies, leprosy can now be controlled and its resulting disfigurements prevented. The infectious agent, *Mycobacterium leprae*, is a bacillus in the same family as the one that causes tuberculosis. (It was discovered in 1874 by a Norwegian physician, Gerhard Hansen, and leprosy is sometimes called Hansen's disease.) The agent is thought to be transmitted by skin-to-skin contact and nasal discharges. About 95 percent of the persons exposed to the bacterium are immune, however, so leprosy is not considered highly contagious. Because the bacterium is very slow growing the incubation period can range from 1 to 30 years, but the average is about 3 to 5 years. The organism invades the peripheral nerves, skin, and mucous membranes, damaging the nerves and causing anesthesia. The resulting insensitivity can lead to unnoticed and therefore neglected injuries; this accounts for many of the deformities--such as loss of fingers--that occur in leprosy. Paralysis may also result; in advanced cases, numbness of the eyes may lead to blindness through trauma or infection.

Forms of Leprosy

Two main forms of the disease are known: tuberculoid and lepromatous. The tuberculoid form mainly involves the skin and nerves. Plaques--such as a red, raised rim surrounding a pale, flat center--occur most often on the arms and legs. Nerves under the plaques are damaged, and the areas become numb; contraction and wasting of muscles often occur. The lepromatous form is a more generalized infection that involves skin, mouth, nasal passages, upper respiratory tract, eyes, nerves, adrenal glands, and testicles. Various skin eruptions may cover the entire body, but numbness is more patchy and less severe than in tuberculoid leprosy. In advanced stages, however, lepromatous leprosy can cause ulcers, eyebrow loss, collapse of the nose, enlarged earlobes and facial features, and blindness.

Treatment

The main drug used to treat leprosy is dapsons. In the 1960s, however, dapsons-resistant cases began to appear, and today the drug is usually given with other bactericidal drugs such as rifampin. Clofazimine, approved for U.S. use in 1987 against lepromatous leprosy, is also usually given in combination with other drugs. THALIDOMIDE, made infamous in the 1960s for its teratogenic effects, has been found to reduce fever, skin lesions, and pain in certain patients. Leprosy vaccines, the product of cloning techniques as well as more traditional methods, are being developed and are undergoing clinical trials.

William A.

CHRIST DEVELOPS FAITH

Luke 5:1-6

1. **CHRIST WILL ALWAYS CHALLENGE YOUR COMPLACENCY-** God will not ask you to do what YOU can do; He will challenge you to do what HE can do.

Peter and Andrew had been up all night fishing. Jesus asked them to let Him use their boat as a speaking platform. Peter was probably almost dozing when Jesus asked him to "Launch out into the Deep for a catch of fish"

Lukewarm Love is unacceptable

Staying in Jerusalem when God tells you to go to all the world is unacceptable

2. **CHRIST WILL ASK YOU TO GO BEYOND YOUR REASONINGS AND ABILITY**

WHAT IS FAITH? Now *faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* (Heb 11:1)

WHAT IS THE OPPOSITE OF FAITH? *For we walk by faith, not by sight:* (2 Cor 5:7)

WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL OF FAITH? *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.* (John 14:12)

HOW MUCH FAITH IS REQUIRED? *And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.* (Mat 17:20)

WHAT IS THE WRONG THING TO BUILD YOUR FAITH ON? *And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.* (1Cor 2:4-5)

WHAT IS THE DANGER OF FAILING IN FAITH? *If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established.* (Isa 7:9)

3. **CHRIST WILL HONOR YOUR FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE.**

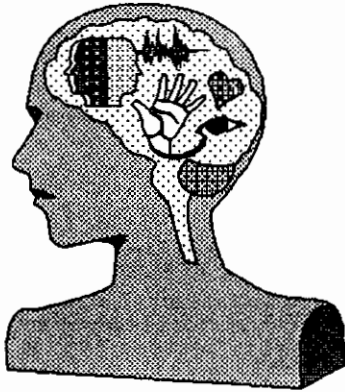
The Catch of Fish

The Opening of the Red Sea

The Walls of Jericho Falling down

CHRIST DEVELOPS FAITH

Luke 5:1-6



**FAITH
WITHOUT
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DEAD,
BEING
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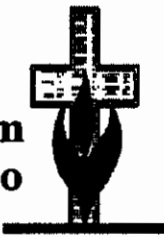
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**NETS FILLED WITH
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**RED SEA OPENED
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FALLING DOWN.**



PERSPECTIVES

Luke 5:18-26

First of all, I want everyone sitting on the left side of the Church to move over to the right side and everyone on the right side to move over to the left side. That's what is called "Changing your perspective".

Webster defines Perspective as "The relationship of aspects of a subject to each other and to a whole; or your viewpoint of an issue."

Everyone has a perspective. It differs according to your:

- 1) Preferences- food, colors, smells
- 2) Personality- clean/dirty, Pre-planner/procrastinator
- 3) Point of View- location (See what a difference location makes!),
- 4) Personal involvement- Death on TV compared to death in family

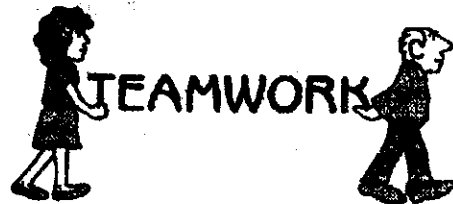
In today's scripture, We are going to see Five (5) different perspectives about a well known incident in the Bible. Even the small kids know the story of the Palsied man who was brought to Jesus by his four friends. The crowd was so thick until his friends had to tear a hole in the roof and lower him down to Jesus that way. And, of course, we know that Jesus forgave his sins before he healed his body.

With all that in mind, I want to look at the different perspectives that developed in this case; and see how many of them apply to us today. God is still at work today. Our perspective on that work will go a long way toward determining if we are part of God's plan, a stumbling block in the way of others, or simply excited by-standers.

FIVE PERSPECTIVES ON A HEALING:

1> **DESPAIR** (The Palsy Man). He had no hope of getting better and no way of getting to Jesus. No one needed to point out his **NEED** (Although Jesus pointed out that what he thought was his need was actually a secondary need). Are YOU faced with situations in life that seem hopeless? Do you feel society is going "to hell in a hand basket" and there is nothing you can do but wait for the violence to come to your home or family? Just remember this, sometimes your perspective is all wrong. Come to Jesus and get a change of perspective that will change you.

2> **DETERMINATION** (The Four Friends). These were four men who would not let obstacles defeat them. If their friend couldn't walk then they would carry him. If the crowd was too thick they would go over the crowd. If the roof stood in the way they would make a hole in it. Their perspective was based on determination. Their friend had a need and Jesus had the answer, therefore, they were determined to get their friend and Jesus together. Are YOU determined to do what you can for God, regardless of the obstacles?



3> DOUBT (The Pharisees). The Pharisee's perspective was based on cynicism and doubt. They didn't come to be blessed, they came to find fault and nit-pick miracles. Jesus was not one of their Crowd so they judged him harshly from that perspective. Do YOU find fault with people because they aren't part of your group or they do things different from you?

4> DISCERNMENT (Jesus). Jesus was able to see beyond the Palsied man's Sickness to his real problem, sin. Jesus knew the heart of the problem was the problem of the heart. Or, as Robert M McCheyne said, "God will either give you what you ask, or something far better!"

How often is our perspective what we see on the Surface instead of the real need? We see the dirt, defeat, and disgust of a person wallowing in sin and we brand them as bums who will not help themselves. Or we see a family split by divorce, drugs, or debt and concentrate only on the "sickness" we see instead of the real heart needs that caused the problems? How would our perspective change if they "bum" was our son or that family was our family?

Try looking at people next week from the perspective of Jesus. I believe it will change your attitude, your actions, and your testimony. I also believe it will end up changing some people from a life of despair into a walking testimony for Jesus.

5> DISTURBANCE (The Crowd) The Scriptures says the Crowd was:

- 1) Amazed
- 2) Glorified God
- 3) Were filled with fear

The Amplified Bible translates this as the crowd:

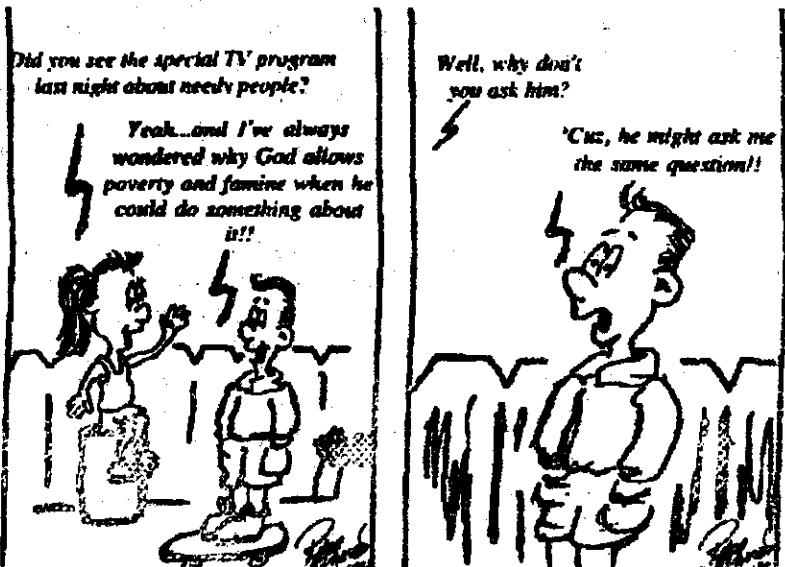
- 1) Had Overwhelming astonishment and ecstasy
- 2) They recognized and praised and thanked God
- 3) They were filled with and controlled by reverential fear.

Three different actions from a crowd that saw the same occurrence-astonishment, praise, and fear. Each of them reacted according to their personality and

perspective. The important thing to remember, however, is the crowd simply reacted to this incident as by-standers. They had awe and arguments and amazement but they were still simply onlookers.

Do YOU view the miracles and message of Christianity from the perspective of an onlooker? What forms your perspective on God's Work? In this service today some will leave lifted by the word of God and others will leave thinking within their heart, "What a waste of my time today." Your perspective will be determined to a large extent by what happens in your heart.

What determines YOUR perspective? Despair, Determination, Doubt, Discernment, or Disturbance? The difference will be your relationship with Christ.



**THE PRESENCE OF THE POWER
LUKE 5:17**

Hosea 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

3. Remove the Underbrush- "Little Sins" that trip us and keep us from producing fruit

4. Plow the New Ground- Get to Work

5. Plant a Crop- Sow in righteousness

6. Trust God for Results- Never give up, Never give up

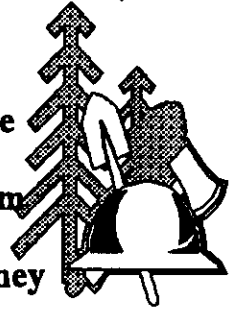


**FALLOW GROUND = New Ground,
Untilled Soil**

1. Cut the Trees- Can't see the forest for the Trees:

Things that keep us from seeing God's Will.

2. Remove the Stumps- They trip us and keep the land from being cultivated.



**ANYONE CAN RAISE
WEEDS. IT TAKES
WORK TO RAISE A
CROP.**



2-6-94 11AM GRACE WULC
3 To join - Charlie Purvis 1 Don & Jason Lewis
Seniors

WILDERNESS WORDS

Luke 3:1-2

Is it alright to beat my wife for the first 25 years of our marriage if I promise that after we've been married 25 years I will stop beating her and become a better Husband??

That is the way most people look at our relationship with God. God allows suffering during our life on earth but that's alright because one day we'll go to Heaven and it will stop (Sort of like the hitting my head with a hammer because it feels so good when I stop).

Why does a God whose very name is love and who loved us enough to allow His son to die for us; allow us to go through so much pain and suffering here on earth?? Yes, it's to teach us a lesson; but isn't there an easier way to learn that lesson??

Note who the Word did NOT come to:

Tiberius Caesar- He claimed to be god but didn't have a word.

Pontius Pilate (Governor of Judea)- ruled over God's chosen people in God's chosen place but no word.

Herod, Philip, and Lysanias ruled over the remaining parts of the promised land but no word.

Annas and Caiaphas were high priests (Annas was High Priest but the Romans had appointed his son-in-law Caiaphas as High Priest. Both were Sadducees and did not believe in the resurrection, the spirit world, or the authority of any OT books except the five written by Moses). They were the High Priests but the word did not come to them.

The Word came to a man wandering in the Wilderness- John. Doesn't it always-

The People God chooses to communicate to or through are those that have been put into the Wilderness for some reason. (Interesting little side NOTE- Woman of God kept in wilderness in last days Rev 12)
REASONS WE GO INTO THE WILDERNESS: (Not Self Will)

- 1) Moses- Rejection
- 2) David- Persecution
- 3) Elijah- Depression
- 4) Jesus- Temptation
- 5) Paul- Education

THE REASONS THE WORD COMES IN THE WILDERNESS:

1) Get closer to God in troubles - DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE OF GOD- Phil 3:10 *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

2) Listen better in wilderness- less distractions

3) Have Time to re-examine Goals and Methods- Re-focus DIFFERENT

METHOD OF MINISTRY: Jer 36:5-6 *And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I am shut up; I cannot go into the house of the LORD: Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the LORD in the ears of the people in the LORD'S house upon the fasting day: and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities.*

Wilderness RESULTS:

Burning Bush- REDEMPTION
Many Psalms- HOPE
New Vision/Helper- DETERMINATION
Victory thru Word- VICTORY
Gospel Message- VISION

Don't Beat Her; Challenge her to work and sacrifice together with the knowledge that one day things will be better (Change in Christ)

WILDERNESS WORDS

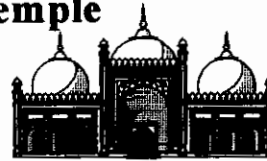
Luke 3:1-2

Is it right to beat my wife for 25 years if I promise that after our 25th Anniversary I won't beat her and all will be better??



Note those Word did NOT COME TO:

- 1) Caesar- Claimed to BE god
- 2) Pilate- Ruled God's Town
- 3) Herod...- Ruled God's Land
- 4) High Priests- Ruled God's Temple



WILDERNESS PEOPLE

- 1) Moses- Rejection
- 2) David- Persecution
- 3) Elijah- Depression
- 4) Jesus- Temptation
- 4) Paul- Education



WILDERNESS RESULTS:

- 1) Burning Bush- REDEMPTION
- 2) Psalms- HOPE
- 3) Help- DETERMINATION
- 4) Temptation- VICTORY
- 5) Gospel- VISION



REASON FOR WILDERNESS WORD

1) Clloser to God Phil 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering, being made conformable to his death.



2) Less Distractions

3) Time to Re-Focus



**Don't BEAT Her
CHALLENGE HER**

**with
Vision
Hope
Victory
Dedication**



GLAD

Luke 8:1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,

Every person here today has one of the Four predominant Attitudes: MAD, GLAD, SAD, SCARED. Most people have some of all of these attitudes at all times but one of them is normally predominant. And YOUR ATTITUDES WILL DETERMINE YOUR ACTIONS [Paul wrote most of his letters from this perspective- Belief will determine Behavior. He would always write about the Doctrine we are to believe and then from that show us the Duty we are to perform].

This is very important because many of the sins that Christians continue to battle today are "ATTITUDE" Sins rather than "ACTION" sins. We are must more prone to anger, worry, greed, and lust than we are to robbery, murder, and adultery.

I want us today to begin looking at one of these attitudes, GLAD, and see how the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian can change it from a "happy" feeling into a positive force for God.

The word "Glad" in today's Scripture is tied to the word "Tidings". In the Greek it is one word; the word from which we get our word "Evangelize". I chose this verse so you could see that "Glad" does not make you a happy-go-lucky clown. It is a positive part of our testimony for God in a world that is killing itself over fun.

As we continue our goal of reaching people for Christ, it is this attitude of "Glad Tidings" that will enable us to attract them to Church and win them to Christ. And it is the absence of this attitude that will turn us into Pharisees who condemn men instead of convert them.

Normally the word translated "Glad" in the Bible means "Joyful, merry hearted, rejoicing". This gladness of heart will effect our Health and our outlook on life as well as our testimony: Prov 12:25 Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.

In a world full of troubles and strife, what could give us such a merry heart??

Purpose to Life (Excitement of Vacation) Does the Day make you sad, mad, scared, Glad?

THE EXCITEMENT OF ANOTHER DAY: Psa 118:24 This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. What a difference it makes when we know that God gave us this day. We are not to waste it or dread it. We are to rejoice in it and use it's time to the very best of our ability for God's Glory and our good.

Principles to follow

THAT WE GET TO WORSHIP IN GOD'S HOUSE: Psa 122:1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. Life is full of troubles, trials, and unanswerable questions. Without the fellowship of the people of God and the assurance from the Word of God it would not be endurable- See Psalm 73:1-17. Just one trip to the House of God can change my entire outlook and rejoice me to a glad heart.

Presents of Blessings

THE BLESSINGS THAT COME FROM GOD: Psa 92:4 For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. Psa 126:3 The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Everyone loves a Present. When we live for God and He pours out Blessings on us day after day, we can't help but be glad.

Power To Rest in

THAT GOD IS IN CHARGE: Psa 97:1 The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. The governments of the world seem to be falling apart; I'm so glad I know God isn't. No matter what tomorrow may hold; I know who holds tomorrow, and I'm glad I belong to Him.

THAT CHILDREN BEHAVE CORRECTLY: Prov 10:1 A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. When we bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord it is a joy to see God work in their life. They may not always do right but they always KNOW to do right.

— WHEN WE ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE: Mat 5:11-12 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. The reason we can Rejoice in Persecution is because we know Crowning Day is Coming!! 1 Pet 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

People are saved

WHEN SINNERS ARE SAVED: Luke 15:32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found. No matter what else happens in a service, if someone gets saved it makes it all worth while. Even the angels rejoice over people getting saved!!

Pardon is given

THAT SINS ARE FORGIVEN: Psa 32:11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Do you want to change your heart into a GLAD HEART today?? The Glad Tidings about Jesus can give you this Glad Heart. Repent of your sins, Trust Christ as savior, and begin a new life today. You'll really be glad you did.

SETTING SINNERS FREE

Luke 19:1-10

Over and over in the New Testament the writers will call themselves a "Servant" of Jesus Christ. The word literally means Slave. In New Testament times one out of every four persons was a slave. A person could become a slave by conquest-one country conquering another. By birth-if your parents were slaves, so were you; and by debt-you would remain a slave until the debt was paid.

There were three ways a person could be set free from slavery: He could earn his freedom; Someone could pay off his debt and thus buy his freedom; or his master could decide to grant him freedom.

The Bible teaches that all of us are slaves to sin:

- by birth-born into sin because of our sin nature
- by conquest-sin rules over us and we sin.
- by debt "For the wages of sin is death... (Romans 3:23).

We cannot earn our freedom from sin, and we cannot buy our freedom from sin. The only way we can be set free is by accepting Christ who paid the price for our redemption, and thus we are free to be Christ's servant.

Men are in bondage to sin today by many chains: Drugs, Drink, Lust, Greed, Bitterness, Pride

The only way to break these chains is to meet Jesus:

The Story of the Conversion of Zacchaeus shows us what is needed to set these sinners Free:

1. You must mean business and seek the Lord with determination- Luke 19:3 *And he sought to see Jesus who he was;*. If you are satisfied to "take it or leave it" you'll never be saved. You don't have a heart attack and then ask the doctor to come see you when it's convenient.

2. You must overcome some obstacles (Devil doesn't want you saved)

A> Pride- *which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.* The Bible says there are 4 that hardly are saved: Rich, wise after the flesh, Mighty (powerful), and Noble (Elite).

B> People- *he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press.* The Hypocrites and the Hords will hinder you

C> Personality- *he was little of stature.* People think their problem is TOO BIG for God or they can't HOLD OUT. The answer is in God's Strength, not ours.

he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

3. You must receive the Lord Jesus as your personal Savior- *And received him joyfully vs 5.*

4. You must expect and be ready for criticism and opposition- *They all murmured vs 7.*

5. You must confess the Lord before others- *And Zacchaeus stood, and said vs 8.* Rom 10:9-10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

6. You must be willing to obey the Lord- a Disciple

A> Resolution- *I give to the poor.*

B> Restitution- *I restore*

7. You must rely on the Lord's Word for the assurance that you're saved- Luke 19:9 *And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house,*

Sin in the life of a Christian is different than sin in the life of a sinner.

Sinners need Repentance and Conversion, Christians need Confession and Restoration (to joy of Salvation)- 1 John 1:9

THE SINS WE SEE:

BESETTING SINS

CAPTIVE SINS

STRONGHOLD SINS

IGNORANT SINS

Whatsoever is not of faith is sin

THE REASONS WE SIN:

Psa 19:13 *Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.*

Sin is MISSING GOD'S STANDARD, MALICIOUS EVIL, SOCIAL EVIL, AND WILLFUL REBELLION.

It is not only the violation of God's Law, it is the rejection of His Character.

THE RESULTS OF SIN:

MORAL BONDAGE- John 8:34 *Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

CULPABLE GUILT-John 15:22 *If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.*

John 15:24 *If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.*

SPIRITUAL DEATH-John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

John 5:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

JUDGMENT, RESULTING IN ESTRANGEMENT FROM GOD-John 3:18 *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

FORGIVING ENEMIES

As we continue to look at those people who were privileged to hear Jesus say to them that He forgave them, we come to the last moments of His life. There on a cruel Cross, dying for the sins of all mankind, Jesus took the time TWICE to grant His forgiveness.

This is the first of those times; when He forgave His enemies-(Luke 23:34) *Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*

As Jesus hung in agony on the cross He could survey the multitudes that represented all of mankind.

Directly below the cross the soldiers who had just driven the nails into his hand and feet (Maybe even taken part in beating Him earlier) were gambling over His only earthly possessions. They represent all who are so busy with the duties of life and the delights of money that they ignore the Spiritual; even if it is right above them!! To these very real enemies Jesus said, "Father Forgive Them".

Just beyond the soldiers, the Pharisees and Priests taunted Him to come down off the cross and prove Himself the Son of God. They had dogged his ministry, continually tried to trick and condemn Him, rigged His trial, and now laughed at his disgrace and discomfort. How the words of Jesus must have burned in their heart, "Father forgive them".

At the bottom of the hill the multitude murmured and milled. Many of them had shouted His praises and even used their coats to make a road for Him as their coming King only 5 days before. Now they looked at Him as some sort of freak or fraud. Not a man cried out in protest. No one even uttered a word of encouragement. Their only desire was to see how He would react to the pain and agony of death. How the cry of Jesus that echoed off Jerusalem's wall must have pricked their heart, "Father Forgive Them".

Forgiving our enemies. The Principles are hard to define. The Practice is Harder to live. Only the example of Jesus can bring such a dream into reality.

Over and Over the Bible admonishes us to Practice Forgiving our Enemies by giving FORGIVENESS PRINCIPLES:

- 1) Talk Good, instead of Bad, about Your Enemies- Rom 12:14 *Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.*
- 2) Don't let an Enemy's Action control you- Rom 12:17 *Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*
- 3) Outward Niceness doesn't cover Inward Nastiness! Your Emotions may be worst than your Enemy's Actions-Prov 24:17-20 *Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth: 18 Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him. 19 Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked; 20 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.*
- 4) Children have chips on their shoulders. A real man is not controlled by his anger-Prov 19:11 *The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.*
- 5) Turn your Enemy over to God's care and correction-Rom 12:19 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

FORGIVENESS PRACTICES:

1) Look for opportunities to show your Enemy good for evil- Exo 23:4-5 If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again. 5 If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.

Rom 12:20-21 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

2) Look for opportunities to show your Enemy you really care for them-

a> Pass up Opportunities to do them harm: 1 Sam 24:10-11 Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed. 11 Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

Prov 24:29 Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.

b> Look for ways to reconcile through Service- Mat 5:39-41 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. 41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

3) Don't look for "wrongs". It's like picking a wound; it can never heal- Eccl 7:21 Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee:

4) Remember that the only part of the "Lord's Prayer" Christ amplified was (Mat 6:12) And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And His amplification is awesome- (Mat 6:14-15) For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Regardless of the "Reasonings" you come up with that justifies your unforgiving spirit you can't get around the clear teaching of Christ: Luke 6:27-37 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, 28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. 29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also. 30 Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. 31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. 32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. 33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. 34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. 37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

ROOTS, RELIGION, RESOURCES

A Business Man's Creed: Luke 20:41-47
I will NOT Sacrifice Luke 21:1-4
these things for Success:

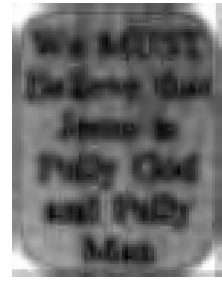
- 1) Self-Respect
- 2) Health
- 3) Family
- 4) Relationship to God

What Difference did your Religion make in YOUR life and in the lives of those AROUND you last week??

1) ROOTS- Luke 20:41-44

Taken from Psalm 110, the Most quoted Old Testament Chapter in the New Testament

- A) The Root of David- God who brought David into Existence
- B) The Offspring of David- Man who came thru the line of David (Messiah)



2) RELIGION- Luke 45-47 God is seeking Servants; not Celebrities

What is SAID	What is SO
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Hypocrites:

- 1) Clothes- Long Robes
- 2) Recognition-Greetings
- 3) Fame-highest seats

REALITY:

- 1) Devour Widows Houses
- 2) Long Prayers for show
- 3) Greater Damnation

So can

3) RESOURCES- Luke 21:1-4

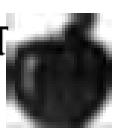
The Widow's Mite was not the LEAST she could give but the MOST.

When it come to giving, God see more than the PORTION; He see the PROPORTION

Men see what is GIVEN; God sees what is LEFT

"We make a Living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
Winston Churchill

The ROOT will determine the FRUIT
Are you producing the Works of the Flesh or the Fruits of the Spirit??



Religion that does not CHANGE you brings GREATER DAMNATION



Our use of our RESOURCES REVEALS our Love for, and Commitment to, God and His work.



In spite of the fact that everyone KNOWS how to lose weight (Eat Less, Exercise More) the Weight Loss business is a Multi-Billion dollar Industry.

- The Problem is not lack of KNOWLEDGE;
- 1--It is lack of MOTIVATION
- 2--The Desire for a QUICK FIX
- 3--Not Willing to SACRIFICE

A Steam Engine can't run on Hot Water!!
We must allow God to raise our temperature from 211 to 212 Degrees



DIVERSE DISCIPLES

Luke 5:27-28

FISHERMEN- Peter- Blue Colar Workers

FINANCIERS- Matthew- White Colar Workers

FANATICS- Simon the Zealot- Political, dedicated to cause.

FAILURES- Thomas the Doubter Backsliders, Divorce, Alcoholics, We Fail when we Doubt God's Ability to Keep us (Peter on water), God's Love (Job), God's Power (No Miracles, Unbelief), God's Word (Eve), Christ's Return (Where is promise of return?).

FIRST FRUITS- Andrew Brought Peter, Greeks, Boy with Bread

FULL OF HEART- Thaddeus Only Statement is John 14:22 "Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?". One of the faithful who don't get the limelight but who represent the majority who pray, pay, and practice Christianity.

FIXED OPINION- Nathanael "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Without Guile, Pure Motives.

FIERY- James, Brother of John Isolation (Casting out devils in thy name rebuked), Anger (Samaritians wouldn't receive), Ambition (Right Hand)

FRINGE- Philip Come and See rather than believe, Revealed hunger of crowd but no faith to follow through, Greeks contacted him but had to bring to Andrew, Wanted Jesus to show him the Father so he would believe.

FIENDISH- Judas In the group, Well thought of (Treasurer), but Satanic Influenced

Christ is calling YOU to be a disciple today. No matter what your personality, you fit into the body of Christ.

HANDLING OUR INHERITANCE

Luke 15:25-31 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. {26} So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. {27} 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' {28} "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. {29} But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. {30} But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' {31} "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

Luke 15:32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.

Everything I have is yours!! What a wonderful statement. What an awful failure that he had failed to claim his inheritance all these years. Yet how many Christians today go thru their Christian life suffering this very same poverty.

It reminds me a lot of the TV comedy "The Beverly Hill-Billies". Here were people who had oil, and eventually riches, but were never able to accept how great the riches were that were given to them.

I can never become what I want to be by remaining what I am! One of the most important principles of Christianity is that it demands that we reach beyond the limitations of our own abilities into trusting God's Power at work in our life.

DEFINE THE RICHES WE HAVE IN CHRIST.

DEFINE THE RESPONSIBILITY WE HAVE REGARDING THESE RICHES.

DEMONSTRATE HOW WE CAN CLAIM OUR INHERITANCE AS CHRISTIANS.

List the riches that are ours as Christians:

We are STEWARDS of the Riches we have in Christ- It is required that we be found FAITHFUL (I Cor 4:2). Every one is given a talent- Some will make 10, some 5, and some will hide their talent.

How do WE Squander OUR inheritance?? How do we fail to realize the riches that are ours in Christ?

Contrast the fact that the Prodigal Son Squandered His Inheritance while the elder son failed to realize his.

Testimony - *Personal Testimony witness for Lord*
Talents -
Time -
Tithe -

Church 9AM - Family B fast
11AM - Company over
PM - Family Devotions

Elder
Table Full but content Not To share
Never Talked about lost Brother - Prayer
wasn't there when Boy Returned - *not really*
No Going - did nothing to bring
Brother Home

II. SECOND TEMPTATION- Worship Satan to receive Kingdoms

(Note- Temptation 2 and 3 are reversed in Matt 4:1-11. Matthew shows Christ as King and the final trial is about Kingdoms. Luke shows Christ as Man and the final trial is about becoming a "Super" man.)

(Note how important Worship is- Satan would give up the world (which he rebelled against God to claim) to receive Worship.)

A) There are no "short cuts" or "easy roads" to Glory. The Cross must come before the crown. (Most of us won't win a sweepstakes- we will earn a living (barely) by the sweat of our brows!). Becoming a Christian does not solve all your problems- it gives you guidance so you can solve them

B) Jesus answered this one by stressing who was most important- God!
Victories outside of God's will are really defeats!
The final authority in your life is your God.

Many sell their souls to Satan for Pleasure, Profit, or Prestige. (Ex. of Esau who sold out for a bowl of pottage and Judas for 30 pieces of silver) What kind of "Bait" would Satan have to use to catch you???

III. THIRD TEMPTATION- Cast yourself off temple to prove God will care for you.

A) God requires Faith, not foolishness. Faith trusts God; it does not use Him. God does not have to Prove himself.

Are your prayers made in the will of God, or do they try to get God into your will???

B) Jesus answered, "Don't put God to the test". Our Faith rest in God for WHO He is, not WHAT He does. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

It is so easy for Satan to tempt us into asking God to bring Glory to us with the thought that we will return it to God. But somehow it always seems to "stick" to us.

Have you fallen into Satan's temptation traps? If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteous

Do you worry about being able to withstand Satan's temptations?

Heb 2:18 For in that he himself (Christ) hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour (give aid to) them that are tempted.

Heb 4:15-16 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

I Cor 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Are you tired of being Satan's captive- bound to sin and sinful ways and headed for hell apart from God? Jesus died to set the captives free. Are you willing to trust him as Saviour today?

The steamer, Lady Elgin, was carrying 323 passengers. It was a chilly evening in early September. She was brilliantly lighted and loaded with travelers. Suddenly, before she reached the port of Chicago, she began to sink. Obviously, before help could arrive, she would be gone. The crowd on the shore watched the tragedy powerless to help.

Suddenly two brothers, students in a theological seminary, plunged through the crowd with a rope in their hands. Nat, the elder, a powerful man and a trained swimmer, leaped into the water. Inch by inch, he fought his way through the waves until he reached the sinking ship and climbed aboard. A moment later, with herculean strength, he carried back to safety a woman. With eager arms the crowd helped to haul him in; he was choking and cold, but still strong. Again he plunged in- and again- and again!

Twenty three lives Nat Spencer saved. For weeks he lay delirious. Meanwhile the 23 whom he had saved scattered to their homes. In time, the nation began to forget the tragedy of the 300 who had died that night in Lake Michigan.

But the 23 whom Nat had saved, surely they did not forget. Surely, they were grateful! But not one of them ever came back to thank Nat Spencer for what he had done. Not one of them even wrote him a letter. Nat Spencer lived out his life as an invalid. Not one of the 23 people came back to say, "Thank You".

Is not this what Jesus faced when he cleansed the 10 lepers and only 1 returned to give him thanks. In amazement Jesus asked, "Where are the 9???" Can it happen today? Could it happen here??? We have multitudes of people who have received Blessings from God (Salvation, Financial help, sickness cured, etc) and yet they won't even come to Church regularly to give God thanks. Where are the 9??

1. Maybe they're at home with an excuse- Matt 22. Maybe they married a wife; bought a field, or some oxen and allow this to keep them from Church. (Example of man who was given 6 coins and came back to steal the 7th. Just like men steal God's day). They say they love the Lord and His Church but they have NO FAITHFULNESS.

2. Asleep in the Garden- Like the 5 foolish virgins or the disciples while Jesus prayed they're TOO TIRED to watch and Pray. They'd come to Church but Sunday is the only day they can rest.

3. Warming at Satan's fire- Peter became so busy FELLOWSHIPING WITH THE WORLD until he lost his testimony and denied his Lord.

4. Down in the Hog pen- Prodigal WASTED FATHER'S GIFTS on worldly pleasures [If I told you I needed money for medicine and used it for meanness you'd be mad. How do you think God feels about the way we treat what He gives us?!]

5. In the Whale's belly- Jonah the DISOBEDIENT servant was out of God's plan for his life and decided to Run instead of Preach.

6. Under the Juniper tree- Elijah was DISCOURAGED because things didn't go the way he thought they ought to go at "Church"

7. Down in Sodom- Lot was SEEKING WEALTH. It cost him loss of fellowship with God and God's people (Abraham) as well as his family.

8. Gone Fishing- Peter and the other disciples RETURNED TO FORMER LIFE instead of staying Faithful and Jesus had to call their Love into question. Lovest thou me MORE.

9. Working instead of Waiting- Martha was more interested in Serving than in the Saviour. This caused her to get her EYES ON OTHERS and complain about Mary instead of rejoice in serving Christ.

When Paul began to tell about the fall of man into the pits of sins and despair in Romans chapter 1 he said this- Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Science says that bats are blind because they never used their eyes! They remain in caves in the day and only come out at night. ARE WE TAKING GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR GRANTED?? MIGHT WE LOSE THEM???

Some are here today that are sincere. You realize that Life's blessings come from God and you want to do the right thing. You wonder what you should do--- Ps 116:12-13 What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of Salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

ARE YOU ONE OF THE 9???????????

You Are
Needed

4-10-11 pm Revival!
Temple

5 STEPS FROM THE HOG PEN TO HEAVEN

Luke 15:11-24

Earlier, we said that Man is unique because he can Communicate with God, "Create" like God, and Choose to serve God. We saw the importance of making the right choice- We know WHY but do we Know HOW? Let us see what we must do in order to choose the Heaven instead of the Hog Pen.

This is one of the most familiar stories in the Bible. It is so well known, and so well loved, because it is so realistic; and because it has a happy ending! The basic story is about a boy who decided to rebel against his father's control and go out on his own. Once he got on his own he found that life is not just a party. Soon his money was gone, and so were all his friends. Poverty replaced Party and Hog pens replaced High living. Finally (Glory!), he realizes his need and returns to the Father's House where he is welcomed with open arms.

The Prodigal (The Word means Wasteful) Son got tired of living under the Father's Authority so he obtained his inheritance and went off to be his own boss. But he found the grass was greener on the other side of the fence because it was growing over a septic Tank!

I. Sin leads us into the FAR COUNTRY (A place of IMAGINED JOYS that turns into Severe Famine, Bitter Bondage, and Aching Loneliness). In the Far Country you will find that SIN SEPARATES us from:

- FAMILY- You run FROM the very people you should be running TOWARD
- FORTUNE- Will cause us to Spend it all (We will earn wages to put them into a bag with holes).
- FRIENDS- No man gave unto Him (Sin makes you think only of SELF. There is no one as lonely as 100 Selfish People at a Party!)
- FATHER- Can but await our return (God hasn't forsaken you. He is simply awaiting your decision to return).

II. THE FIVE (5) STEPS THE PRODIGAL TOOK FROM THE HOG PEN TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE are the Same Steps YOU NEED TO TAKE.

1) **REALIZATION**- "Came to Himself". We call this **CONVICTION**. He finally realized the Hog Pen was the wrong place for him. Multitudes of people today are wallowing in hog slop, unaware of what a desperate situation they are in. **YOU WILL NEVER CHANGE UNTIL YOU REALIZE YOU NEED TO CHANGE**. If you are happy in the Hog Pen then you will never seek Heaven; and Satan's job is to keep you happy in the Hog Pen by giving you all the slop you want! **Do not have to tell a drowning man he needs to be saved!**

2) **EXPECTATION**- "Bread Enough and to Spare" at the Father's House. He realized that the Father had **MORE THAN ENOUGH** for him. We call this **HOPE**. He had an expectation that the Father would be able to do something about his Situation

3) **DETERMINATION**- "I Will Arise". We call this **FAITH**. Realizing his need and believing the Father had what he needed he now must made a decision to do something about his situation. This is the place many people falter. They know about their need and they understand God's

Power but they won't determine to do something about their situation. It is much easier to stay in the Hog pen than to arise and go to the Father.

4) **DECLARATION**- "I have Sinned". We Call this REPENTANCE. The son was willing to admit his error and acknowledge his folly. He decided it would be better to be a Servant with bread in the Father's House than have his independence and starve in the Hog Pen. His Rebellious independent spirit had turned to a servant's heart.

SEVEN TIMES IN SCRIPTURE SOMEONE SAYS "I have Sinned". They show us the difference between the true and the false Repentance:

1) **THE HARDENED SINNER**- Pharaoh (Ex 9:27). Hail, Fire, and thunder drove him to seek Relief but he didn't really Repent. Most repentance born in a storm dies in a calm. If you make a vow to God be sure to pay it, God has no pleasure in Fools.

2) **THE DOUBLE MINDED MAN**- Balaam (Num 22:34). "To Good and Evil equal Bent, He seems both a devil and a saint". No use to say "I have sinned" and keep on sinning! Balaam offered sacrifice to God on the altar of Baal; as do many today who serve God for Reputation or Riches.

3) **THE INSINCERE MAN**- Saul (I Sam 15:24). He blamed his sin on the People with no admission of his own guilt.

4) **THE DEATH BED PENITENT**- Achan (Josh 7:20) He made a full confession but was he saved?? Death bed decisions without deeds leave me a little worried (A Physician keep record of 1000 people who were desperately sick and repented and then revived. Best he could find only 3 stayed the course while the remainder went back to sin).

5) **THE REPENTANCE OF DESPAIR**- Judas (Matt 27:4). I hesitate to call this repentance; maybe remorse of conscience is a better term. He confessed but went right out and hanged himself.

6) **THE REPENTANCE OF THE SAINT**- Job (Job 7:20). He acknowledged his wandering from God (See many of the Palms of David)

7) **THE REPENTANCE OF THE PRODIGAL**- Broke, friendless, bottom of the social ladder, hungry he decided rebelling against the Father's Authority was not the right course. He had demanded his portion as a Son but now he begs the portion of a Servant. He confessed in his heart and then publicly to the Father- Rom 10:9-10

5) **ACTION**- "He Arose, and came to the Father". We Call this WORKS for we know that Faith without works is dead being alone. Suppose the Prodigal had knelt down at the hog trough and said, "I will pray here"; what would it have availed him? The turning point in Salvation is leaving the Hog Pen and coming to the Father; knowing that "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

So there you have it, 5 Steps from the Hog Pen to the Father's House. Will YOU take those steps today? How deep in the Hog Pen must you go before you realize how much better it is at the Father's house.

Realization, Expectation, Determination, and Declaration mean nothing if there is not Action. Will you exchange the slops of Satan for the Bread of Life (Jesus Christ) today?

See Returning Joy to Your Salvation

Buster - Hog Pen

4/10-11/11am Revival Temple

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

Luke 16:19-31

What an awesome day it must have been when God looked at the Angels and said, "I think I will create a Universe today!" As the angels gathered around God simply spoke and suddenly suns and stars and planets came into being- Out of nothing suddenly there was everything!

God, who is a Spirit, created matter, which has no spirit. Then one day, God took some of that matter (dust) formed it into a body and then breathed a living soul into it and called it man. Now there is God, who is Spirit; matter, which has no spirit; and man, who is matter containing a spirit.

Man is that unique creation which is set apart from all other creations by the fact that he can

- 1) Communicate with God
- 2) "Create" like God.
- 3) Choose to Serve God

But this high and lofty status comes with a price- the soul of man is eternal, it never ends. The Body containing that Soul decays and stops but the soul exist forever.

Today I want to look at the "end of the beginning" of man. What happens when the physical matter that holds man's soul ceases to function? The soul is eternal; death is simply the end of the beginning phase as the soul of man transitions into his place of eternal habitation. We start this Revival looking at this BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ETERNAL DESTINY OF A MAN'S SOUL!

My Goal is to break your mold. I want to challenge what you think so I can get you to think about what you think. Our Purpose this week is to build God's Kingdom and to make your life better (For you and for God). I want you to see the Person of God, the Potential within you, and the Power of the Holy Spirit and allow God to Transform you into the greatest God created you to become.

With that in mind I want us to turn to Luke 16: and look at the reason this Revival is the most important event that will happen in your life this week.

There are 8 things in Hell shown in this story that we desperately need in a church if it is to have revival.

- 1) Sinners
- 2) Recognition that there will be a time of Justice
- 3) Fire- Burning out the dross of sin and burning in our heart
- 4) A vision of Heaven
- 5) Earnest Specific Prayer
- 6) A Sense of the finality of Eternity
- 7) A missionary burden
- 8) A dependence on the Word of God- Miracles will not make it (A Lazarus did in fact rise from the dead and the Pharisees tried to have him and Jesus killed)

My Question for you today is DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE IN HELL?

- 1) Most church People believe in Hell with their minds but not with their hearts
 - a. Family Funerals
 - b. Daily Witness- Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; (2 Cor 5:11)
- 2) Many people believe the Partying in Life is worth the Pain of Hell
- 3) Most people believe that while some people may go to Hell they assuredly will not
 - a. Goodness will grant them escape
 - b. Last minute salvation will rescue them
- 4) You need to be absolutely sure today that Hell is Real and it is a place of Torment. Do not have to convince a drowning man he needs to be saved

Cast into the pain and torment of Hell there will come a day God will have court and at the Great White Throne Judgment death and Hell will give up their victims to be sentenced for an eternity in the Lake of Fire. Your eternal soul will know eternal pain because you refused to accept the Pardon and Grace of God offered through Jesus Christ.

“Hell is a place of ultimate suffering, unlimited torment, unquenchable fire, and eternal darkness; a place of “wailing and gnashing of teeth,” a place without one single solitary inch of sunshine and joy, a place of pain, pain, and more pain. And to make matters worse, it is forever. If you end up going there, you are stuck there for good. That is Hell” From “The Invisible World: Understanding Angels, Demons, and the Spiritual” by Anthony Destefano

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (1 Peter 5:8). It is not enough to believe the boat can carry you away from the lion who is seeking to devour you. You must get in the Boat! That is what I am asking you to do today.

RETURNING JOY TO YOUR RELIGION

Luke 15:1-7

There are joys which long to be ours. God sends ten thousands truths, which come about us like birds seeking inlet; but we are shut up to them, and so they bring us nothing, but sit and sing awhile upon the roof, and then fly away.--Henry Ward Beecher

Remember the difference between Happiness (Happiness is when things happen to happen happily) and Joy (Joy is that wonderful state of heart that rest in God's Peace instead of changing Circumstances).

The problem with today's society is that people have stopped desiring to Think- MUSE= Think A-MUSE= NO Think (Greek "A" means No). We have become people who want to be entertained without having to Think. We laugh at TV situations but we find no real joy.

2 Kinds of People are identified-

- 1) Publicans and Sinners drew near to hear him (No Music. Very little is said about music in Jesus' ministry)
- 2) Pharisees and Scribes saw and MURMURED
- 3) Jesus attracted Sinners; Pharisees repelled them. (What does that say about this Church?) How did He do that?
- 4) Jesus did not CATER to the Lost (Entertain the World)
- 5) Jesus did not COMPROMISE His Message (Ease up on the Wicked)
- 6) Jesus simply CARED for them. How can we make our Church more "Sinner Sensitive" so they will want to come here? If People are not convicted to be saved because of our service for God then we need to be convicted about our Service

Most people list 2 major complaints about Church- Sermons are boring and all they ask for is money. Jesus preached sermons that appealed to everyone
Lost Sheep appealed to Men (Work)
Lost Coin from wedding necklace appealed to Women (House)
Lost Children appeal to everyone

The Lost are in Danger, Out of Service, Miserable (How many hired servants of my father have bread and to spare!)

- Sheep lost because of Foolishness
- Coin Lost because of Carelessness- Jewish Women wore head band of ten coins (Same as wedding Band today)
- Son lost because of willfulness.

FOUR JOYS IN THIS STORY:

1) **For the Person Finding them-** Seek the Lost until they are found. Return Joy to your life and you will attract sinners to God- (Psa 51:12-13) *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

Different Service to Find Lost-

- 1) Go into the Wilderness seeking them
- 2) Sweep the House (Bellies, Bows, Benevolence).
- 3) Be at the House waiting on them

2) **For the Person's Friends and Family-** Share the Victory with Friends- "One can endure sorrow alone, but it takes two to be glad" --Elbert Hubbard

3) **In Heaven-** (Luke 15:7) *I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*
(Luke 15:10) *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*

4) **For the Person Found -**

- Under God's Protection (Sheep back in Fold)
- Back in Place (Valuable Coin Returned)
- Rejoicing at the Father's House (Son once again)

THINGS IN HELL WE NEED IN THE CHURCH

Luke 16:19-31

Jesus concludes His warning about the danger of allowing the riches of this world to control you by telling a story that has become familiar to all Bible Students. Jesus does not identify this as a Parable; and, since He never used proper names in Parables, we must assume this was a real story about real people.

The main characters in the story are a rich man who did not have time for anything but his own selfish pursuits and a poor beggar named Lazarus (God is my Help) whose only consolation in life was his trust in God. The story is about what happened after they died, with special emphasis placed on the plight of the rich man as he is tormented in Hell.

When the Rich man got to Hell he did not find it as he thought it might be; it was not a place of pleasure, party, and pride. Instead, he found torment, sorrow, and regret. What a Horrible Horrible place Hell is; and, yet, there are some valuable lessons we can learn from this story that will help us fulfill our mission for God. That is why today we want to look at
8 Things in Hell We Need in the Church:

1) **SINNERS**- "The rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell". Oh, how we need to have sinners in our services. No matter how marvelous the message is, nor how well it is delivered, it does no good if those who need to hear it are not here (Main reason for our Outreach Ministry is to get the message to those who aren't here!). How would a cook feel if day after day she cooked her very best 6 course meal and it had to be thrown away because no one came to eat it!!

How YOU need to make it your goal to get sinners into our services- Invite them, Be Friendly when they arrive, Show a sense of Excitement for excitement is contagious- **Make them believe that the most important part of your week is the time you meet in God's House with God's people to hear God's Message.**

2) **A VISION OF HEAVEN**- "He lifted up his eyes and seeth Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom". We are Pilgrims and Strangers here on this world. Heaven is our Hope and our Goal. How we need to lift up our eyes and see the glory that awaits us- *Jesus for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God* (Heb 12:2).

The way to get sinners to go to Heaven instead of Hell is to let them see that we can hardly wait to get to Heaven ourselves.

3) **EARNEST SPECIFIC PRAYER**- "He cried and said..."

A) Give me Mercy- He had Spurned it on earth but he desires it in Hell. Remember that Sinners receive Wages while Saints get Grace- *The Wages of sin is death but the Gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord* (Rom 6:23)

B) Send me Relief- Wouldn't give Lazarus the crumbs from his table but now wanted Lazarus to give him a drop of water. Many people despise the Preacher on earth but will long for him in Hell!!

How Churches need to learn to pray specifically for a world that needs help. Do we ever pray for God to raise up Preachers, Deacons, and Teachers from among our young people?? Do we cry that God would use US to reach someone who is close to eternity?

4) **FIRE**- "I am tormented in these flames". Recognizing the awfulness of the fire of Hell the Church needs to look for Fire in our Services. Not the Destroying Fire of Satan but the Dedication Fire of God. This kind of fire will be a:

A) Purging Fire- for Cleansing us into a Holy People for the Lord. (This may be the Fire of Conscience, of Problems, or of Persecution)

B) Guiding Fire- Israel in the Desert was guided by a Pillar of Clouds and Fire. We Need that kind of leadership today to lead us out of the Wilderness into the Promised land.

C) Powerful Fire- We need People with the power of the Holy Ghost on their work and the Fire of God burning in their heart so they can't help but do what they need to do for God (Jer 20:9).

5) **A RECOGNITION THAT THERE WILL BE A TIME OF JUSTICE**- The Rich Man received his good things in this life and Lazarus evil things; now Lazarus was comforted and the Rich Man tormented. Rom 8:28 is not just a verse we quote to appease people in problems. God is on the throne and Justice WILL prevail. Recognize that and don't spend your life worrying about people who seem to be "getting by" with things now. God knows what you do for Him and REWARDS will come from Him. Churches need to spend less time worrying about what the World is getting by with and more time thinking about what will be coming to them. We shouldn't envy the world but, instead, feel sorry that their fame and riches will one day perish in the flames; along with them!!

6) **A SENSE OF THE FINALITY OF ETERNITY**- There is a Great Impassable Gulf between Heaven and Hell. This is A PERMANENT SITUATION that CANNOT be changed after this life. Now is our only time to save them. There is no purgatory to pray them out of; as the tree falls so shall it lay.

7) **A MISSIONARY BURDEN**- Send him to My Father's House to testify to them lest they come to this place of torment. (Note that the Rich Man was still SELF Centered- My Needs, My Brothers). We must have a burden for the world beyond our walls. A church that looks only at it's own needs and wants will soon become a club full of bickering, back biting, and back sliding! What is the Burden of YOUR life? Is it just your needs and your family; or is it the world for which Christ died.

8) **A DEPENDENCE ON THE WORD OF GOD**- If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. Miracles won't make it! A Lazarus did in fact rise from the dead and these same Pharisees tried to have him killed! (John 11).

Faith built on sight and the spectacular will falter in the storms of life. The Just shall live by faith and faith comes by hearing the Word of God. We must Proclaim the Book, Practice the Book, and Stand on the Book.

Let us conclude with several observations:

1) Hell and Heaven both are real- better start living for eternity instead of the moment. Christians need to lay up riches and rewards in Heaven instead of on earth. And don't be discouraged about the way the world is going; God is still in control and His plan is working!!

2) YOU are going to Heaven or Hell depending on the choices you make in this life. Today is the day of Salvation if you are lost. We are not promised tomorrow but we are told eternity is permanent. Will you humble yourself before God today and accept Christ as your Savior?

WRONG ASSUMPTIONS

Luke 16:19-31

To conclude His teachings about the power of money in the life of people, Jesus tells a story about what happens after Death. Most of the time we major on Where the Rich Man ends up; but in the process we end up making some wrong Assumptions. Let's try to clear them up today...because wrong assumptions can sometimes lead you into deep trouble- I assumed someone had been taking our song books this morning when in reality they had been put under the Christmas Poinsettias. Imagine what would have happened had I accused someone of taking them!

1) It is a Wrong Assumption that RICHES ARE WRONG- The idea some people get from this story is that Rich men go to Hell while poor people go to Heaven. The first thing we must recognize is that Heaven is not based on the money in your pocketbook but on Christ in your heart!!

Job, Abraham, David, and Solomon were some of the richest men of their day. In fact, One sign of the fact that you have found favor with God is the fact that He blesses you with Riches. Some of the most dedicated Christians I know are people who earn a comfortable living.

Yes, Riches can ruin some people but that ruination is not based on how much money you have but on how much money has you! Some of the most covetous people in the world are those who don't have two nickels to rub together.

Don't assume that someone who is rich cannot be reached for the Lord; or cannot be a good servant of the Lord.

2) It is a Wrong Assumption that DEATH IS FINAL- Many people teach today that man ceases to exist when he dies. Man is a living soul and that soul will exist for eternity! Men today say we are to go for the gusto for we have only the joy and pleasures of this life. How they need to realize that this life is but a drop in the bucket compared to eternity. One day we will look back on this life as a dream that is dreamed and realize our few sacrifices on earth are as nothing compared to the joys of Heaven. Or we will look back on the few pleasures of earth and realize how little they were compared to the eternal pains of Hell!

Don't assume that what you see is what you get. This life is but the entrance way into eternity; and it is tremendously important that you choose the right door.

3) It is a Wrong Assumption that HELL IS FUN- The world tries to paint hell as a place of parties instead of punishment. They picture it as a place of companionship and wild living when in reality it is a place of Pain, Torment, and the awful loneliness of outer darkness.

You need to continuously remember that **HELL IS NOT A HOSPITAL FOR THE SICK BUT A PRISON FOR THE REBELLIOUS.** The people in Hell are not good people who just need a break; they are rebellious sinners who defy the leadership of God and the Moral standards of righteous living. Given the opportunity to come to Heaven they would turn it into a type of Hell!!

Don't assume your neighbor in Hell will be a beautiful blond who wants to party with you. Instead, you will be among people who think only of themselves and would gladly rape, murder, and rob you if they were given the chance.

4) It is a Wrong Assumption that WE WILL BE FLOATING SPIRITS IN HEAVEN. We will not be disembodied spirits that float around among the clouds of Heaven. We will be recognizable people who have a NEW BODY:

A) It will be LIKE THE OLD BODY

- 1) We will know one another (Rich Man knew Lazarus)
- 2) Our body will be solid to the touch- Jesus told Thomas to put his hands in his side or in the nail prints of his hand. The Rich man had eyes to see, a tongue to thirst, and a body to be tormented
- 3) It will be able to eat- Jesus ate fish. The tree of life is in Heaven to yield her fruit each month. The rich man wanted Water.

B) IT WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM OUR PRESENT BODY:

1) Flesh and bones but no blood- (1 Cor 15:50) *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. (Lev 17:11) For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.* The reason Jesus shed his Blood for us is because it represented the life of the Flesh. In Heaven this sin principle will no longer be a part of us.

2) Not bound by physical limitations- Able to go thru closed doors. Not bound by time (Rev 10:6). Fire tormented the rich man but did not destroy him. Christian will greatly joy in their new body while sinners will desire death but will not find it.

3) Need no clothes- Jesus left his clothes at the Cross and in the tomb. Adam and Eve were naked in the Garden and were not ashamed until sin entered. We will be clothed with the garment of light that God wears (Psalm 104:1-2). All those clothes you spent so much time and money on will be left behind. That's why God stress what is on the inside instead of what is worn on the outside.

4) It will feel No Pain if in HEAVEN. (Rev 21:4) *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

It will fell CONSTANT pain if in HELL- The Rich man was tormented in the Flames.

Don't assume that Heaven will be a place of doing nothing. We will have a new body and all kinds of new things to do and see. Freed from the limitations of this world we will know what the Abundant life is all about.

5) It is a Wrong Assumption that MIRACLES ARE MAGICAL- Miracles can attest to the authority of the preacher but they cannot produce conviction or conversion. The Rich man assumed that if Lazarus returned from the dead that his brothers would be saved. But we know a man named Lazarus did in fact return from the grave and no great revival broke out (John 11, 12). And we know that our Savior was resurrected from the dead, conquering death, hell, and the Grave, and multitudes of men today continue to reject His free offer of Salvation and eternal life.

The Salvation God calls you to today is not something just to stir you wonder and admiration. God is not out to just change your mind; He looks to change your heart so you can become a new creature that will honor and serve Him.

Don't assume that God will "hit you in the head with a two by four and drag you kicking and screaming to an altar to be saved". God's invitation is for those who are willing to forsake sin and trust Christ by Faith to be their Savior. The Miracle is not in what brings you to Christ but in what happens when you accept Him!!

CONVERTING CENTURIONS

If we demonstrate a perceivable relationship with God then people around us will be effected for Christ. Four times in Scripture we come into contact with a Roman Centurion (Commander of 100 troops). Each time God reveals a way for us to reach an unsaved world for Christ. Let's learn the Lesson and then put it into practice this week as we witness for the Lord.

1. **OUTREACH-** The Centurion who sent to Jesus for the Healing of his servant- Luke 7:1-10. This man heard of the ministry of Jesus from a distance and developed Faith to trust Him to heal his servant. Does our Reputation cause the world to want to trust Christ to meet their needs??

2. **JOB-** Julius the Centurion who rode with Paul on his trip to Rome. *And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band. (Acts 27:1)*
And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself. (Acts 27:3)

But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land: (Acts 27:43)

Watch the actions and Attitude of Paul convinced this man that Paul deserved his protection.

Do people who see us on the job gain a respect for our Christianity. When they get into trouble, would we be the ones they would think to call on to pray for and help them.

3. **PERSONAL WORK-** Cornelius the Centurion who was the first Gentile brought into the Church. Acts 10 His desire to know God was rewarded by his being the first Gentile officially welcomed into the Church.

Peter had to overcome his prejudice in order to share the gospel with this Gentile. We must overcome our prejudice, our fear of people, and our doubts about our ability (We preach Christ)

4. **EXALTING CHRIST IN THE MIDST OF TROUBLES-** The Centurion who Confessed Christ at the Cross. *Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man. (Luke 23:47)* This man saw the way Christ dealt with Pain, Persecution, and death and it convinced him that Jesus was the Son of God.

God's Plan for Jesus was the Cross. His disciples wanted Him to become King but God's Plan was different. By obeying God's Plan, even if it meant suffering, Christ was able to effect this rough Roman Centurion who was in the process of killing Him!! What does your faith do in the fires of life??

How do you convert Your Centurions? Communicate
Convict
Christ
Commit.

20 - Tapes
50 - Rdo
400 - Newspaper

CONVERTING CENTURIONS



Luke 7:1-10

4 Centurions- 4 ways to reach a lost world for Christ.



1. OUTREACH- Luke 7:1-10
Developing Faith from a Distance.



2. JOB- Acts 27. Julius who rode with Paul to Rome. Watching the actions and attitude of Paul convinced Julius that Paul's faith was real.

School/ Job/ Home

3. PERSONAL WORK- Acts 10
Cornelius was won when Peter came to his house.

Prejudice



4. CROSS CONDITIONS- Luke 23:47. When the Centurion saw the way Christ handled the crisis of the Cross he confessed he was the Son of God.



How do YOU convert Your Centurions??

1. COMMUNICATE

2. CONVICT

3. CHRIST

4. COMMIT



To Give Light
To Those Who Sit
In Darkness

CONVERTING CENTURIONS

If we demonstrate a perceivable relationship with God then people around us will be effected for Christ. Four times in Scripture we come into contact with a Roman Centurion (Commander of 100 troops). Each time God reveals a way for us to reach an unsaved world for Christ. Let's learn the Lesson and then put it into practice this week as we witness for the Lord.

1. THE CENTURION WHO WAS REACHED BECAUSE OF OUTREACH- The Centurion who sent to Jesus for the Healing of his servant in Luke 7:1-10.

This man heard of the ministry of Jesus from a distance and developed Faith to trust Him to heal his servant. Unwilling to put Jesus in a compromising position (Gentile and Jew), he asked the elders of the local synagogue to assist him by going to Jesus and asking for help.



Here was a man who developed a tremendous faith without the privilege of hearing Jesus in Church, in Conference, or even in a Crowd. He had to build his faith from a distance by reports of others. In this same way, God uses each of us today to build confidence in Christ and the Church in an unsaved world that will not normally come to Church. We can do that by praising the work and ministry of the Church to co-workers, unsaved family members, and others we meet.

We can also distribute books and tapes from the Church Outreach Ministry to people to acquaint them with the work God is doing here at Grace and to help them develop Faith in God to convert and change them. A good "sower" sows everywhere and marvels as God produces fruit in some of the most amazing places.

Does our Reputation cause the world to want to trust Christ to meet their needs?? Do you spread the good news of the Gospel to those outside the Church; or do you spread Gossip that destroys faith??

2. THE CENTURION WHO WAS REACHED BECAUSE OF HIS JOB- Julius the Centurion who rode with Paul on his trip to Rome. And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band. (Acts 27:1)

But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land: (Acts 27:43)

It was the job of this Centurion, Julius, to escort Paul to his trial in Rome. Although it was a time consuming task, it was also supposed to be a pleasant journey that was as close to a vacation as this Centurion would likely get.

Everything went well until they came to a decision about where the ship would put up for the winter. The Ship Captain didn't like the port they were in and neither did the Centurion. Paul, however, advised against leaving. But the Centurion took the advice of the Captain over the Preacher and the next day the ship was sailing out on seas that were deceptively smooth.

Soon, however, a mighty storm came up and the ship was in jeopardy. After they had try everything they knew to do without success, Paul appeared on the main deck and said God had revealed that He was going to spare the passengers on this ship for Paul's sake. And that is exactly what happened.

Watching the actions and attitude of Paul convinced this Centurion that Paul deserved his protection. Do people who see us in the stress and storms of the job gain a respect for our Christianity. When they get into trouble, would we be the ones they would think to call on to pray for and help them.

3. THE CENTURION WHO WAS REACHED BECAUSE OF PERSONAL WORK- Cornelius the Centurion who was the first Gentile brought into the Church (Acts 10).

This Centurion had a desire to know God and he did everything within his power to gain this knowledge. Still he came up short. One glorious day, however, God sent an angel to tell him to contact Peter and Peter would tell him how to find the eternal life he sought.

As the messengers were going to get Peter, God was delivering a mighty message to Peter to get him to overcome his prejudice in order to share the gospel with this Gentile. By the time the messengers arrived, Peter was ready to go to Cornelius' home and share the gospel with him face to face. And, as soon as Peter began telling the wonderful story of Jesus, the Spirit fell and Salvation entered that home.

If we are to share the Gospel as we should we too must learn to overcome our prejudice (This could be prejudice about riches, race, or regions of the world), our fear of people, and our doubts about our ability (We preach Christ). God has commanded EVERY Christian to be a witness to EVERY creature. When is the last time YOU shared the Gospel with someone person to person??



4. THE CENTURION WHO WAS REACHED THROUGH WATCHING CHRIST IN THE MIDST OF TROUBLES- The Centurion who Confessed Christ at the Cross. *Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.* (Luke 23:47) This man saw the way Christ dealt with Pain, Persecution, and death and it convinced him that Jesus was the Son of God.

God's Plan for Jesus was the Cross. His disciples wanted Him to become King but God's Plan was different. By obeying God's Plan, even if it meant suffering, Christ was able to affect this rough Roman Centurion who was in the process of killing Him!! What does your faith do in the fires of life??

Four Centurions, each reached for Christ by a different means but with the same message, "Christ is the answer you need about your sin problem and your life problems." How about YOU?? Has God been trying to change you from a "Centurion" into a Christian? The only person who can open the door and let Him in is YOU. Will you do so today?

WORKING IN GOD'S TEAM

Luke 10:1-20

In Christian Service there is no Unemployment! EVERY part of the Body of Christ is vital to the Mission God has given us. ~~Never is this going to be more evident than right now as we enter into a period of Physical, Spiritual, Financial, and Numerical growth.~~ Every Nail driven will be a help. Every Nickel given will be a help. Every knee bend in prayer will be a help. Every knock on a door will be important.

I know EVERYONE is Busy in this day and age- some are busy doing important work, some are busy doing unimportant work, and some are busy just being busy! Today I want to share with you about the greatest work in the world; God's Work, and how you can be a part of this work as you actively join God's Team.

I. THE TEAM'S WORK- vs 1-9.

A) LABORERS for a great Harvest. Recruited by Prayer and Vision.

- 1> A NEEDED Work- The harvest Truly is Great
- 2> A WORTHWHILE Work- Lift up your eyes and look on the Harvest
- 3> A WINNING Work- The Lord of the Harvest Sends laborers

B) GUIDELINES for employment

- 1> Must face DANGERS- Lambs among Wolves (Requires Commitment)
- 2> Must face DIVISIONS- Peace will rest or return (Cooperation)
- 3> Must face DRUDGERIES- Same house, Eat whatever (Competition)
- 4> Must remember DUTY- Proclaim Christ and do His Work- Not

trying to make a convert but release a prisoner.

↓ Follow to become what you want

II. THE TEAM'S WARNING- vs 10-16 Jesus would not pass this way again.

This was their final chance to let Him work in their location.

- A) Receive Christ or be Rejected by Christ- vs 10-11
- B) Opportunities demand Responsibilities- 12-15
- C) You are not rejecting the Messenger but the Message- vs 16

III. THE TEAM WINS- vs 17-20

- A) Power over the Enemy
- B) Promise of Eternal Life is most important.

HERE ARE SOME PEOPLE ALREADY ON GOD'S TEAM:

Susan- Nursery List *ATFlea - Kitchen Sappies*
 Paula- Refreshment List
 Janice- Food Committee/Articles record
 Jan- Copy Tapes
 Various- Sign
 Tom, Frankie, Clay, Jamie, Jackie- Music
 Youth Committee- Easter Play, VBS, Youth Activities

HERE ARE SOME AREAS THAT WE NEED WORKERS:

Need - Write and run Bulletin, Bulletin Board, Building Committee
Chairman, Brotherly Concern, *Burden Bearers*

HERE IS A QUESTION YOU NEED TO ANSWER- Are you on God's Team or do you work of Satan? Have you Accepted Christ as Savior? Is your Affection for God? Do your Activities center around God? God still has room on His team for YOU. Don't pass up this chance to join.

WORKING IN GOD'S TEAM

Luke 10:1-20

In Christian Service

there is no
unemployment!

Everyone is Busy:

1. Important Work
2. Unimportant Work
3. Busy Work

Every
*NAIL
*NICKEL
*KNEE
*KNOCK
Important

I. THE TEAM'S WORK- 1-9

A) LABORERS- Harvest

- 1>A NEEDED Work
- 2>A WORTHWHILE Work
- 3>A WINNING Work

B) GUIDELINES for Employment
1>DANGERS (Commitment)
2>DIVISIONS (Cooperation)
3>DRUDGERIES (Competition)
4>DUTY (Converts)

II. THE TEAM'S WARNING- 10-16

Christ would not pass this way again

A) Receive or Rejected



B) Opportunities demand
Responsibilities **THINK**

**C) Not Rejecting the
Messenger but the Message**

III. THE TEAM WINS- 17-20

- A) POWER over the Enemy**
- B) PROMISE of Eternal Life**



**ARE YOU ON GOD'S TEAM; OR
DO YOU WORK FOR SATAN?**

- ➡ Must be BORN onto God's Team**
- ➡ ACTIVITIES center around God**
- ➡ AFFECTION is for God**

**SURRENDER TO
GOD TODAY.**



IS IT WORTH IT?

Rev. Mike Jones, Lebanon FWB Church

Luke 9: 23-26

“There is no sin for which it is worth your while to be damned.” –Spurgeon. How very wise was this great preacher of the Gospel, Charles Spurgeon. Think of it. What sinful pleasure or activity could you do that would be worth the eternal pain and suffering it would bring?

Satan tries to make Sin Fun (I should want to do it), Famous (The In Crowd is doing it), and Familiar (Everyone is doing it so you should do it also). What he fails to tell you, however, is that Sin is expensive. It cost Adam Paradise. It cost Saul his Kingdom. It cost Heaven its most precious possession, the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ. One of the greatest truths you will ever learn is that there is a high price for low living.

Is Sin worth the price you must pay in:

I. The Fruit it produces-

A) Sin Corrupts our life- Ask the battered wife of a drunkard.

B) Sin Captures our soul- Taken captive by Satan at his will (II Tim 2:26). Sin is Never Satisfied. Like a burning fire, it demands more and more from you.

C) Sin Changes our personality- Sin makes people deceitful, distrustful, and deadly. People do things under the influence of Sin in their life that they would never dream about under “normal” circumstances.

Just one example of Sinful behavior will show the Fruit of Sin- Is Pornography worth it?

It Dirties your mind

It Disillusions your dreams

It Diseases your body.

It Drains your pocketbook

It Disgraces your family

It Disappoints God.

II. The Scars that remain- What a tangled web we weave when we practice to deceive. Look at the

A) Litter left behind by sin- Debt, Disease, Discord

B) Lost of potential for God- Leadership disqualifications, Financial Captivity, Testimony lost

III. The Wages it earns:

A) In this life: Sin kicked Adam out of the Garden, brought weeds into the world, and put a barrier between God and man that only the blood of Christ can breach- *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* (Romans 6:23)

B) In Eternity: Can I get a testimony from someone in Hell- Ask the Rich Man in Hell if Sin is worth it? *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.* (Luke 16:23-24)

Is it worth it to serve the Lord? Why I want to go to Heaven:

My Relatives have gone to live there (The Rich Man begged that his brothers NOT come to Hell)

My Riches are Stored there

My Rewards are given there

My Rest begins there- there remains a rest to the people of God.

My Redeemer is awaiting there- Finally, I shall see Him face to face whom so long I have known heart to heart.

“There is no sin for which it is worth your while to be damned.” What is your choice today?

9-11-94 11AM GRAC WVLC
Daddy Wise Jani

WHEN PROPHET'S DOUBT

Luke 7:18-23

Put in prison for his stand against Sin, John awaited the time Jesus would declare Himself king, throw off the yoke of Roman oppression, and free him from his prison cell. Instead, he languished in jail while Jesus simply preached, called disciples, and performed miracles.

The raising of the Widow of Nain's son was the last straw. If Jesus could raise the dead then surely He could free His friend John from his Roman cell. Because in that cell, John had become a "Doubting Prophet". He had begun to doubt his Mission and his Master. This kind of doubt will cripple your enthusiasm, steal your energy, and destroy your joy. And, sadly, it's not unusual in the Bible, or in the lives of ordinary people.

Let's allow God to clearly show us the problem and then find His solutions.

Doubt vs Unbelief- Doubt is a matter of the mind: we cannot understand what God is doing or Why He is doing it. Unbelief is a matter of the will; We refuse to believe God's Word and obey what He is telling us to do. Doubt may not always be wrong; it may simply be thinking.

Moses was ready to quit (Num 11:10-15), Elijah (I Kings 19), Jeremiah (20:7-9), Paul (2 Cor 1:8-9)

JOHN'S DOUBTS- Was Jesus really the Messiah? Had John goofed up when he proclaimed Jesus was the Lamb of God? Had the voice from Heaven and the Holy Spirit as a dove at the Baptism of Jesus been simply a hallucination? Was it meant for John to rot in a Roman cell? Was this how God repaid those who faithfully did their job for Him?

TODAY- Parents do their best but their children don't. You expect nothing but affirmation for your work but instead there is some opposition. God's program does not conform with what you think God's program should be.

WHAT IS YOUR PRISON?? Remember this is a Prison you are in because it's God's Plan for your life. This is not the prisons we sometimes make on our own.

DEBT

DISEASE

DIVORCE

DEATH

DOUBT

By the Year 2000 over 1/2 of America will be single

JESUS' ANSWER- Jesus did not preach a message or teach a class on "What to expect from a Messiah". He performed Miracles and conveyed a Message (Blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me- Blessed is he that does not stumble over me (NIV). Another translated it "Blessed is he that does not feel I have let him down").

THE ANSWER TO DOUBTS ARE NOT IN YOUR MIND!!

1. Re-Affirm the Mission
2. Divide the Responsibility (Moses- 70 Elders, Elijah- Elisha, Jeremiah- "The Lord is with me", Paul- Fellow Believers)
3. Re-Dedicate to your Task.

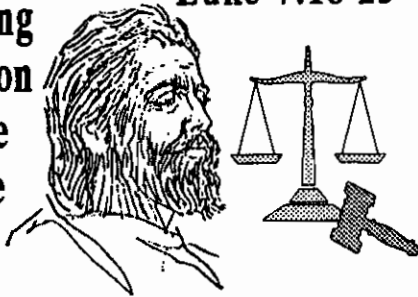
Jesus said John the Baptist was Elijah that was to come if Isreal would have accepted Christ as Messiah. Like Elijah, John thundered his message of repentance but eventually ended up in a cave (cell) because of a woman.

Would you be satisfied with Christ as your postion if there was no Hell to be saved from??

WHEN PROPHETS DOUBT

Are you willing to rot in prison for God while others receive praise and adoration??

Luke 7:18-23



DOUBT VS UNBELIEF

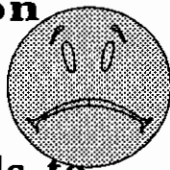
Doubt is a matter of the MIND. We cannot understand what God is Doing or Why.



Unbelief is a matter of the WILL. We refuse to believe God's word and obey what He is telling us to do.



John began to Doubt His Mission and His Master




Doubt leads to Discouragement leads to Despair leads to Drop out which can lead to the Danger of Ship Wreck of Faith!!

Many Bible Heros have wrestled with Doubts and wanted to quit

HEROS	ZEROS
Moses- Num 11:10-15	DEBT - Poor ALWAYS
Elijah- I Kings 19	DISEASE
Jeremiah- 20:7-9	DIVORCE - single 50%
Paul- 2 Cor 1:8-9	DEATH
	DISCOURAGE

JESUS' ANSWER

1. No Message on Messiah } Answer not in your Mind !!
2. Miracles 
3. Statement "Blessed is he that does not feel I have let him down"

Are you willing to trust God's Plan even if it includes Prison??

I Pet 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful creator.

**FEED YOUR FAITH
AND YOUR DOUBTS
WILL STARVE**



7 ATTRIBUTES OF GOD TO REST IN DURING TRIAL

- 1. God is Righteous-Integrity**
- 2. God is Omnipotent- Power**
- 3. God is Truth-Faithful**
- 4. God is Stable- Unchanging**
- 5. God is Holy-Faultless**
- 6. God is Wisdom-Best Way**
- 7. God is Love-Cornerstone**

3-25-84
Revival Piney Grove

WHERE ARE THE NINE?

Luke 17:11-19

12-13

- The steamer, Lady Elgin, was carrying 323 passengers. IT was a chilly evening in early September. She was brilliantly lighted and loaded with travelers. Suddenly, before she reached the port of Chicago, she began to sink. Obviously, before help could arrive, she would be gone. The crowd on the shore watched the tragedy; most were powerless to help.

Two brothers, students in a theological seminary, plunged through the crowd with a rope in their hands. Nat, the elder, a power man and a trained swimmer, leaped into the water. Inch by inch, he fought his way through the waves until he reached the sinking ship and climbed aboard. A moment later with herculean strength, he carried back to safety a woman. With eager arms the crowd helped to haul him in; he was choking and cold, but still strong. Again he plunged in- and again- and again!

Twenty-three lives Nat spencer saved. For weeks he lay delirious. Meanwhile the 23 whom he had saved, scattered to their homes. IN time, the nation began to for get the tragedy of the death of 300 in Lake Michigan.

But the 23 whom he had saved, surely they did not forget. Surely, they were grateful! But not one of them ever came back to thank Nat Spencer for what he had done. Not one of them even wrote him a letter. Nat spencer lived out his life as an invalid. Not one of the 23 people said, "Thank You."

Is this not like what Jesus faced when he had cleansed the 10 lepers and only 1 returned to give him thanks. In amazement Jesus asked, "Where are the 9?"

Can it happen today? Could it happen here? We have multitudes of people who have received Blessing from God (Salvation, Financial help, sickness cured, etc) and yet they won't even come to Church regularly to give God Thanks. Where are the 9?

1. Maybe they're at Home with an excuse- ^{man 22} Married a wife, bought a field or oxen. Whatever the excuse they always find some reason to miss Church. (Story of man who was given 6 coins and stole 7th). NO FAITHFULNESS
2. Asleep in the Garden- Like the 5 foolish virgins or the Disciples while Jesus Prayed. No time to lift a Prayer to God. Tired
3. Warning at Satan's fire- Peter These are so busy fellowshiping with the world until they don't have time for God.
4. Down in the Hog Pen- Prodicical wasting God's gifts on worldly pleasures. (IF I told you I needed money for medicen and spent it on meanness you'd be angry)
5. In the Whale's Belly- Jonah the disobedient servant. Disregarding God's Plan for his life. ^{out of place}
6. Under the Juniper Tree- Elijah the discouraged cause things aren't going your way at Church. ^{out of focus}
7. Down in Sodom- Lot seeking wealth at the expense of loss of fellowship with God and family. Money can't buy happiness ^{Get Priorities in order}
8. Gone Fishing- Peter and the disciples returning to former way of life. Sow that was washed to wallowing in mire. ^{lovest than me more}
9. Working instead of waiting- Martha cumbered about with much serving. More interested in the Gift than the Giver. (Stuart Briscoe's kids "What did you Bring us?"

When Paul begins to tell about the fall of man into the pits of sins and dispair he begins like this- Rom 1:21 BEcause that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

If You're Not thankful enough to God for sight to walk in the light then your eyes may go blind like the Bat. Where are the 9?

See Dec. Pulpit Helps

Where Are the Nine? Luke 17:11-19

Jesus had cleansed the 10 lepers as they obeyed his instructions but ~~only~~ only 1 of the ten returned to give Thanks and Jesus asked, "Where are the Nine?". In the Average Church today we find multitudes of people who have received blessings from God [SALVATION, FINANCIAL help, sickness cured] and yet they won't even come to Church regularly in order to give God Thanks. Where are they at?

man who was given 6 days and stole 7th married a wife

NO FAITHFULNESS
Time to awake out of sleep. go to Ant diggard
NO separation
Disobedient
Discouraged
Looking for money
Returned to former way of life
Impatient

1. At home with an excuse - Bought a field, Bought an oxen
2. Asleep in the Garden - 5 foolish virgins / Disciples while Jesus Prayed
3. Warning at SATAN'S fire - Peter [Fellowshipping with world]
4. Down in the Hog Pen - Prodigal Ran away from God. seeking worldly pleasure
5. In Whales Belly - Jonah Disobedient to God.
6. Under the Juniper Tree - Elijah Discouraged cause didn't go your way
7. Down in Sodom - Lot seeking wealth at the expense of loss of Fellowship with God and Family
8. Gone Fishing - Peter and Disciples - Returned to former way of life
9. Working instead of Waiting - Martha covered a soul with much working.

They that wait on the Lord Renew strength
While I was busy here and there the captain was gone.
Abraham - Ishmael born because of Impatience

Needs of A Growing Christian

- 1 - Food MAT 4:4 man shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God
- 2 - Cleansing look into mirror of word, examine self, confess, be cleansed.
- 3 - Exercise I Tim 4:7 Exercise thyself unto godliness

TAKING God For granted

see Rom 1:21

244711
2

Puzzle 7-2-3
1. Boy
7-4-5
6-8 5

Revival Walker's Chapel

Tuesday, Nov. 24

[Rev. Don Tindal]

Luke 17:11-19 "Where ARE the Nine?"

1. At home - Excuses ^{Married a wife - too involved in the world}
^{Bought a field - Bought oxen - Business}
2. Asleep in the garden / Five foolish Virgins ^{Time to awake out of sleep}
3. Warming by Satan's Fire - Peter
4. Down in Hog Pen - Prodigal
5. Disobedient to God - JONAS - In Whale's Belly
6. Under the Juniper Tree - Elijah
7. Down in Sodom - Lot
8. Hypnotised - GAL 3:1 - Bewitched
9. - Gone Fishing - Peter and the Disciples

PRAYER

FINANCIAL

Lame MAN carried to Christ

Bible Study

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened

some are here today that are sincere. You realize that Life's Blessings come from God and you want to do the right thing. But you wonder what you can do- Ps 116:12-13 *What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of Salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.*

SOME ARE HERE AS CHRISTIANS AND YOU REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN GOD FOR GRANTED AND YOU NEED TO APOLIJIZE TO GOD. (Example of Sturt Briscoe's Kids)

Filthy Rags / Dirty Glass

CROSS COST

Rev. Mike Jones

And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:25-33).

And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting. (Luke 18:18-30).

What are you willing to Give Up for Christ?

COUNT THE COST OF COMMITMENT:

- Your relationship with your family- *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. (Matthew 10:36) - Sometimes when you get what you want you do not want what you get!*
- Your own ambitions and desires- *And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*
- Your plans and dreams- *So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

WHAT IS THE MISSING INGREDIENT IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD? *Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.*

What do you expect from your relationship with Christ?

WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME? *Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting*

- The Relationship is worth the sacrifice
- The Results are worth the commitment
- The Future glory is worth the present groanings

THINGS IN HELL WE NEED IN THE CHURCH

Luke 16:19-31

Our TRAINING Failure- 18

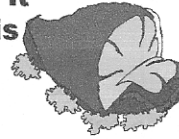
Our GROWTH Failure- 10%

Our INFLUENCE Failure



8 Things in Hell we Need in the Church

1) SINNERS- No matter
how good the message, it
does no good if no one is
here to hear it !!



2) A VISION OF HEAVEN

Change the Way YOU
view your Church.



Change the Way
OTHERS view
your Church.



3) EARNEST SPECIFIC PRAYER

A) Give me MERCY-
Spurned it on Earth but
longs for it in Hell

B) Send me RELIEF-
Wouldn't give Lazarus
his crumbs but now
wanted him to bring a
drop of water!

Do WE
Pray for
God to call
our
Children to
be
Preacher,
Deacons,
Teachers?

Pray PRIVATELY

Pray PUBLICALLY

Pray PARTICULARLY

Pray PASSIONATELY



4) FIRE Not Destroying but Changing

A) Purging Fire-
To Burn up Chaff



B) Guiding Fire-
in Dark of Night



**C) Powerful Fire- Holy Ghost
Fire to rest on God's People to
accomplish God's Work**

To try to do God's Work without
God's Power is like trying to
empty the ocean with a pitchfork-
You will work yourself to death
and never accomplish anything.



**5) A RECOGNITION THAT
THERE WILL BE A TIME
OF JUSTICE**



**God is on the Throne and
Justice will prevail.**

**God knows what YOU
do for Him and HE will
reward you**

**6) A SENSE OF THE
FINALITY OF ETERNITY**

**A Great Impasse between
Heaven and Hell.
This is a PERMANENT situation.**



**NOW is the only time
we can reach them for
Christ.**

7) A MISSIONARY BURDEN

**The Rich Man's prayers
were all SELF
centered- MY needs,
MY Brothers**

**What
about
YOUR
Prayers?**

**We must have a
burden for the World
beyond our Walls**



**8) A DEPENDENCE ON
THE WORD OF GOD**



**Faith built on Sight
or the Spectacular
will Falter- Lazarus
did in fact rise from
the dead and the
Pharisees tried to
Kill him!!**

**The Just
shall live by
Faith.
Faith comes
by hearing
the Word of
God**

You Cannot Do it without God / God will not do it without you

PEOPLE TO WHOM JESUS GRANTED FORGIVENESS

Pastor Mircheal Jones

THE SERVICE OF FORGIVENESS

Luke 7:36-50

As we continue our look at the people to whom Jesus granted Forgiveness I want us to see the expected RESULTS of that forgiveness. Jesus demonstrated His Forgiveness of the man with Palsy by telling him to get up and walk. Today we are going to talk about the Method and Motivation for that walk.

As we read through today's scripture we will see FIVE ASPECTS OF SERVICE rendered by someone who is forgiven.

1. SACRIFICIAL SERVICE- (Vs 37) *And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment. This Alabaster box of Ointment was probably this woman's dowry. She was sacrificing one of the most precious items in her life to render service for Christ.*

BUT ISN'T THAT WHAT WE ALL ARE SUPPOSED TO DO???- Jesus may not call everyone to leave family and fortune to follow Him but He does call everyone to be willing to leave all for Him!!

What area does God call YOU to Serve with Sacrifice?

--Teaching, Preaching, Singing, Helping, Praying (Real Praying is some of the hardest work you will ever do).

--Showing the light of your testimony in some very dark places (in work, family, or social situations).

--Doing without finances, friends, or family in order to serve in the situation of God's choosing.

2. PERSONAL SERVICE- (vs 38) *And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. She washed His feet with HER tears and wiped them with HER hair. This was not service rendered with her mind somewhere else. It involved a Personal commitment of everything she had.*

Do you give God your "extra" time?? Do you try to "find time to fit church activities" into your already overworked schedule? Or do you come to worship God with your Body, Soul, and Spirit?? Do you adore God in the Hymns, worship Him in the Prayers, and Learn from Him in the Sermons??

Does the Church Service affect you; or is it mostly forgotten by the time you get home??

3. MISUNDERSTOOD SERVICE- (vs 39) *Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. Sometimes the service you render God will be misunderstood by Family and Friends, as well as Foes. They will look at WHAT you do rather than at WHY you do it. You will expect people to love and admire you for your sacrifice; and they will condemn you for your methods.*

This is Satan's way of bringing in Discouragement and Doubt. Remember you are rendering Service TO THE LORD. He is the one who must judge it; and He understands your Motives as well as your Methods.

Don't let the fact that some misunderstand divert you from your Mission for God.

4. **LOVING SERVICE-** (vs 40-43) And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. 41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? 43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

Jesus said the basis of obedience is Love- John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

It is evident that Love is also the Motivation for Service. That's why Satan tries to make sin seem so trivial (Everyone is doing it). If Sin is not a big thing then the Sacrifice needed to cleanse it is not so big; and our Love for Christ grows smaller and smaller- Mat 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Romans 1:21 talks about the fact that the "Gateway into the depth of sin's depravity" begins with an unthankful heart. This unthankful heart develops when we lose our Love for God- If you like your work, any difficulty is just another challenge. If you dislike your work, even feather beds have lumps!?

Do you serve God out of LOVE or Social Obligation (Everyone expects me to be active in Church). Love will draw you into serving with all your heart. Obligation will drive you into doing the minimum you can do and still maintain a public face.

5. **REWARDED SERVICE-** (vs 44-50) And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. 45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. 48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

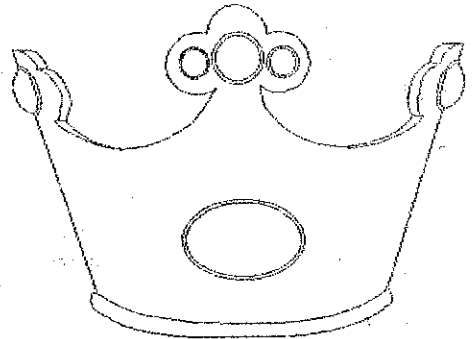
49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

It is evident that the woman was saved by Faith and not works (vs 50) but it also evident that Jesus saw her Faith in her works.

Salvation is a Free Gift. Remember, however, that God will Reward the Service of Believers- Rev 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. Are you laying up treasures in Heaven? Or spending your time and energy on earthly pleasures and pursuits that will all be burned up one day???

The fact that you are Forgiven should motivate you to give Sacrificial, Personal Service to Christ; even if it's misunderstood sometimes. As long as this service is motivated by Love and Manifested in actions then you can expect a "Well done, good and faithful servant". And isn't that what you are looking for??



FOUNDATIONS

(Luke 6:47) Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like: (48) He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

4 FOUNDATION STONES AT GRACE

- 1) The BIBLE is the Word of God and our rule of faith and practice
- 2) All men are sinners and Need to accept Christ for Salvation
- 3) God's Work in the most vital work in the world
- 4) We want to be the best we can be for God and we know that the Greatest of all shall be servant of all. We, therefore, look for ways to serve God by serving others

WHY DO WE NEED THESE FOUNDATIONS?

(2 Tim 3:1-5) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. {2} For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, {3} Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, {4} Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; {5} Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

THERE IS A GRAVE DANGER IN ABANDONING THESE FOUNDATIONS

- A) Lot lost his Reputation, Family, and Possessions
- B) When bad times come what will you have to hold you up-(Jer 12:5) *If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?*

(Rev 14:9-12) And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, {10} The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: {11} And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. {12} Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Is YOUR foundation secure today?

Do you need to accept Christ as your savior or rededicate yourself to His service?

FOUNDATIONS

(Luke 6:47) Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like: (48) He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. {49} But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

WE HAVE SEVERAL FOUNDATIONS STONES HERE AT GRACE THAT WE BUILD ON:

- 1) The BIBLE is the Word of God and our rule of faith and practice
- 2) All men are sinners and Need to accept Christ for Salvation
- 3) God's Work in the most vital work in the world
- 4) We want to be the best we can be for God and we know that the Greatest of all shall be servant of all. We, therefore, look for ways to serve God by serving others- Outreach.

WHY WE NEED THESE FOUNDATIONS- What kind of storms are coming?

- 1) World Standards Change- Dress, Morals, Progress that is good/bad
- 2) Every value that we have built upon is being attacked- Life (Abortion) and Death (Euphynasium). Love (Sex) and Marriage (Homosexual). Education is replacing Dedication, Guidelines are what is Fun or Feels Good or Fashionable at the moment.

(2 Tim 3:1-5) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. {2} For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, {3} Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, {4} Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; {5} Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

THERE IS DANGER IS ABANDONING THESE FOUNDATIONS:

- A) Lot lost his Reputation, Family, and Possessions
- B) When bad times come what will you have to hold you up- (Jer 12:5) If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?

(Rev 14:9-12) And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, {10} The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: {11} And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. {12} Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Is YOUR foundation secure today?? Do you need to accept Christ as your savior or rededicate yourself to His service?

PERCEIVABLE POWER

Luke 6:12, 17-19

Some people when they enter a room cause a stir. They can be a total stranger to everyone there and within 30 minutes be the center of attention. That's called Charisma. It is a NATURAL gift that some people just have (And those of us who are "wall flowers" slightly envy!). I'm not sure that Jesus had this "Charisma" but I do know that there were times in His life when He had a "Perceivable Power" that attracted people to Him for Healing and Help.

I understand and know that we cannot perform miracles in the same way as the Lord did (Although He did say that *He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father-* John 14:12). But I believe that there is a power we can have as Christians that will be evident to those around us (Even if sometimes its not evident to us!).

1. This Perceivable Power will bear evidence of our Relationship with God:

A) To US- *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (Rom 8:16)*. What a confidence builder that becomes. Circumstances and Persecution don't cause us to doubt our salvation. But it's not just a good feeling; it's a witness in our heart that we are children of God.

B) To GOD- *The Holy Spirit is God's "Brand" on us- In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (Eph 1:13)*. God looks down from Heaven and immediately knows His children because of the indwelling Spirit. We might fool other people but God knows instantly if we belong to Him.

C) To OTHERS- *And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. (Exo 34:29-30)*

When Moses met with God his face shone. When Stephen bore witness to Christ before he was stoned his face shone. There is something about a relationship on the inside that will shine through the face and personality of a person. In the natural world we see it in the "glow" that a woman who is expecting manifest; or in the radiant beauty that shines from a young girl who has an engagement ring!!

If the light of God is at work on the inside it will find ways to shine through to the outside.

D) To ENEMIES- *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)*. Enemies of Christ and the Church will often look down their nose at Christians and describe them as uneducated people who just don't know any better. But the entire time they're scoffing with their mouths, their heart is telling them that there is something different about these people.

HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT OBTAINING THIS PERCEIVABLE POWER:

1. SPEND TIME WITH GOD: This is what Jesus did--And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. (Luke 6:12). Jesus, the very Son of God, would often spend extended time periods in prayer and communion with God.

**PERCEIVABLE POWER
IS NOT A
MICROWAVABLE PRODUCT!!**

Today we say we're too busy. We need to remember the old saying, "If you are too busy to pray then you're too busy!" Perceivable power is not a microwave product. It must be developed; and supported, by spending time with God.

2. SPEND TIME WITH GOD: This is what Moses did-- And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments. (Exo 34:28). Principles to build your life upon aren't found in "sound bites" on TV. They don't develop in your heart from a 5 minute time of giving God His orders each day that you call your prayer time. Principles that build perceivable power in your life are built with day by day devotion to God--Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: (Isa 28:9-10)

3. SPEND TIME WITH GOD- This is what WE must do. Every person here knows the truth of what I'm saying today. You've seen people with perceivable power and you know it didn't come in a quickly swallowed pill or a hastily prayed prayer. You know that the person who has it is a person who consistently and constantly spends time with God; sometimes with sweat drops almost like drops of blood!! But they're willing to pay any price for that special time of communion with God.



Do YOU have a quiet time EVERY day that you use to build a relationship with God?

Do you spend time reflecting on God's will and work in your life? It is when we meditate on the work and wonder of God that our souls draw into that close communion with Him that is evident in perceivable power.

3 ATTITUDES THAT KEEP YOU FROM EXPERIENCING GOD.

Luke 18:9-25

Every Wife is SUPPOSED to be a Woman but every Woman is not a Wife.

You can be in the house but not part of the Family

1) RELIGIOUS DELUSION- 9-14

The Pharisee was Deluded About:

--Prayer. He prayed with himself in order to tell God how good he was.

--Himself. Thought he was accepted by God because of what He DID or DIDN'T DO.

--The Publican. Thought he was a great sinner but the Publican went home justified instead of the Pharisee.

2) PUTTING PROJECTS ABOVE PEOPLE- 15-17

--You can't love God and Hate His Children!!

--Disciples were always sending away people that Jesus wanted to help

--Prejudice is as bad as Prideful Prayer.



3) UNWILLINGNESS TO COMMIT TO GOD'S REQUIREMENTS-18-25

The rich young ruler wanted a faith that did not CHANGE his values or upset his lifestyle; and that did not REQUIRE that He commit everything to Christ.



God Desires:

- Humbleness instead of Pride
- Sincerity instead of Hypocrisy
- A willingness to learn instead of busy activity
- Total Dedication instead of simply doing what you think is good.



Vs 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Vs 17 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

Vs 24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have richer enter into the kingdom of God!

**THINGS IN HELL WE
NEED IN THE CHURCH**
Luke 16:19-31

Our **TRAINING** Failure- 18
Our **GROWTH** Failure- 10%
Our **INFLUENCE** Failure




**8 Things in Hell we
Need in the
Church**

1) SINNERS- No matter
how good the message, it
does no good if no one is
here to hear it !!



2) A VISION OF HEAVEN

Change the Way **YOU**
view your Church.



Change the Way
OTHERS view
your Church.



**3) EARNEST SPECIFIC
PRAYER**

A) Give me MERCY-
Spurned it on Earth but
longs for it in Hell

B) Send me RELIEF-
Wouldn't give Lazarus
his crumbs but now
wanted him to bring a
drop of water!


Do **WE**
Pray for
God to call
our
Children to
be
Preacher,
Deacons,
Teachers?

Pray PRIVATELY

Pray PUBLICALLY


Pray PARTICULARLY

Pray PASSIONATELY




**4) FIRE Not Destroying
but Changing**

A) Purging Fire-
To Burn up Chaff



B) Guiding Fire-
in Dark of Night



**C) Powerful Fire- Holy Ghost
Fire to rest on God's People to
accomplish God's Work**

To try to do God's Work without
God's Power is like trying to
empty the ocean with a pitchfork-
You will work yourself to death
and never accomplish anything.

**5) A RECOGNITION THAT
THERE WILL BE A TIME
OF JUSTICE**



**God is on the Throne and
Justice will prevail.**

**God knows what YOU
do for Him and HE will
reward you**

**6) A SENSE OF THE
FINALITY OF ETERNITY**

**A Great Impasse between
Heaven and Hell.
This is a PERMANENT situation.**



**NOW is the only time
we can reach them for
Christ.**

7) A MISSIONARY BURDEN

**The Rich Man's prayers
were all SELF
centered- MY needs,
MY Brothers**

**What
about
YOUR
Prayers?**

**We must have a
burden for the World
beyond our Walls**



**8) A DEPENDENCE ON
THE WORD OF GOD**



**Faith built on Sight
or the Spectacular
will Falter- Lazarus
did in fact rise from
the dead and the
Pharisees tried to
Kill him!!**

**The Just
shall live by
Faith.
Faith comes
by hearing
the Word of
God**

3-26-95 9 AM Grace
3-27-95 Seniors

STRIKING OUT STRESS

Luke 10:38-42

This portion of Scripture deals with a problem ALL of us deal with on a regular basis- Stress. It is about two sisters with different personalities and different approaches to life. Martha is the Type "A" WORKER who is always seen active and anxious. Mary is always seen as a WORSHIPER at the feet of Jesus (Here she sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to the Word. In John 11:38 She Wept at His Feet about Her Brother. In John 12:3 She Worshiped by putting fragrance on the feet of Jesus). Those are two elements everyone needs in their relationship with God- Workers and Worshipers; Blessed are the Balanced.

In today's scripture, Martha is rebuked because she allows Stress to control her life and keep her from a proper relationship with Christ. From her example we want to gather six questions we can ask ourselves about our own life that will help us Strike Out Stress.

I. FIRST QUESTION WE MUST ASK OURSELVES IS, WHAT CAUSES YOU STRESS?"

1. Time Pressure
2. Peer Pressure (Trying to meet the Expectations of Others)
3. Personality Pressure (Type A Worker vs Worshiper)
4. Change of Circumstances/Loss of Control.

II. WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD WE ASK ABOUT STRESS?

1. Does it Cumber me (Make me anxious) vs 40 *over occupied and too busy*
2. Does it Control me vs 41
3. Does it produce Conflicts with those I love- vs 40 (Thought. Jesus and Mary didn't care)
4. Does it Trouble me- vs 41 - *Physically* *Emotional*
5. Does it keep me from Christ? vs 39-40 "But Martha"
6. Does it have Eternal Value- vs 42. If I fail to do it on time, what will be the Consequences?

III. HOW DO WE STRIKE OUT STRESS?

1. Put Jesus First
2. Put Balance in your life- Work and Worship
3. Find Peace- A man at peace with himself will be at peace with his circumstances- Rom 8:28

HAVE YOU LEFT JESUS OUT OF YOUR LIFE?

Let us Practice Work and Worship. - He is Lord

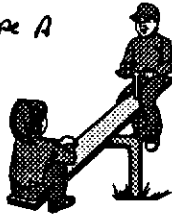
STRIKING OUT STRESS

Her House
Martha- WORKER *Type A* Luke 10:38-42

Mary- WORSHIP

At Feet of Jesus

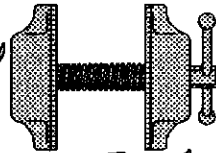
- 1) Word at Feet
- 2) Wept at Feet
- 3) Worship at Feet



BLESSED IS
BALANCE

WHAT CAUSES YOU STRESS??

- 1) Time Pressure *Deadlines*
- 2) Peer Pressure *What People Expect*
- 3) Personality Pressure *Type A vs Laid Back*
- 4) Change of Circumstances -
- 5) Loss of Control -



II. QUESTIONS ABOUT STRESS

- 1) Does it Cumber me? *over occupied and Too Busy*
Burden Down

- 2) Does it Control me? *unable To Relax or Relate*

- 3) Does it produce Conflict?

With Those I Love
Thought Jesus & Mary didn't care

4) Does it Trouble me?

*Physically
Emotionally*

5) Does it keep me from Christ?

But MARTHA was busy

6) Does it have eternal Value?

*If I fail to do it this way or on
Time what will be the consequences*

HOW TO STRIKE OUT STRESS

1) Put Jesus First - *Priority*

2) Put Balance in your
Life- Work & Worship

3) Find Peace

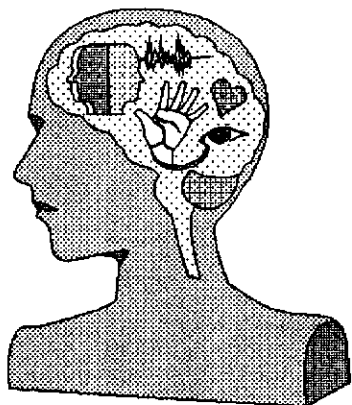
*A man at peace with
Himself will be at peace
with his circumstances*

*Wife sick
Deer*

Rom 8:28

CHRIST DEVELOPS FAITH

Luke 5:1-6



**FAITH
WITHOUT
WORKS IS
DEAD,
BEING
ALONE.**

1. CHRIST WILL ALWAYS
CHALLENGE YOUR COMPLACENCY.

2. CHRIST WILL ASK YOU TO GO
BEYOND YOUR REASONINGS AND
ABILITY

3. CHRIST WILL HONOR YOUR
FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE

1. CHRIST WILL ALWAYS
CHALLENGE YOUR COMPLACENCY.

**Lukewarm Love is
Unacceptable.**

**Staying in Jerusalem
when you were told to
go to all the world is
unacceptable**



2. CHRIST WILL ASK YOU TO GO
BEYOND YOUR REASONINGS AND
ABILITY.

WHAT IS FAITH? Heb 11:1 Faith is the
substance of things hoped for, the evidence
of things not seen.

OPPOSITE OF FAITH- 2 Cor 5:7 For we
walk by faith, not by sight.

THE POTENTIAL OF FAITH- John 14:12
He that believeth on me, the works that I
do shall he do also; and greater works
than these shall he do;

Matt 17:20 If you have faith as a grain of
mustard seed,...nothing shall be impossible
to you.

THE DANGER OF FAILING IN FAITH-
Isaiah 7:9 If you will not believe, surely
you shall not be established.

3. CHRIST WILL HONOR YOUR
FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE.

**NETS FILLED WITH
FISH.**

**RED SEA OPENED
WALLS OF JERICHO
FALLING DOWN.**



LEARNING TO WALK AS A CHRISTIAN

Eph 5:1-17

Walk= A manner of life conforming to God's will and way.



I. WALK IN LOVE 1-7

A) By Purity of Conduct

As Children of God

As Christ

Walk Clean

B) By Purity of Conversation

Avoid "Trash" in Talk

Put Thanks in Talk

C) By Purity of Companions

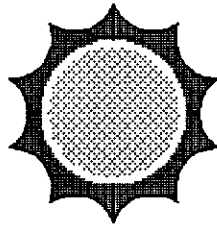


II. WALK IN LIGHT 8-14

A) By PROVING Right

Light Produces Fruit

Light Allows to See



B) By REPROVING Wrong

Thru Separation

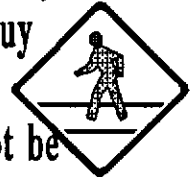
Thru Shining

III. WALK LOOKING AROUND

A) In Wisdom- Live Purposefully

B) Avoiding Wastefulness- "Buy up" all the Opportunities

C) In the Will of God- Do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understand and firmly grasp what the will of God is.



ARE YOU WALKING PROPERLY NOW THAT YOU'RE SAVED?

IS YOUR MOTIVATION LOVE?

IS YOUR MISSION TO SHINE?

IS YOUR MIND ATTUNED TO

WHERE YOU ARE WALKING?

**1. CHRIST WILL ALWAYS
CHALLENGE YOUR COMPLACENCY.**

**2. CHRIST WILL ASK YOU TO GO
BEYOND YOUR REASONINGS AND
ABILITY**

**3. CHRIST WILL HONOR YOUR
FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE**

**GOD'S SURPRISING ABILITY SHOULD
DO THREE THINGS IN OUR LIFE:**

1. DEVELOP AN AWE FOR GOD

A) Power Produces Fear

B) Power Produces Respect

**God is HOLY
God is JEALOUS**

3. DEMAND A COMMITMENT TO GOD

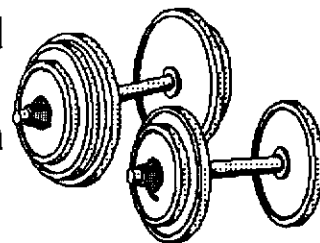
**A) Forsaking your Past-
Repentance**

B) Following Christ.



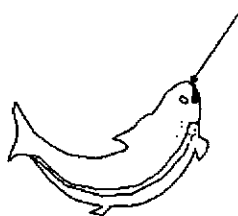
SURPRISED AT GOD'S ABILITY

Call unto me, and I **LUKE 5:6-11**
will answer you, and
show you great and
mighty things, which
you know not. Jer
33:3



**2. DETERMINE OUR
SERVICE FOR GOD**

**Is there anything
too hard for God??**



**I can do ALL THINGS
through Christ**

**CHRIST IS ABLE TO DO
EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY
ABOVE ALL THAT WE ASK
OR THINK, ACCORDING TO
THE POWER THAT WORKS
IN US. Eph 3:20**

**JESUS HEALS A DRUG CRAZED,
SEXUALLY PERVERTED, ROCK STAR
AND TURNS HIM INTO A NICE
PERSON. (Subtitle- Jesus Heals a Leper)**



Luke 5:12-16

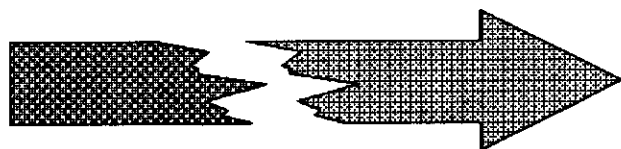
SICKNESS OR SIN??

LEPROSY: A Chronic infectious disease.
It often results in lost of fingers and toes,
the outbreak of sores on the body,
paralysis, and blindness.

There are still 10 to 15 MILLION cases
of leprosy worldwide with 6000 cases in the
US. 300 new cases are diagnosed each year.

THE LEPER:

- A) Faith enough to bypass Tradition
- B) Came in Humility- "If you will, you can heal me"

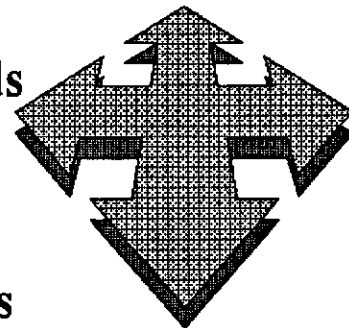


OUR WANTS

HIS WILL

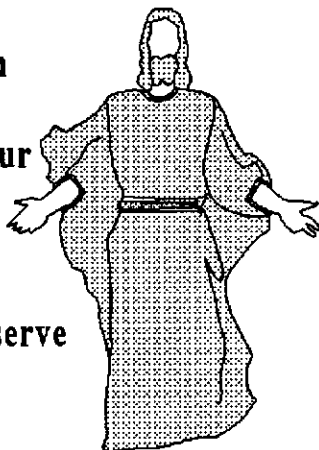
LEPROSY PICTURES SIN:

- 1) It is deeper than the Skin
- 2) It Spreads
- 3) It Defiles
- 4) It Isolates



THE SAVIOR:

- 1) Willing to Touch Unclean
- 2) Able to Cure your Worst Problem
- 3) People over Popularity
- 4) Told man to observe God given laws- as a witness to Pharisees.



**DO YOU HAVE A HIDDEN SIN THAT
IS EATING AWAY AT YOU??**

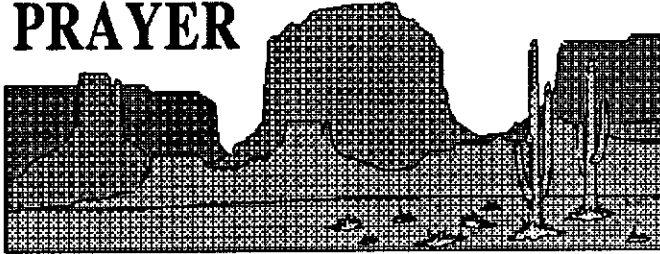
**COME TO CHRIST. HE IS WILLING
TO HELP IF YOU ARE WILLING TO
LET HIM.**



HOW TO ACQUIRE STRENGTH

DESERT PRAYER

LUKE 5:15-16



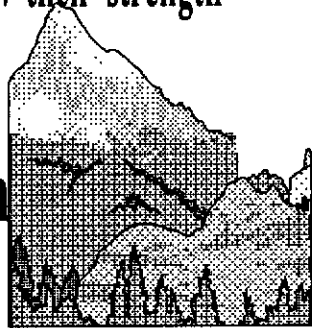
1. THE WAY OF THE LORD- Prov 10:29
The Way of the Lord is strength to the upright;

- A) Physical Strength- Body as Temple
- B) Spiritual Strength- Relationship
- C) Emotional Strength- Peace



WAIT on the Lord- Is 40:31 They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength

- A) Rest
- B) Reflection
- C) Renewal



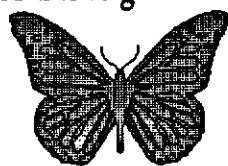
WALK for the Lord- Zech 10:12 I will strengthen them in the Lord; and they shall walk up and down in his name.

- A) Stamina as we Exercise
- B) Tunes our Time to God



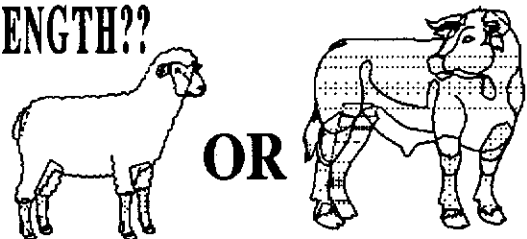
ONENESS with the Lord- Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

- A) SCOPE of Strength- Do ALL things
- B) SOURCE of Strength- Through Christ



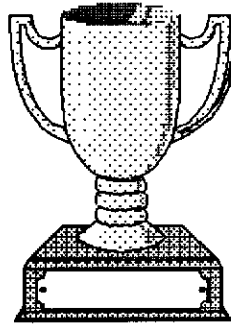
STRENGTH WITHOUT DIRECTION IS DESTRUCTION !

WHY DO YOU WANT TO ACQUIRE STRENGTH??



BED MEN
Luke 5:17-25

Can You name 4 Men
who have stood out as
"Special Helpers" in your
Life???



GOD IS LOOKING FOR "Bed Men" to:

**1. ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING THE
WORK OF GOD- DEACONS (Acts 6)**

- A) Free Pastor for Prayer/Study
- B) No one is Neglected- Teams
- C) Spread the Gospel- Stephen, Philip

2. To Care for the House of God-Trustees

- A) Place to Represent God
- B) Eliminate Physical Distractions
- C) Be STEWARDS of God's Resources

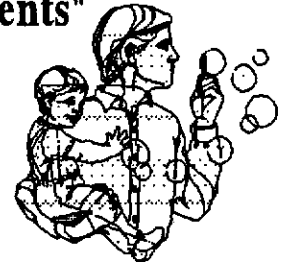


3. To GUARD and GUIDE the Family-

DAD

- A) Against "Serpents"
- B) As Priest-

- 1. Example
- 2. Exhortation
- 3. Discipline



**NO CHURCH PROGRAM CAN
EVER REPLACE A DAD.**

**SPORTS, MONEY, TOYS CAN
NEVER REPLACE A DAD**

**GOD IS LOOKING
FOR "Bed Men"
WHO WILL
BRING FAMILY
AND FRIENDS TO
HIM.**



**THE PRESENCE OF THE POWER
LUKE 5:17**

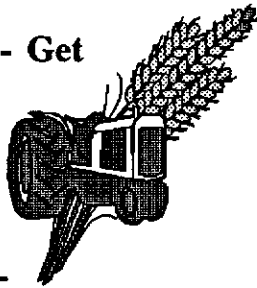
Hosea 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

**3. Remove the Underbrush-
"Little Sins" that trip us and
keep us from producing fruit**

**4. Plow the New Ground- Get
to Work**

**5. Plant a Crop- Sow in
righteousness**

**6. Trust God for Results-
Never give up, Never give up**

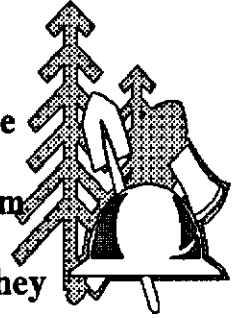


**FALLOW GROUND = New Ground,
Untilled Soil**

**1. Cut the Trees- Can't see
the forest for the Trees:**

**Things that keep us from
seeing God's Will.**

**2. Remove the Stumps- They
trip us and keep the land
from being cultivated.**



**ANYONE CAN RAISE
WEEDS. IT TAKES
WORK TO RAISE A
CROP.**



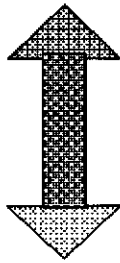
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PERSPECTIVE

Luke 5:18-26

The relationship of aspects of a subjects to each other and to the whole.

Your viewpoint of an issue





Everyone has a Perspective.
It Differs according to Your:

- 1) Preferences
- 2) Personality
- 3) Point of View
- 4) Personal Involvement

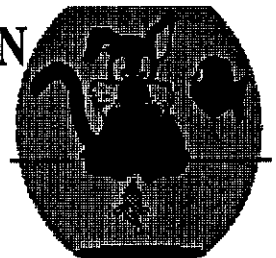


5 PERSPECTIVES ON HEALING:

- 1. DESPAIR (The Palsy Man) 
- 2. DETERMINATION (The Four Friends)
- 3. DOUBT (The Pharisees)
- 4. DISCERNMENT (Jesus) 
- 5. DISTURBANCE (The Crowd)

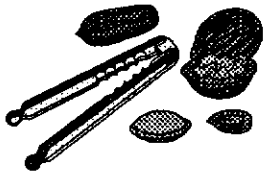
WHAT DETERMINES YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON GOD'S WORK?

- DESPAIR
- DETERMINATION
- DOUBT
- DISCERNMENT
- DISTURBANCE



JUSTIFYING HELL

Luke 10:25-37



What is YOUR Peanut Butter?

An Excuse

The Problem is not our Neighbor but our Rebellion

WANTED To Justify

Continued Rebellion

THE STORY-Not a Parable

Jesus' Point- Our neighbor is easy to recognize if your heart is right

THE MAN-Represents the Lost in the World

On the DOWNWARD Way- Jerusalem (Temple) to Jericho (Commerce) - Church Quiz

Lost are on a TRAGIC WAY

- Fell among thieves (World System)
- Stripped of Raiment- NAKED ADAM, POOR MAN
- Wounded him - Physically, Emotion, Sexual
- Departed - use & throw away - PRODSAT
- Leaving Half-Dead Alive Phys, Dead Spiritually

A VICTIM to Thieves
A NUISANCE to Priest
An OPPORTUNITY to Samaritan

Priest- RELIGION. Unwilling to put Hands with Heart
Levite- LAW. Tells what is wrong but no Help

Samaritan- JESUS. Loved Down Trodden, Pays His Bill, Promises to Come Again

SAMARITAN:

- 1) Came where He Was - Visitation
- 2) Had Compassion - Love, involve
- 3) Went to Him- Personal Inv
- 4) Bound up Wounds - Holy Spirit
- 5) Poured in Oil and Wine - word
- 6) Set him on Horse - Transportation
- 7) Brought to Inn - Chapel
- 8) Took Care of him- Teach + Disciplined
- 9) Continued to Care - Follow up

Go and Do thou Likewise

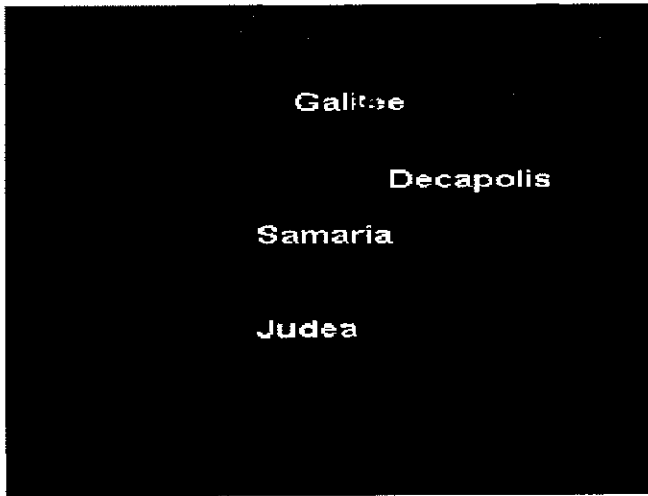


What Excuse justifies you being Lost?

- 1) Rich Ruler- Hands full of Possessions
- 2) Samaritan Woman- Belief hid Moral Failure
- 3) Lawyer- Lack of Understanding hid Lack of Commitment
- 4) Weakness, Hypocrites

EMPTY YOUR HANDS AND LET GOD FILL YOUR HEART

By strap, Henke



GOD WAS CONCERNED WITH:

- 1) PIETY OF JESUS' PARENTS**
- 2) PLACE WHERE JESUS WAS RAISED.**

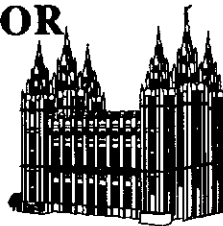
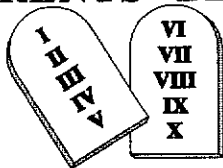
NO CONCERN FOR:

- 1) WEALTH**
- 2) WISDOM**
- 3) WORLDLY STATUS**

THE AMAZEMENT AT CHRIST "The Runaway"

TEACHERS- QUESTIONS

PARENTS- BEHAVIOR



Christ increased in:

- 1. Wisdom- Mental Maturity**
- 2. Stature- Physical Maturity**
- 3. Favor with God- Spiritual Maturity**
- 4. Favor with man- Social Maturity**

FOUR IDEALS FOR EVERY CHILD:

- 1) Accept Christ as Savior**
- 2) Understand Scripture Principles**
- 3) Participate in Church Community**
- 4) Commit to living out Christian values in daily life.**



CONCEPT 1- Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart (Mark 12:30)

- Is he learning of the love of God through the love, tenderness, & mercy of his parents?
- Is he learning to talk about the Lord, and to include Him in his thoughts and plans?
- Is he learning to turn to Jesus when he is frightened or anxious or lonely?
- Is he learning to read the Bible?
- Is he learning to pray?
- Is he learning the meaning of faith & trust?
- Is he learning the joy of the Christian way of life?

OBEYED GOD'S WORD

**PUBLIC Life
Directed by
God**



Matt 1:21 she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Wonderful Counselor- WISDOM

Mighty God- STRENGTH

Everlasting Father- STABILITY

Prince of Peace- SECURITY

Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Your NAME NAMES YOU

**JESUS= Joshua= Savior
CHRIST= Messiah= Anointed One**

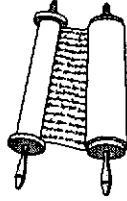
Isaiah 9:6 his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO 8 DAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS??

**1. COMMIT TO MAKING
CHRIST LORD OF YOUR
PRIVATE LIFE**

**2. DETERMINE TO OBEY
GOD'S WILL IN YOUR
PUBLIC LIFE.**

Luke 2:21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.



FOLLOWED GOD'S LAW

PRIVATE Life Committed to God



Psa 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD,

BONDAGE BUILDERS

FEAR: Jesus came to deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Heb 2:15)



BITTERNESS: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; (Heb 12:15)



LUST: What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? (James 4:1)



RICHERS: The Rich Young Ruler was asked to give up Worldly Riches for Christ but he *was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.* (Mark 10:22)



GROWING LIKE CHRIST

Luke 2:40 And the child grow, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

DEVELOP STRENGTH- Became Strong

DEEPEN WISDOM- Filled with Wisdom

DEPEND ON GRACE- God's Grace upon him.

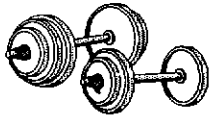


DEVELOP STRENGTH

1) Eat Right



2) Exercise



3) Discipline Self



DEEPEN WISDOM

1) Pray



2) Practice

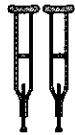


3) Ponder



DEPEND ON GRACE

1) Love is not based on Ability



2) Forsake Pride



3) Failure is not fatal- **UNLESS** you remain down.



How far is it from
Hell to Heaven??
**The distance from your *Pow* to
the *Altar* !**



CONCEPT 2- *Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself* (Mark 12:31)

- Is he learning to understand and empathize with the feelings of others.
- Is he learning not to be selfish and demanding?
- Is he learning to share?
- Is he learning not to gossip and criticize others?
- Is he learning to accept himself?

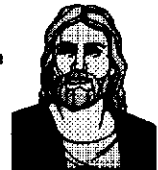
CONCEPT 4: *The fruit of the Spirit is...Self Control* (Gal 5:22)

- Is he learning to give a portion of his allowance (and other money) to God?
- Is he learning to control his impulses?
- Is he learning to work and carry responsibility?
- Is he learning the vast difference between self worth and egotistical pride?
- Is he learning to bow in reverence before the God of the universe?

CONCEPT 3: *Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God* (Ps 143:10)

- Is he learning to obey his parents as preparation for later obedience to God?
- Is he learning to behave properly in Church, God's House?
- Is he learning a healthy appreciation for both aspects of God's nature; love and justice?
- Is he learning the meaning of sin and it's inevitable consequences?
- Is he learning to be truthful & honest?

**HAVE YOU
ACCEPTED CHRIST
AS SAVIOR??**



**HAVE YOU
COMMITTED YOUR
LIFE TO HIS
SERVICE AND PLAN?**



WILDERNESS WORDS

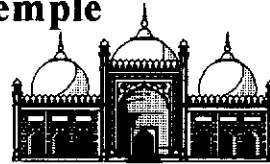
Luke 3:1-2

Is it right to beat my wife for 25 years if I promise that after our 25th Anniversary I won't beat her and all will be better??



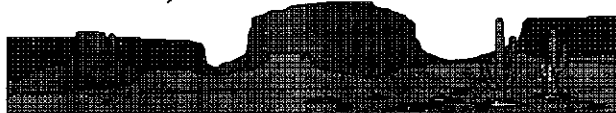
Note those Word did NOT COME TO:

- 1) Caesar- Claimed to BE god
- 2) Pilate- Ruled God's Town
- 3) Herod...- Ruled God's Land
- 4) High Priests- Ruled God's Temple



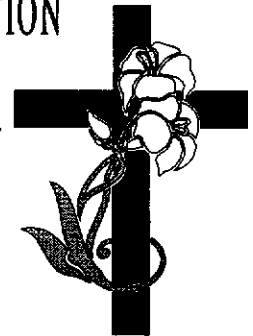
WILDERNESS PEOPLE

- 1) Moses- Rejection
- 2) David- Persecution
- 3) Elijah- Depression
- 4) Jesus- Temptation
- 4) Paul- Education



WILDERNESS RESULTS:

- 1) Burning Bush- REDEMPTION
- 2) Psalms- HOPE
- 3) Help- DETERMINATION
- 4) Temptation- VICTORY
- 5) Gospel- VISION



REASON FOR WILDERNESS WORD

1) **Closer to God** Phil 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering, being made conformable to his death.



2) Less Distractions

3) Time to Re-Focus



**Don't BEAT Her
CHALLENGE HER**

**with
Vision
Hope
Victory
Dedication**



NAMING NAMES

Luke 3:24-28; Matt 1:1-16

GENEALOGY:
Matthew- Joseph
Luke- Mary



REAL GENEALOGY:
John 1:1 *In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

The Importance of Genealogy:



What **BOOK** would you want on a Desert Island??

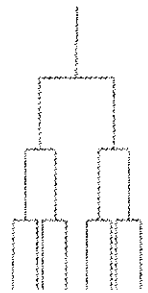
ODD FACTS

The Numerical Value of David's Name in Hebrew is 14- Memorize Genealogy.

Since the Temple Burned in 70AD is Jesus the only person who can prove His claim to the Throne of David??

Heb 7:14 It is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

God time after time prevented Abraham from defiling the Line and Satan from Destroying the Line (Joash, Herod)



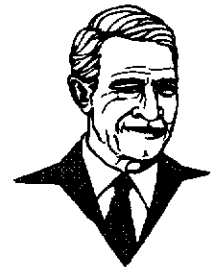
WONDER AT THE WOMEN IN THE LINE

TAMAR: God is Friend of Sinners
RAHAB: God Forgives our Past
RUTH: God Honors Faithfulness
BATHSHEBA: God can take Broken vessels and make them fit for the Master's Use.



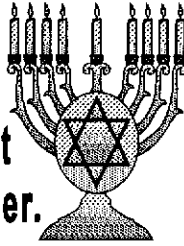
THREE IMPORTANT LESSONS:

- 1) ANCESTORS ARE IMPORTANT
 - A) Effect Looks
 - B) Effect Personality
 - C) Share Diseases
 - D) Establish Beliefs



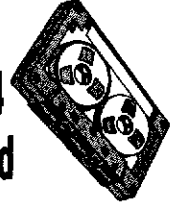
GOD KEEPS HIS WORD:

- A) To Satan: The "Seed" to come will Bruise your Head**
- B) To Abraham: My Covenant with your seed shall be forever.**
- C) To David: Your Seed will Reign**



GOD KEEPS RECORDS:

- A) Of Little Things- Sparrows, Hair**
- B) Of Idle Words- Matt 12:36**
- C) Of Vows we Make- Ecc 5:4**
- D) Of Those who have trusted Christ as Savior- Rev 20:15**

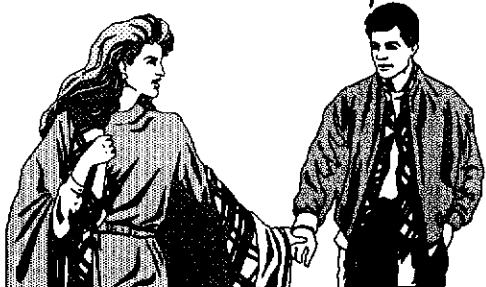


**WHOEVER WAS NOT FOUND
WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WAS
CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.**

**Is YOUR Name in
God's Book ??**

TACKLING TEMPTATION

Luke 4:1-13; Gen 39:7-10



REALIZE THE HURT IT WOULD DO:

- 1) Hurt the People who Trusted You.
- 2) Hurt God
- 3) Hurt the Person you fall to Temptation with
- 4) Hurt You



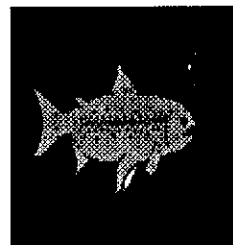
RECOGNIZE THE HABIT IT COULD BECOME

- 1) Control Your Thoughts (Pornography)
Sow a thought, reap a habit; Sow a Habit, reap a Character; Sow a Character, reap a Destiny.
- 2) Control Your Body (Drugs)
- 3) Control Your Actions (Greed)



RESIST THE LURE IT OFFERS:

- 1) Satisfy a Real Need (Hunger)
- 2) Submit to a Wrong Standard (World for Worship)
- 3) Substitute an Artificial High (Public Praise over God's Will)

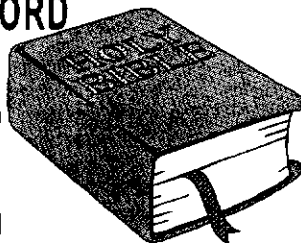


WHAT BAIT WILL HOOK YOU??

TACKLING TEMPTATION:

THE WORD OF GOD:

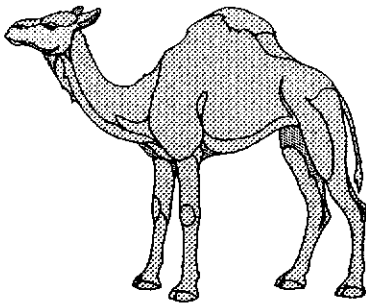
- 1) MEMORIZE THE WORD
- 2) APPLY THE WORD
- 3) TRUST THE WORD



I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

WHY TEMPTATIONS??

Luke 4:1-13



Most people would like to be delivered from Temptations but still keep in touch!

WHY WAS JESUS TEMPTED?

- 1) Worthy of God's Approval
- 2) Example
- 3) Understand Our Temptations
- 4) Reverse Adam's Pattern
- 5) Show importance of ALWAYS putting God's Will first.

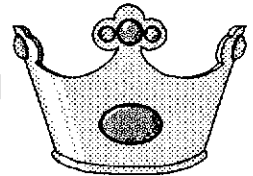
HOW WAS JESUS TEMPTED?

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 1) USE GOD | 1) PASSION |
| 2) BY-PASS GOD | 2) POWER |
| 3) PLAY GOD | 3) PRIDE |
-
- 1) QUESTION GOD'S LOVE
 - 2) QUESTION GOD'S PLAN
 - 3) QUESTION GOD'S POWER

Jesus was not only tempted about His WILL but also about His WORK.

He could easily become the Messiah the PEOPLE wanted by:

- 1) Feeding them bread
- 2) Gaining control of Governments
- 3) Suddenly appearing in Temple by "Magic"



THE BENEFITS OF TEMPTATION

- 1) Greater Awareness of God's Presence
Job 42:5-6
- 2) Develops Patience- James 1:3-4
Luke 21:19 In your patience possess ye your souls.
- 3) Honors God- I Pet 1:6-7

I Cor 10:13 There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above that that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**YOU CAN'T RUN FROM TEMPTATION
BUT YOU CAN REST IN GOD.**

THE BENEFITS OF TEMPTATION

James 1:2 Count it all joy when you fall into different temptations.

We want to **BE THROUGH** Temptations; not **GO THROUGH** Temptations.

MAKE US MAKE CHOICES

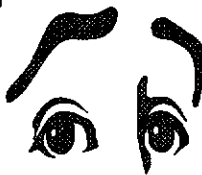
Real Love means Liberty to Choose. God wants us to love Him from a pure heart, feverently.

JOSHUA 24:15



BRINGS A GREATER AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE AND PLAN

Job 42:5-6 I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear: but now my eye sees you. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.



DEVELOPS PATIENCE

James 1:3-4 The Trying of your faith works patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, lacking nothing.

Luke 21:19 In you Patience possess ye your souls.

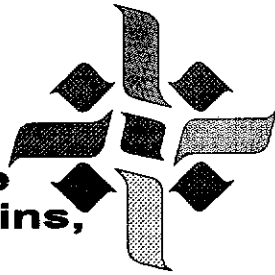
HONORS GOD

1 Pet 1:6-7 Wherein you greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be you are in heaviness through many kinds of temptations; That the trial of your faith...might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

**Benefits come from ENDURING.
Repercussions come from FALLING.
Even that is a Benefit- Heb 12:6-7**

Don't spend your time fighting the FACT that you are tempted. Fight the Temptation!! James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endures temptation:

SEASONS

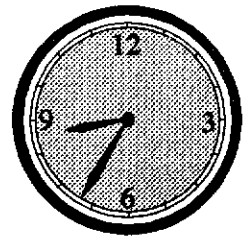


Gen 8:22 While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

SEASONAL SEASONS

ECC 3:1-8 To Everything there is a season,

- A) Cycles of Life
- B) Cycles of Time



SINNING SEASON

Luke 4:13 And when the Devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season

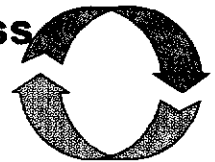
- A) After Victories
- B) Recreation
- C) Riches



SUFFERING SEASON

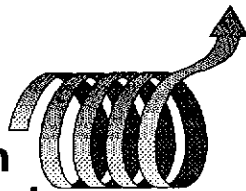
1 Pet 1:6-7 Wherein you greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, you are in heaviness through many temptations...

Because A:
PERSON
CHRISTIAN



SERVICE SEASON

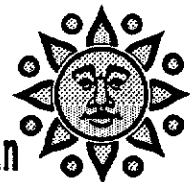
2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.



1- Be **AWARE** of Life's Seasons

2- **COMMIT** to Serving God in ALL Seasons

3- Realize you don't know what Season **YOU** are in. May be December 31st for You.



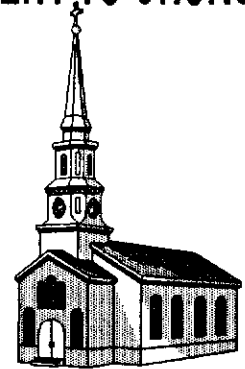
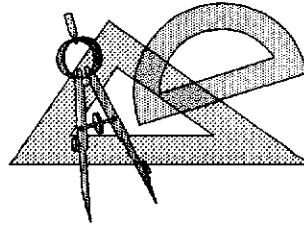
December

JESUS COMES HOME LUKE 4:16-32

OUTLINE OF LUKE:

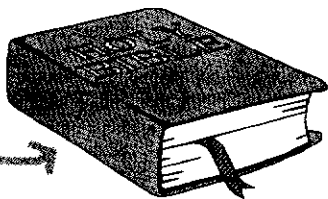
- 1:1-4:13 THE VIRGIN CONCEPTION
- 4:14-9:50 THE VIRTUOUS CONDUCT
- 9:51-19:44 THE VISIT TO CAPITAL
- 19:45-24:53 THE VICARIOUS
CRUCIFIXION

JESUS NORMALLY WENT TO CHURCH

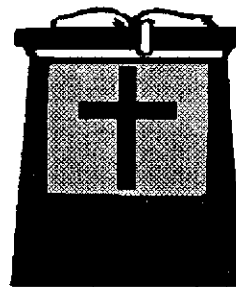


JESUS WAS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE BIBLE

TEMPTATIONS LIFE



JESUS WAS ABLE TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC



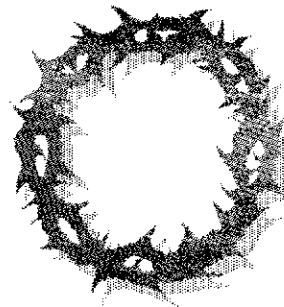
READ THE MESSAGE
GAVE THE MEANING

JESUS' WORDS WERE GRACIOUS BUT WITH POWER



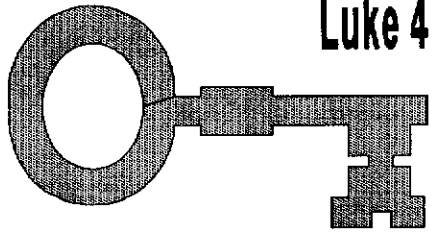
REAL
AUTHORITY
SELDOM HAS
TO SHOUT.

JESUS WAS REJECTED BECAUSE HE WAS FAMILIAR



HAVE YOU
REALLY
WORSHIPPED
YET TODAY??

JESUS: OUR PATTERN FOR SERVICE



**MANY LOCKS,
ONE KEY**

Luke 4:16-19

THE POWER FOR SERVICE

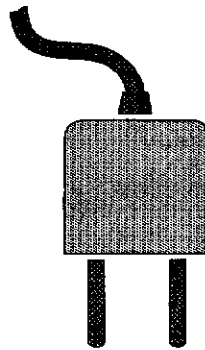
THE HOLY SPIRIT:

- 1) Comes from Heaven
- 2) Guides into all Truth
- 3) Glorifies Christ
- 4) Grows us as Christians



7 MINISTRIES OF HOLY SPIRIT:

- 1- Born of Spirit
- 2- Baptized by Spirit
- 3- Indwelt by Spirit
- 4- Anointed by Spirit
- 5- Branded by Spirit
- 6- Sealed by Spirit
- 7- Filled by Spirit

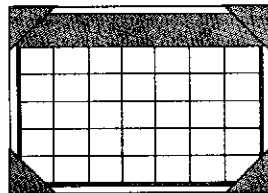


THE PROGRAM OF SERVICE

WHO:	WHAT:
BANKRUPT _____	PREACH GOSPEL
BROKEN HEARTED _____	HEAL
BOUND _____	PREACH DELIVER
BLIND _____	PREACH SIGHT
BRUISED _____	SET AT LIBERTY

THE PERIOD OF SERVICE

**THE
ACCEPTABLE
YEAR OF THE
LORD.**



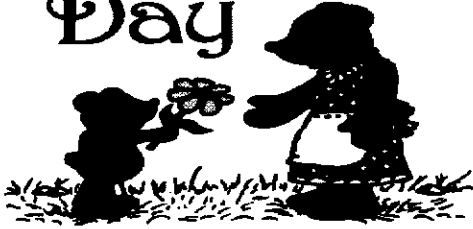
NOW

**DO YOU JUST BELIEVE IN JESUS?
The Devils also Believe and Tremble**

**IS THERE
SERVICE
INVOLVED IN
YOUR
SALVATION??**

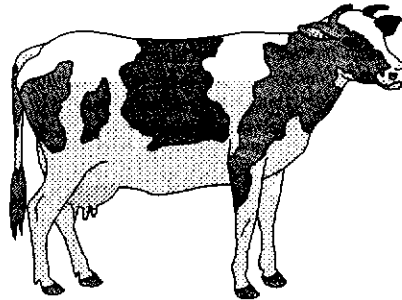


HAPPY Mother's Day



PETER'S WIFE'S MOTHER

Luke 4:38-41



What is
the
Purpose
of a Milk
Cow??

1. HER SICKNESS HIGH FEVER

THE WIFE OF PETER WHO WAS SITTING BY THE FIRE

2. HER SERVICE SOON AS
SAVED

AND SHE SAID TO HIM I AM HERE

3. HER STRESS CROWDS
OPPORTUNITIES

AND HE SAID TO HER GET UP

4. HER SAVIOR JESUS TOOK

JESUS TOOK HER:

1. SON IN LAW
FAMILY

2. SICKNESS
CIRCUMSTANCES

3. SINS FUTURE



ARE YOU WILLING TO INVITE
JESUS INTO YOUR HOME??

ARE YOU READY TO
EXCHANGE YOUR SICKNESS
FOR SERVICE??

Jesus Is
The Way

UNCLEAN DESIRES



Luke 4:33-37

From within the Heart of man proceed evil thoughts...

NOTES:

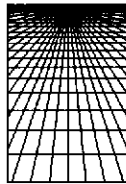
- 1) John- No Cast Out Demons
- 2) Jesus declared Demons Real
- 3) Disease- Natural/Demon induced
- 4) Demon Influence come and go
- 5) Demon Possession not used in OT
- 6) Demons removed by WORD of AUTHORITY; not Magic or Chants.

UNCLEAN DESIRES: I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the father, but is of the world.

- 1) Lust of Flesh- Natural Desires
- 2) Lust of Eyes- Imagination
- 3) Pride of Life- Social, Peer Pressure

THE POWER OF UNCLEAN DESIRE-
James 1:13-15

TEMPTATION-----LEADS TO
LUST-----LEADS TO
SIN-----LEADS TO
DEATH



THE NEED TO DENY UNCLEAN DESIRES: Titus 2:11-12 For the Grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.

THE WAY TO DESTROY UNCLEAN DESIRES: Gal 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the afflictions and lusts.

Eph 4:22-23 Put off concerning the former manner of life, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

I Pet 4:2 No longer live the rest of your life in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

LEAVE THE WILDERNESS OF UNCLEAN LUST FOR THE PROMISED LAND.

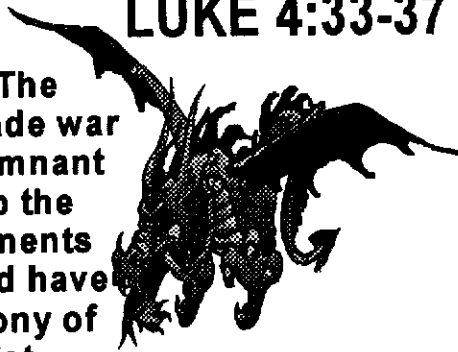
- 1) Kill the Canaanites
- 2) Look for a land of Milk and Honey
- 3) Occupy YOUR possession.



UNCLEAN DESTRUCTION

LUKE 4:33-37

Rev 12:17 The Dragon made war with the remnant which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.



NOTES:

- 1) John- No Cast Out Demons
- 2) Jesus declared Demons Real
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- 5) Demon Possession not used in OT
- 6) Demons removed by WORD of AUTHORITY; not Magic or Chants.

UNCLEAN LIVING CAUSES US TO:

- 1) Fear Meeting God- Adam
- 2) Fail to Testify
- 3) Fall into Despair and Depression
- 4) Become a Stumbling Block to others



UNCLEAN LIVING ENSLAVES US: I Cor 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not profitable: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

1) WRONG COMPANIONS- Ex 23:33

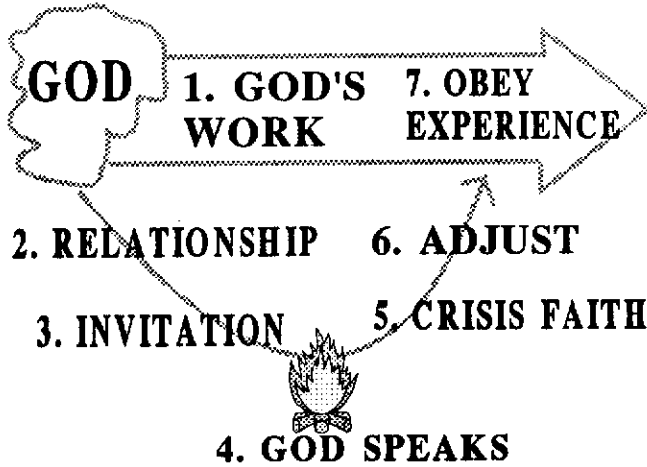
2) PEER PRESSURE - Prov 29:25

3) HASTY WORDS- Prov 6:2

4) FLESHLY PASSIONS- Ecc 7:26

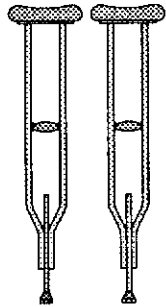
5) GREED FOR RICHES- I Tim 6:9

UNCLEANNES CONDEMNS US: I Cor 6:9 Know you not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, ...shall inherit the kingdom of God.



- 1. GOD IS ALWAYS AT WORK AROUND YOU.**
- 2. GOD PURSUES A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU.**
- 3. GOD INVITES YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH HIM IN HIS WORK**
- 4. GOD SPEAKS TO YOU TO REVEAL HIMSELF, HIS PURPOSES, & HIS WAYS**
- 5. GOD'S INVITATION LEADS TO A CRISIS OF BELIEF/ ACTION**
- 6. YOU MUST MAKE MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS TO JOIN GOD**
- 7. YOU KNOW GOD AS YOU WORK.**

MISSION OVER MASSES



OR

Luke 4:40-44



REVIVAL

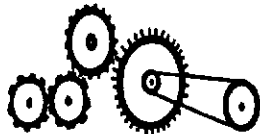
COMMIT TO GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE

- A) Determine God's Will
- B) Dedicate to God's Will
- C) Do God's Will



GOD'S WORK IN MY LIFE

A) GIFTS



WORKING TOGETHER

B) CALLINGS

C) REPRODUCING

GOD'S WAY IN THIS WORLD

Heavenly Wisdom over Human Wisdom

Heavenly Priorities over Earthly
Popularity

Heavenly Rewards over Earthly Riches

**IS THE WILL OF GOD THE MOST
IMPORTANT THING IN YOUR LIFE??**

**IS THE WORK OF GOD YOUR PRIMARY
FUNCTION?**

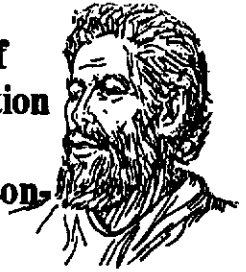
**ARE YOU WILLING FOR GOD TO HAVE
HIS WAY IN EVERY AREA OF YOUR
LIFE??**

LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP
GOD'S WORD-
REQUIRES
ACTION !



THE THREE CALLINGS

1. After John Testified of Christ- Jn 1:35-41 Salvation
2. After John put in Prison- Mark 1:14-20 Service
3. After Catch of Fish- Lu 5: Commitment

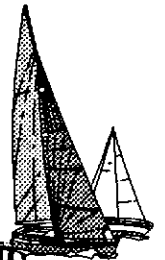


THE REQUEST
TO LAUNCH OUT
FROM JESUS DIVINE DIRECTION

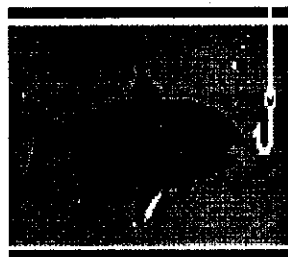


TO LET DOWN NETS **SPECIFIC TASK**

THE REASON TO LAUNCH OUT
THE WORD OF CHRIST
IN SPITE OF PAST LABOR
IN SPITE OF PAST FAILURES



THE RESULTS OF
LAUNCHING OUT
SUCCESS
SHARING
SALVATION



Isaiah 54:2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes.

**JOHN THE BAPTIST
HIS MISSION
LUKE 3:3-6**



1. HIS PERSONALITY

- A) FAMILY- GONE
- B) VOCATION- REJECTED
- C) SOCIAL PRESSURE- NONE
- D) PERSONALITY- PROPHET



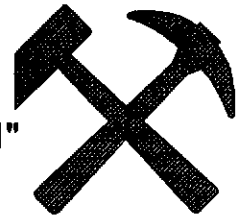
2. HIS PREDICTION

**MAL 4:5 BEHOLD, I WILL SEND
YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET
BEFORE THE COMING OF THE
GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY
OF THE LORD:**



3. HIS PURPOSE

- A) PREACH REPENTANCE
"FRUIT OR FIRE"
- B) PREPARE THE WAY
"GOD'S HIGHWAY PLAN"
- C) PROCLAIM CHRIST
"BEHOLD THE LAMB"

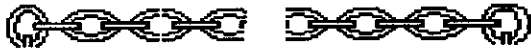


**WHAT IS GOD TRYING TO
ACCOMPLISH THROUGH
YOUR**

DESERT DUTY



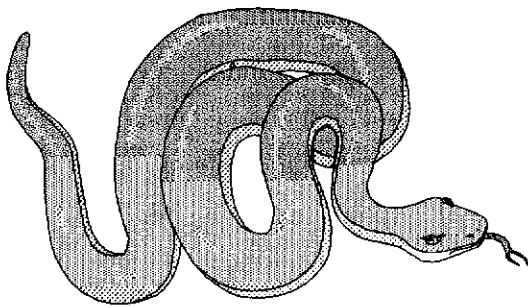
**JOHN THE BAPTIST
HIS MESSAGE
LUKE 3:7-14**



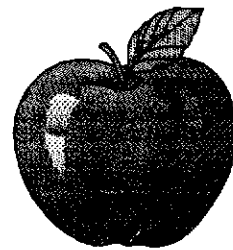
**1. REPENTANCE AS SHOWN
BY BAPTISM**



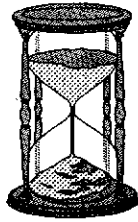
2. THE WRATH IS COMING



**3. GOD LOOKS AT YOUR
FRUIT; NOT YOUR FATHER.**



4. GOD WILL DESTROY; NOT PRUNE, IF YOU CONTINUE THIS WAY.



WHAT SHALL WE DO??

PEOPLE- SHARE

PUBLICANS- HONEST

SOLDIERS- BE CONTENT

REPENT



1. WHY ARE YOU AT CHURCH TODAY?

2. WHAT BRINGS PEACE ABOUT DEATH

3. HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU NO LONGER HAVE TIME??

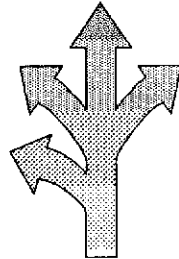


OR



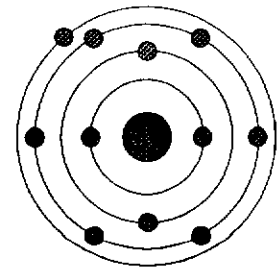
Luke 3:15-17
Jesus "Shall
baptize you with
the Holy Ghost
and with Fire;"

ONE Baptism
MANY Fillings



HOLY SPIRIT MINISTRY

- 1) CONVICT
- 2) CONVERT
- 3) BAPTIZE -GIFT
- 4) INSTRUCT
- 5) CHANGE DISCIPLES
- 6) COMFORT
- 7) RESTRAIN SATAN

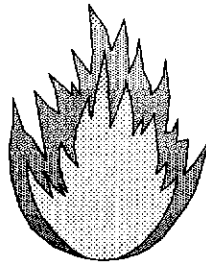


SALT

BAPTIZE WITH HOLY GHOST
AND FIRE; NOT AS FIRE.

FIRE OF:

- 1) PERSECUTION
- 2) PURIFICATION
- 3) JUDGEMENT



FIRE:

- 1) GIVES LIGHT
- 2) GIVES WARMTH
- 3) PURIFIES

WILL IT
SAVE OR
SCORCH
YOU??



2 Thess 1:7-8 And to you
who are troubled rest with
us, when the Lord Jesus
shall be revealed from
heaven with his mighty
angels, in flaming fire
taking vengeance on them
that know not God, and
that obey not the gospel
of our Lord Jesus Christ:



CONVERTING CENTURIONS

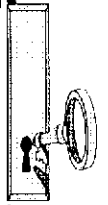
Luke 7:1-10

4 Centurions- 4 HARD
CASE CONVERTS

HOW DO YOU GET THEM TO
SURRENDER TO CHRIST??



THE EMOTIONAL STRUGGLE WHICH
USUALLY ACCOMPANIES CONVERSION
IS NOT OVER CHRIST'S ABILITY OR
WILLINGNESS TO SAVE; IT IS RATHER
OVER MAN'S UNWILLINGNESS TO
SURRENDER.



Man wants to be Free to practice
his bondage!! Christ came to set
him Free -(John 8:36) If the Son
therefore shall make you free, ye
shall be free indeed.

1. OUTREACH- Luke 7:1-10
Developing Faith from a
Distance.



2. JOB- Acts 27. Julius
who rode with Paul to Rome.
Watching the actions and
attitude of Paul convinced Julius
that Paul's faith was real.

3. PERSONAL WORK- Acts 10
Cornelius was won when Peter
came to his house.



4. CRISIS CONDITIONS-
Luke 23:47. When the Centurion
saw the way Christ handled the
crisis of the Cross he confessed
Christ was the Son of God.



How do YOU convert Your
Centurions??

1. Reach Out to Them
2. Care for Them
3. Live Christ before Them
4. Stay Steady



WRONG RELIGIONS Activity

Luke 11:45-54

Having "dressed down" the Pharisees, Jesus now is questioned by the Lawyers (Scribes in the Religious law).

Giving ~~rest~~ instead of Bless
I. **BURDENS**- What a shame it is when Religious leaders add burdens to people instead of helping them relieve their burden. This is not the way Jesus wanted it to be- (Mat 11:28-30) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {29} Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. {30} For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Build Monuments instead of Movement

II. **TOMBS**- The true servant of God is usually rejected by the people who most need their ministry, but the next generation comes along and honors these people.

First martyr in the Old Testament is Abel (Gen 4:1-15) and the last is Zechariah (I Chron 24:20-27)

Allowing others to Expecting others to Build our Relationship with God.
III. **KEYS**- Robbing the common people of the knowledge of the Word of God.

It is a serious thing to teach God's Word and not everyone is supposed to do it- (James 3:1) My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. Sometimes what people call "Bible Study" is simply a group of unprepared people exchanging their ignorance.

Just as bad, however, is the attitude that only certain people can understand or explain the Bible.

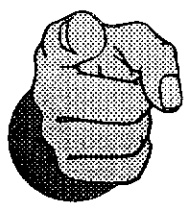
The most important ingredient in Bible Study is the KEY- Jesus; as well as a yielded heart and an obedient will. These are people who learn the truth of God's word on their knees and on the battle fields of life. They are Spirit taught; not just man taught.

God has given teachers to the Church (Eph 4:11), and we should listen to them. We should also test what they say by the Scriptures to make sure they are truthful- (1 Th 5:21) Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. And we should not permit anyone to bring us into bondage and exploit us- (2 Cor 11:20) For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face.

WRONG RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Luke 11:46-54

IF JESUS PREACHED AT GRACE, WOULD YOU FEEL CONDEMNED??



Jesus listed 3 Problem Areas in the Ministry of these Religious People:

- 1) vs 46 Making Religion a Burden
- 2) vs 47-51 Building Monuments instead of Movements
- 3) vs 52 Preventing instead of Promoting Spiritual Growth

1) Making Religion a Burden

*Difference
Order
obsession

Afraid
to be
Happy*

- A) Made the Law a god
- B) Sought to Limit joy



- 1> Made Religion a Job
- 2> Accentuate Negative instead of Positive



The Way Jesus Said it was supposed to be:

Matt 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

2) BUILDING MONUMENTS INSTEAD OF MOVEMENTS

Abel was the first Martyr (Gen 4:1-15) and Zechariah (II Chron 24:20-21) the last in the Old Testament.

The true servant of God is often rejected by the people of his own generation; but called a prophet by the next.

- A) Unlearned Lessons-Man, Movement, Monument, Mausoleum

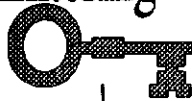


- B) Unwilling to Accept Reproof- vs 53-54 *Do our way is only way*
- C) Unable to Adapt to Change

3) Preventing, instead of Promoting, Spiritual Growth

A) Unwilling to Enter into a dedicated relationship with God

B) Prevent Others from Entering by withholding the key.



Teachers

Jesus

Jesus told each of the churches in Revelation, "I Know thy Works".

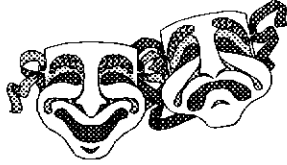
Are our Religious Activities building God's Kingdom; or do they accomplish what we think is best??

If Jesus preached at Grace today would we lift our hands in praise or hang our heads in shame??

HANDLING HYPOCRISY

Luke 12:1-12

Hypocrite: Someone who puts on a Masquerade to fool others into believing they are something they are not.



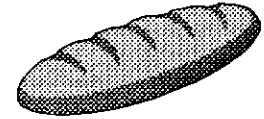
THE DANGER OF HYPOCRISY

What a tangled web we weave when we practice to deceive

LEAVEN:

--Begins Small/spreads Rapidly

--Puffs up/Corrupts



THE CAUSE OF HYPOCRISY

1) The FAME of the Crowd- Peer Pressure

2) The FEAR of Man- What they might Think of us or Do to us.



THE HANDLING OF HYPOCRISY

1) Remember Exposure- vs 2-3

2) Realize Important- vs 4-10

3) Rely on God for Help- vs 11-12



Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

Do you want to Impress People or Rest with God??

6-25-95 11AM 2 Greatest Hinderances to Spiritual Growth

Prize

No Faith, No Compassion, No Faith ^{Abraham}

THE CANCER OF COVETING

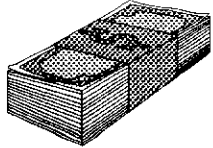
Luke 12:13-21

How much is enough?

One Dollar more!

Mark Twain-

“Civilization is a limitless multiplication of unnecessary necessities”



Henry David Thoreau

“That man is the richest whose pleasures are cheapest”

“A man is rich in proportion to the number of things which he can afford to let alone”

Jewish Saying, “A man who covets is like a man who drinks salt water; he adds to his thirst”

which leads us to our definition

COVETOUSNESS is an unquenchable thirst for getting more and more of something- Money, Pleasure, Power, Possessions, Praise, etc

Wealth can:

- 1) Choke the Word- Matt 13:22
- 2) Create Snares & Temptation- 1 Tim 6:10
- 3) Gives a False sense of Security

Keep up with Jones

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Is your Desire To do God's will?

Paul said, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.- Rom 7:7

Christ called His Disciples to leave Family, Fortune, and Friends to follow Him. That is still His call today.

1) The DILEMMA of the Rich Man- Too Much Wealth!!

2) The DESIRES of the Rich Man- Think only of Self -

3) The DECISION of the Rich Man- Build Bigger Barns - *not save, Hoard*

4) The DEATH of the Rich Man- Something his Wealth could not keep from Happening.



All of us have too much I, me 10 Times

man God called A Fool

The Rich Man Forgot

1) His Neighbors



To be Rich Toward God is to acknowledge gratefully that everything we have comes from God, and then make an effort to use what He gives us for the good of others and glory of God.

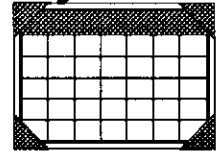
Rich MAN AND LAZARUS - Crumbs

He Forgot

2) Time- You must remember the littleness of time and the greatness of eternity

Most Effective Way to go to Hell:

- 1) No God
- 2) No Hell
- 3) No Hurry



TOMORROW

Too busy with things

He Forgot

3) God- Man Proposes; but God Disposes.

Death is the great equalizer; It comes to all and There are no pockets in a Shroud

James 4:13-15

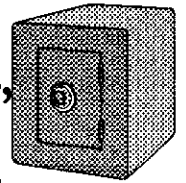
Not your House, Land, Car

me- Parsonage

Car

Shoes

Is the Cancer of Coveting eating away at your Happiness, your Holiness, and your Health??



Real Joy comes when the address of your bank is 101 Golden Street, Heaven.

Help in your soul winning

2 Things we need to see

Most Familiar, Most Realistic

5 STEPS FROM THE HOG PEN TO HEAVEN



Luke 15:11-24

3 Decisions by 25:

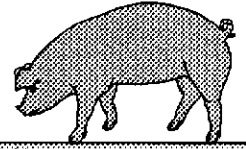
- 1) Conversion
- 2) Call
- 3) Companion

LOVE MUST BE FREE IN ORDER TO FUNCTION

Poverty Replaced Partying / Hog Pens Replaced High Living

I. SIN SEPARATES US FROM OUR:

- A) FAMILY
- B) FORTUNE BAS with love
- C) FRIENDS self only
- D) FATHER Righteous



Hog Pen is Place of:
1) Severe Famine
2) Bitter Bondage
3) Aching Loneliness

II. THE 5 STEPS FROM THE HOG PEN TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE

- 1) REALIZATION- "Came to himself"
- 2) EXPECTATION- "Bread Enough and to Spare"
- 3) DETERMINATION- "I Will Arise"
- 4) DECLARATION- "I Have Sinned"
- 5) ACTION- "He Arose and came to the Father"

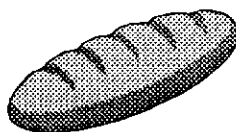
1) REALIZATION- "Came to Himself" We call this CONVICTION.

YOU WILL NEVER CHANGE UNTIL YOU REALIZE YOU NEED TO CHANGE.

If you are Happy in the Hog Pen then you will never seek Heaven.

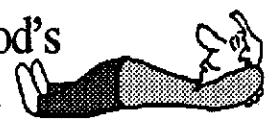
2) EXPECTATION- "Bread enough and to Spare". We call this HOPE.

He believed the Father could do something about his Situation.



3) DETERMINATION- "I Will Arise". We Call this FAITH.

This is where many Falter. They know their Need and Believe God's Power but they don't determine to do anything about their Situation.

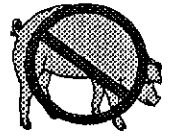


4. DECLARATION-"I Have Sinned".
We Call this REPENTANCE

1. The Hardened Sinner-Pharaoh *Relief*
2. The Double Minded Man- Balaam *Riches*
3. The Insincere Man-Saul *Blame People*
4. The Death Bed Penitent-Achan *1000/3*
5. The Repentance of Despair-Judas *Remorse*
6. The Repentance of the Saint-Job *acknowledge wandering*
7. The Repentance of the Prodigal
Rebellion to Submission as servant

5) ACTION- "He Arose and Came to the Father". We Call this WORKS.

It was no good for the Prodigal to admit his need in the Hog Pen. The Turning Point in Salvation is leaving the Hog Pen and Coming to the Father.



He confessed in his heart and then with his mouth.

The Prodigal Demanded his Portion as a Son but now he Begs the Portion of a Servant. That is Acknowledging GOD

How deep in the Hog Pen must YOU go before you realize how much better it is at the Father's House??

4-23 -95
9 AM GRACE

TEACH US TO PRAY

Luke 11:1-13; Matt 6:5-13

Doctrine
Duty
Pray without ceasing
Pray with Confidence
Commitment - About everything

We usually think of John the Baptist as a prophet and martyr; Yet our Lord's disciples remembered him as a man of prayer. John was a "miracle baby," filled with the Holy Spirit before he was born, and yet he had to pray. He was privileged to introduce the Messiah to Israel, and yet he had to pray. Jesus said that John was the greatest prophet (Luke 7:28) and yet He had to pray. If John had to pray then how much more should we learn to pray?

The Lord's Prayer is a PATTERN, not a substitute.*

Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man's will done in heaven, but for getting God's will done in earth. ①

We have no right to ask God for anything that will dishonor His name, delay His kingdom, or disturb His will on earth. ②

There is NO Singular Pronouns in this prayer; all are plural. ③
"All of us have one routine prayer in our system; and once we get rid of it, then we can really start to pray." Dr Robert Cook

Prayer prepares us for the proper use of the answer. ④

⑤ Lead us not into temptation- We are asking God to guide us so that we will not get out of His will and get involved in a situation of temptation (I John 5:18) or even is a situation of tempting God so that He will miraculously rescue us (Matt 4:5-7).

THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER Matt 6:5-6 Not to be seen but to Communicate with God. There is a place for public praying but private praying should not be done in Public. Lyndon Johnson's press secretary, Bill Moyers, was saying grace at a staff lunch, when the president shouted, "Speak up, Bill! I can't hear a thing!" Moyers quietly replied, "I wasn't addressing you, Mr President." It is good to remind ourselves that when we pray, we talk to God.

THE PLEAS OF PRAYER- Matt 6:7-8 Not a Creed but real communication repetitions (See Luke 11:5-9). Persistence does more to change our hearts and minds than God's

Pattern
THE PLAN OF PRAYER 9-15 * ③

A) TOWARD GOD - ②

- 1) Honor His Name
- 2) Desire His Kingdom
- 3) Accept His Purpose (Thy will be done)

B) TOWARD LIVING IN THIS WORLD

- 1) Expect to live by Faith- Daily Bread (God is our sustainer and Provider- see Prov 30:7-9)
- 2) Acknowledge your Accountability to others- Forgive as we forgive
- 3) Accept your need of depending on God for strength to live victoriously- Deliver us from evil (Let no man say when he is tempted- James 1:13) ⑤

C) ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL OF: ④

- 1) The Government- The Kingdom
- 2) The Spiritual Kingdoms- The Power (Eph 6:13)
- 3) The Heavenly Throne- The Glory

Not MAGIC
Not MANIPULATIONS
Not MEMORIZED
?

TEACH US TO PRAY

John the Baptist was not remember as a Prophet or Martyr but because of His PRAYER Ministry

LUKE 11:1-13

MATT 6:5-13



I. THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER

MATT 6:5-6

Not a Public Performance but real Communication with God. Prayer prepares us for the proper use of the answer.



II. THE PLEAS OF PRAYER

Matt 6:7-8

Not Magic

Not Manipulating

Not Memorized

Repetition is Wrong but Persistence is Right- Luke 11:5-9

III. THE PATTERN OF PRAYER

MATT 6:9-13

This is a PATTERN; it should not become a vain Repetition

There are NO SINGULAR pronouns in this Prayer. Only together with Christ can we approach God the Father

A) Toward God- vs 9-10 Implies we are Saved (Father) and looking beyond human help.

We have no right to ask God for anything that will Dishonor His name, Delay His Kingdom, or Disturb His Will on earth.

B) TOWARD LIVING IN THIS WORLD-11-13a

- 1) Expect to Live by Faith-Daily Bread
- 2) Acknowledge your Accountability to others-Forgive
- 3) Accept your need to depend on God for Strength to live Victoriously - Temptation

Lead us not into Temptation-See James 1:13

We are asking God to guide us so that we will not get out of His will and get involved in a situation of Temptation or even in a situation of tempting God so He will have to miraculously rescue us (Matt 4:5-7)



C) ACKNOWLEDGE GOD IS IN CONTROL OF:



- 1) The Government-Kingdom
- 2) The Spiritual Kingdom-Power
- 3) The Heavenly Throne-Glory

Prayer is a Mighty Power; not for getting man's will done in Heaven, but for getting God's will done on Earth.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING
PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE
PRAY WITH COMMITMENT

Goal - People live for Christ
 And die ~~there~~ saved
 Will you be made whole?

Jesus said they were AN Evil Gen
 of sign seekers

SEEKING SIGNS

Luke 11:29-36

What will it take to
 Convince People that
 Christ is the Son of God??

Do we want
 to WIN or
 just PLAY
 the Game??

Great Commission


WHY MIRACLES DON'T MAKE IT

- 1) When Christ cast out Demons they blamed it on Satan.
- 2) Christ knew that Genuine Faith cannot be compelled.
- 3) Miracles demand Miracles to prove they are Miracles!

Egypt - math 24:24 Signs & wonders
 To deceive elect - need Real
 Commitment

After all the Miracles Jesus did,
 He did not fall back on any of
 them but instead said people
 should be convinced by the Signs

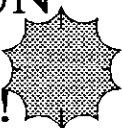
Judgement

- 1) RESURRECTION-Jonah  Kathy Susan
- 2) WISDOM- Queen of Sheba
- 3) LIGHT- Single Eye - Inner Change

1 Cor
 1: 17-20

- 1) Use UNUSUAL Methods:
 Jonah went to the GENTILES } outreach
 Queen was a GENTILE
- 2) Preach UNUSUAL Message:
 We preach too much Cross Power for new 2. Fe
 and not enough Resurrection
 We are content with Tradition Pharisees
 instead of searching for God's
 Wisdom

If I just had Faith!
 you're got Christ

Lessons from LIGHT:
 --THE BRIGHTEST SUN
 CANNOT ENABLE A
 BLIND MAN TO SEE!! 

God
 needed

--A Hid Light is like no
 light

You
 needed

--Double Vision
 becomes No Vision

Clear
 needed



We don't Need MIRACLES
 to be effective for Christ.

We need to Proclaim
 RESURRECTION POWER
 HEAVENLY WISDOM
 INTERNAL LIGHT

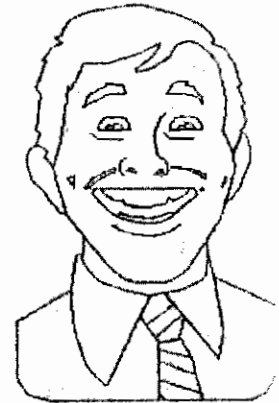
GLAD

Luke 8:1 *And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,*

Every person here today has one of the Four predominant Attitudes: MAD, GLAD, SAD, SCARED. Most people have some of all of these attitudes at all times but one of them is normally predominant. And **YOUR ATTITUDES WILL DETERMINE YOUR ACTIONS** [Paul wrote most of his letters from this perspective- Belief will determine Behavior. He would always write about the Doctrine we are to believe and then from that show us the Duty we are to perform].

This is very important because many of the sins that Christians continue to battle today are "ATTITUDE" Sins rather than "ACTION" sins. We are much more prone to anger, worry, greed, and lust than we are to robbery, murder, and adultery.

I want us today to begin looking at one of these attitudes, GLAD, and see how the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian can change it from a "happy" feeling into a positive force for God.



The word "Glad" in today's Scripture is tied to the word "Tidings". In the Greek it is one word; the word from which we get our word "Evangelize". I chose this verse so you could see that "Glad" does not make you a happy-go-lucky clown. It is a positive part of our testimony for God in a world that is killing itself over fun.

As we continue our goal of reaching people for Christ, it is this attitude of "Glad Tidings" that will enable us to attract them to Church and win them to Christ. And it is the absence of this attitude that will turn us into Pharisees who condemn men instead of convert them.

Normally the word translated "Glad" in the Bible means "Joyful, merry hearted, rejoicing". This gladness of heart will effect our Health and our outlook on life as well as our testimony: Prov 12:25 *Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.*

In a world full of troubles and strife, what could give us such a merry heart??

THE EXCITEMENT OF ANOTHER DAY (Purpose to life- Does a new day make you Sad, Mad, Scared, or Glad?): Psa 118:24 *This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.* What a difference it makes when we know that God gave us this day. We are not to waste it or dread it. We are to rejoice in it and use it's time to the very best of our ability for God's Glory and our good.

THAT WE GET TO WORSHIP IN GOD'S HOUSE (Principles to Follow): Psa 122:1 *I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.* Life is full of troubles, trials, and unanswerable questions. Without the fellowship of the people of God and the assurance from the Word of God it would not be endurable- See Psalm 73:1-17. Just one trip to the House of God can change my entire outlook and rejoice me to a glad heart.

THE BLESSINGS THAT COME FROM GOD (Presents from God): Psa 92:4 For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands.
Psa 126:3 The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Everyone loves a Present. When we live for God and He pours out Blessings on us day after day, we can't help but be glad.



THAT GOD IS IN CHARGE (Powers that be are ordained of God): Psa 97:1 The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. The governments of the world seem to be falling apart; I'm so glad I know God isn't. No matter what tomorrow may hold; I know who holds tomorrow, and I'm glad I belong to Him.

THAT CHILDREN BEHAVE CORRECTLY (Parental Guidelines we can teach and trust): Prov 10:1 A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. When we bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord it is a joy to see God work in their life. They may not always do right but they always KNOW to do right.

WHEN WE ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE: Mat 5:11-12 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. The reason we can Rejoice in Persecution is because we know Crowning Day is Coming!! 1 Pet 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

WHEN SINNERS ARE SAVED (People leave the hog pens for the Father's house): Luke 15:32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found. No matter what else happens in a service, if someone gets saved it makes it all worth while. Even the angels rejoice over people getting saved!!

THAT SINS ARE FORGIVEN (Pardon is applied to ME!! MY sins are gone, O Glory!!): Psa 32:11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Do you want to change your heart into a GLAD HEART today?? The Glad Tidings about Jesus can give you this Glad Heart. Repent of your sins, Trust Christ as savior, and begin a new life today. You'll really be glad you did.

Luke 2:21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

8 DAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS



On this Eighth day after Christmas I want us to see what the parents of Jesus did to and for Him. Hopefully, this will encourage us to have the same dedication and determination as we face a new year.

God had given this humble couple a tremendous task (Raising the Son of God) and now they had to deal with day to day details. The very first of those details took place 8 days after the birth of the baby who was laid in a manger.

1. FOLLOWED GOD'S LAW. Acknowledged God's Covenant with Abraham. As you face a new year, you need to covenant with God to do His will in your PRIVATE life. In the part of you, unseen by others, covenant that God's will (even if it means pain & suffer) will be followed.

FOLLOWED GOD'S LAW

PRIVATE Life Committed to God

Psa 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD,



Have an active Prayer Life, Bible Study, Devotion Life. Make this your daily prayer- Psa 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Determine to make your body the HOLY temple in which the Holy Spirit can feel comfortable.

OBEYED GOD'S WORD

PUBLIC LIFE Directed by God



Matt 1:21 she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for he shall save his people from their sins.

2. FOLLOWED GOD'S WORD- Gave Him the name the Angel had proclaimed (Matt 1:21). This was following God's directions in PUBLIC life.

Names are very important. They identify us from the mass of humanity around us. Jesus had many names but His official name on the Jewish records would have read "Jesus bar Joseph" or Jesus, the son of Joseph.

Jesus is the Greek of the Hebrew Name, Joshua and it means "Savior". When He began His ministry

He was also called CHRIST, which is Greek for "the

Anointed One" from the Hebrew "Messiah".

But some of the names that best describe Him are found in Isa 9:6 (NIV) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

I. WONDERFUL COUNSELOR- WISDOM (Remember that the wisdom of God is foolishness with man. Learn to follow His counsel because you trust His love). He doesn't just tell us, He shows us the way!!

II. MIGHTY GOD-STRENGTH-He is greater than the greatest difficulty, greatest sin or sorrow, or greatest failure in your life.

III. EVERLASTING FATHER- STABILITY- The same yesterday, today, and forever.

IV. PRINCE OF PEACE-SECURITY - Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Guilty hearts find peace about their sins. Burdened hearts find peace in his love (Rom 8:28)

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO 8 DAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS??

1. COMMIT TO MAKING CHRIST LORD OF YOUR PRIVATE LIFE

2. DETERMINE TO OBEY GOD'S WILL IN YOUR PUBLIC LIFE

GROWING LIKE CHRIST

Luke 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

This is part of the only description of the early life of Jesus. The Gospel writers were mainly concerned with His public Ministry and not His private life. While we long for more detail, We also realize God had a purpose in denying these details of Jesus's youth.

From today's scripture, however, we can glean 3 Principles that will help us grow spiritually in the same way that Jesus grew physically.

I. DEVELOP STRENGTH

1) EAT RIGHT- Read the Bible every day to keep the Devil away (From the Bible you will get Right Doctrine as well as learn that Reasoning is not Righteousness).

2) EXERCISE- Faith without Works is dead. Put the Bible principles you learn to work in real life situations. Exercise is hard at first but it soon becomes a matter of routine.

3) DISCIPLINE SELF- The Tea Bag must stay in hot water to produce good tea. It is the trying of your faith that works patience.



II. DEEPEN WISDOM- Not just Intelligence but accepting your place in God's plan as very important: (Look at these examples of people God filled with Wisdom- Exo 35:35 Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.

1 Ki 7:14 He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work).
How do you Deepen Wisdom?

1) Pray- James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. (Seek; then listen to the voice of God).

2) Practice- John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. You must act on what God reveals; then He will reveal more.

3) Ponder- 1 Tim 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. WHAT is God doing?? WHY is He doing it?? HOW do I fit into it??



III. DEPEND ON GRACE. The "Unmerited Favor" of God teaches us that:

1) Love is not based on Ability- The Ability God looks for is AVAILABILITY and DEPENDABILITY.

2) Pride hinders service- Fruit is produced for others. Don't become self centered or a "Praise Prisoner". What have we that did not come from God??

3) Failure is not Fatal; unless we remain down. The mistake you make with a mistake is allowing the mistake to defeat you. Grace looks beyond your failure to your heart. Grace knows that growth involves learning. Just remember, If God is in it; you can do it !

God expects you to Grow as a Christian. Are You??

THE GREEN MONSTER-ENVY

Luke 3:15-16; John 3:25-30

ENVY is defined as - "Discontent or resentment because of another's success, advantages, or superiority." Surely it would not have been unusual for John the Baptist to have this feeling. He burst on the scene with tremendous popularity. Now his cousin, Jesus, was claiming the lime light, stealing his disciples, and becoming the main focus of everyone's attention. John knew that the more Jesus increased the more his ministry would decrease. How did he avoid being consumed by the "Green Monster, Envy"??

PRINCIPLES CONCERNING ENVY:

1> THE POWER OF ENVY: Prov 27:4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?

2> THE DANGER OF ENVY: Job 5:2 For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one. Prov 14:30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

A) REASON JESUS CRUCIFIED: Mark 15:10 For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy.

B) REASON JOSEPH'S BROTHERS SOLD HIM INTO SLAVERY: Acts 7:9 And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,

C) REASON JEWS PERSECUTED PAUL: Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

3> MARK OF A LOST MAN: Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

Rom 7:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

4> ORIGINATES FROM DEVILS, FLESH, AND EARTH- James 3:14-15 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

5> ONE OF THE WORKS OF THE FLESH: Gal 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

PRODUCERS OF ENVY:

Accumulation- Prov 23:17 Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

Attire- Peer Pressure

Advantage- Keep up with the Jones

Actions- Copy what makes others popular

Appearance- Fads

Authority- Prov 3:31 Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

Accomplishments- Trying to be what you are not.

Affection- Pet

WAYS TO DEFEAT ENVY:

1) Jn 3:27- Recognize the Source of all Things

2) Jn 3:28- Remember your Ministry

3) Jn 3:29- Rejoice that you have a part

4) Jn 3:28- Relate to God's Plan

SHOE SERVANT

Luke 3:15-16, John 3:30-36

THE MOST MISERABLE LIFE IS ONE CONTROLLED BY SELF INSTEAD OF CHRIST. The happiest life is one lived under the power and direction of God.

John the Baptist had come on the religious scene in Judea and caused an uproar. People from every race and class flocked to hear him. Suddenly this isolated desert dweller was cast into the glare of popularity's spotlight. People hung on his every word, multitudes heeds his call to repentance and baptism, and a number of men even took up full time residence with him as his personal disciples.

Many another man would have fallen prey to popularity and wrecked his ministry on the shores of selfishness and success. Not John the Baptist. As the multitudes flocked to hear him his constant claim was, "I am not worth to be the shoe servant of the one whom I proclaim." John knew how to deal with his ego.

How we need that kind of Christian today. John's watch word was (John 3:30) "He must increase, but I must decrease." Today it seems everyone's motto is "I want God to increase; as long as that means God will satisfy my felt needs." That's why we have Cold Christians, Lukewarm Service, and a decline in Christian values. The problem has become that we want God to give us a new pair of shoes instead of feeling unworthy to even tie God's Shoes. We're much more interested in how God can serve us than we are in how we can become "Shoe Servants" for God.

This self serving Ego destroys our testimony, our power with God, and the abundant life Christ wants us to have. Unable to separate between the desires of the Flesh and the guidance of the Spirit we separate flesh and spirit into two separate categories in which we live a "real" life while we sometimes try to also have a "spiritual" life. This causes Christianity to become a Burden instead of a Blessing.

The answer to this dilemma is found in the brokenness that comes from recognizing ourselves as "Shoe Servants" of Christ. This brokenness will allow the Spirit of God to control our entire life and turn Christianity into Joy instead of a Job.

I. WHY WE NEED TO BE BROKEN:

A) To unleash God's life in our life- John 12:24-25 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. 25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.*

FRUITFULNESS only comes when we allow God to break the shell of the seed within us. Just as God uses Dirt, Proper Temperature, and rain to cause seed to sprout in the earth so He uses proper circumstances in our life to bring us to fruitfulness. Don't ask God to remove the necessary Circumstances; abide in the Lord and bring forth much fruit.



2) To bear witness of God's grace at work in your life- Mark 14:3
And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.

The only way for the FRAGRANCE of Christ in our life to come out is for us to break the shell that surrounds it. This is costly and scary (You can't put the ointment back in the box once you have broken it!) but it will greatly please the Lord (This that this woman has done shall be told for a testimony of her where ever the Gospel is preached).

We hide who we really are in a box and offer the box to the Lord. He replies, "The only way I can use you is to break the box."

II. METHODS GOD USES TO BREAK OUR EGOS.

A) Thorn in the Flesh- 2 Cor 12:7 *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

B) Time to Mature- 1 Tim 3:6 *Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*

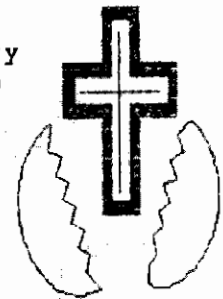
C) Temperance in Victories- Luke 10:20 *Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*

III. ONCE YOU ARE BROKEN WHAT ARE SOME PRINCIPLES SHOE SERVANTS MUST PRACTICE. As John was describing his Ministry of "Shoe Service" he gave 3 Principles that we all need to follow- John 3:31-36

A) "He that cometh from above is above all"- Elevating Christ in my life and my living is the most important occupation of life.

B) "He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God"- Learning and practicing the precepts of God is the most important knowledge you will ever acquire.

C) "He that believeth..."- A complete and continuing relationship with Christ is the most vital decision you will ever make.



The most miserable life is one controlled by self instead of Christ. The happiest life is one lived under the power and direction of God.

Are you willing to allow God to break you so you can become fruitful and fragrant?

Are you a "Shoe Servant" or a "Satan Servant". Shoe Servants get to walk of streets of God. Satan Servants get to spend eternity in the lad of fire with Satan.

OUR PATTERN FOR SERVICE

Luke 4:16-19

Jesus is not only our Savior, He is also our example. His call to His disciples was "follow me". At the beginning of His ministry He returned to His hometown and went to the Synagogue AS USUAL. He selected a message from Isaiah 61:1-2 (thus tying in the Old and New Testament method of service). His sermon reveals 3 things Christian workers desperately need today.

I. THE POWER FOR SERVICE- *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

To try to do the work of God without the power of God is like trying to empty the ocean with a pitchfork!

The Spirit of God gives power to DO the work of God; not glorify self- John 16:13-14 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.*



THE HOLY SPIRIT:

- 1) Comes from Heaven- Divine
- 2) Guides into all Truth
- 3) Glorifies Christ
- 4) Grows us in Christ as He shows us the things of Christ

7 MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Born of Spirit John 3:5 (Salvation)
2. Baptized of the Spirit I Cor 12:13 (Placed in Body)
3. Indwelt by the Spirit Rom 8:11 (Abides)
4. Anointed by the Spirit I John 2:27 (Teacher)
5. Branded by the Spirit Eph 1:14 (Down Payment)
6. Sealed by the Spirit Eph 4:20 (Name on Door)
7. Filled with the Spirit Eph 5:18 (Service)

A house may be full of Appliances but if it has no power connected then it is useless. A Christian may play Church but does not good without the Power of God on his life.

II. THE PROGRAM OF SERVICE- Everything you need for every need you find is found in proclaiming Christ.

WHO

- A) Bankrupt (Poor in Spirit)
- B) Brokenhearted
- C) Bound (Captives)
- D) Blind II Cor 4:3-4
- E) Bruised (Down trodden, crushed)

WHAT

- Preach the Gospel
- Heal (Message of Help and Hope)
- Preach deliverance
- Preach recovery of Sight
- Set at Liberty

III. THE PERIOD OF SERVICE- *The acceptable year of the Lord.* We must work while it is day; soon the night comes and no man can work. God has a program and a time table. The acceptable year of the Lord is the time you must accept Him.

The people of Nazareth rejected Him and tried to kill Him so He departed to other areas. What will YOU do with Jesus??

PETER'S WIFE'S MOTHER

Luke 4:38-41 And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her. 39 And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them. 40 Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. 41 And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.

It had been a very busy day. Jesus had taught the multitude from the front of Peter's Boat. Then He requested Peter to launch out into the deep where he caught the vast catch of fish. Finally, Christ had called Peter and Andrew, James and John to full time discipleship.



Now Peter has invited everyone to his home for supper only to find that his wife is busy caring for a very sick mother in law. Stunned, Peter simply stands there until Jesus comes over, lays His hand on Peter's Mother in Law, and, suddenly, the fever is all gone. Now she can rise and help minister to Jesus, the disciples, and the crowd.

In this simple story of the compassion and healing power of Jesus we find some very important lessons for living. All of them evolve around the fact that Peter's Mother in Law met the Master:

I. **HER SICKNESS**- High fever. An infection in the body had caused a fever to ravage her. We don't know what her sickness was but we do know that Sin resides in every person and, like a fever, it destroys them a person from the inside out.

II. **HER SERVICE**- As soon as she was healed she went to work. She didn't just accept Christ, she committed her life to Him. That's a missing ingredient in many people's Salvation experience today.

III. **HER STRESS**- Her house was crowded with Jesus and the Disciples; and soon with multitudes who wanted to be healed just like she have been healed. Jesus will fill your life with opportunities to serve Him. They can be bring stress or salvation, depending on how we look at them.

IV. **HER SAVIOR**- When Jesus came into her life He took some things from her:

A) **Her Son-in-Law** - Peter was called to leave his fishing business and follow Christ. His mother-in-law found that committing to Christ effected her Family. But is there a better goal than to dedicate your entire family to the service of the Lord.

B) **Her Sickness**- Jesus gave her health for a weakened body. When you accept Christ the Holy Spirit comes in and empowers you to live and work for God. Many are unwilling to exchange their sickness for service because they want an excuse to stay as they are. Christ will make you a new creature.

C) **Her Sins**- She came from a place of rebellion against the will of God into a place of perfect peace as she followed the Lord.

Are you ready to invite Jesus into YOUR home? (Heart)

Are you ready to exchange your sickness for service?

Are you willing to trust Christ with your Salvation and the Holy Spirit with your burdens?

SURPRISED AT GOD'S ABILITY

Luke 5:6-11

Has God ever done something in your life that completely surprised you because it was so much more than you expected? The Bible tells us we are to expect the unexpected from God: *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not (Jer 33:3). Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, (Eph 3:20)*



When God surprises us with His Power and Ability it should cause at least three reactions in our life:

I. DEVELOPS AN AWE FOR GOD.

A) When Peter saw Jesus' Power it Produced Fear (Awe)- "Depart from me".

B) This show of Power also Produced Repentance- "I am a sinful man, O Lord".

People today need to see such an unexpected demonstration of God's Power in His people until they tremble in awe and bow in repentance. Sadly, all they usually see is the boredom of complacent Christians or the hysteria of man made theatrics. And these won't make men leave church whispering to each other that God is Holy and His Judgement is coming?

II. DETERMINES OUR SERVICE FOR GOD- And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men (Luke 5:10). Realizing God's ability is an incentive for us to attempt greater work for God (Fish to Fishers of men). Many today are discouraged (and dropping out of Church) because they know they can never do the task God has called them to do unless they receive a supernatural power. They know they will never accomplish anything of lasting value as long as all they have is their own schemes and strength.

More and more churches are sending the "hard cases" to professional counselors with the explanation, "This is beyond us. We need someone more qualified to handle this." Translation- Our God is not able to do anything for this person; but we believe the professionally educated is able to do what God cannot do!!! No wonder our serve is such a sham and our testimony is so weak.

III. DEMANDS A COMMITMENT TO GOD- And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him. (Luke 5:11)

Becoming a Christian involves two major changes in your life:

A) Forsaking your past (This is called Repentance). This means turning away from Self Determination, Selfish Desires, and Self Delusion about your ability to deal with the penalty and power of Sin. You come to God admitting how bad you were and acknowledging only a supernatural work from God can change you. And you tell God you are willing to do whatever it takes to let Him work this change in your life.

B) Following Christ- Accepting by Faith the fact that Jesus died for your sins and paid a debt you could not pay. Your heart is so thankful for His forgiveness until you commit to making Him the Lord and Master of your life; for now and eternity.

God has the Ability to surprise you with His power; let Him do so today.

Privilege CALLED TO SERVE CHRIST

Luke 6:12-13

The word "Apostle" means "One sent forth" as an ambassador who bears a message and who represents the one who sent him. Their qualifications included: (1) Seeing the Lord and being eyewitnesses of His resurrection (Acts 1:22; 1 Cor 9:1); (2) Being invested with miraculous sign-gifts (Acts 5:15-16; Heb 2:3-4); (3) Being chosen by the Lord or the Holy Spirit (Matt 10:1-2, Acts 1:26)

These men were given:

I. **THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY-** To Serve God
II. **THE GREATEST HONOR-** To be chosen as a Disciple. A Disciple is someone who is being taught by a discipler and who is learning a discipline. This involves

A CALL FROM GOD- Spirit must draw us to Christ.

A COMMITMENT TO GOD: A Task given

A Teacher accepted. That's because you must

Continue to Grow- For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Heb 5:12-14)

III. **THE GREATEST OBLIGATION-** To fulfil the task given to us by God.

we know what that task was for the Apostles. What is it for us?

Three guiding principles should direct us:

1. **GOD HAS A PLAN FOR HIS CHURCH.** The only actions and activities that will produce lasting good for God's Glory will be those things done within and, as a part of, that plan. **WHAT IS HIS PLAN FOR US? REACHING OUT to a Sin Sick World:** Pastor-Outreach Ministry, Youth Committee-Reaching and Training Youth, Choir- Inspiring and Witnessing, Helping Hand- Assisting People in Need, Caring People of Grace- Real Concern

2. **THE BUILDER OF THE CHURCH IS GOD-** "I will build my Church". When we obey God's commands and follow God's plan then the Church will experience supernatural growth. If the Church is not growing according to God's plans do you think God has failed; or have we failed to do those things God commanded us? What are our Failures? How can we correct them?

3. **FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN AND EXPERIENCING GOD'S POWER WILL PRODUCE GODLY PEOPLE; WHICH IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THE CHURCH.**

A) Godly people are concerned about their relationship with God so they seek holiness of life- "Be ye Holy for I am Holy, saith the Lord." God's Power can't work through dirty vessels

B) Godly people are gifted by God to function in the body of Christ. These gifts are not according to their desires or whims; they are given by the Holy Spirit according to God's plan in order to enable the church to fulfil it's function.

C) Godly People have an impact on their family, friends, and society- "You are the Salt of the earth, the light of the world, and the only Bible some people ever read." This impact will determine how well God's plan is accomplished through the Church.

Note How Jesus went about the process of selecting people to serve Him. All night in Prayer- Divine Guidance

Called those He wanted- Divine Selection

Have you heard God's Call? Have you answered it? When you face God will He say, "Well Done" or "Depart from Me"??

GREATER THAN JOHN

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Luke 7:24-28

If you could compare yourself to any famous person in the world; who would it be? Now let's bring it down to one famous city; Mayberry, NC!! Which would best describe you: Andy, the wise; Barney, the klutz; Floyd, the Steady; Howard, the Organizer; Goober, the good old boy; or Opie, the mischievous?

Today we're going to look at the case of a man whom Jesus said was the greatest prophet born among men but who testified about himself that he was not worthy to even tie the shoes of Jesus and of whom Jesus said the least person in the Kingdom of God was Greater than he was!! And, hopefully, we will find out how we can compare ourselves to this greatest of all prophets and come out being GREATER THAN JOHN.

Everything is going to revolve around a short statement made by Jesus. Three things in the Statement stand out as significant.

I. THE TIME OF THE STATEMENT- After John's Disciples were departed. It seems to me that the statement Jesus is about to make would have been tremendously encouraging to a "Doubting Prophet". Yet Jesus deliberately waits until after John's messengers left before making the statement. WHY?? Why does God many times deliberately keep us in the dark about what we are accomplishing and His view of it's success?

I certainly don't know all the answers to these questions but I can give you three principles I have learned in my dealings with God-- (1) Pride [God hates it]. (2)Patience [God has a time and He is determined we learn to wait on it] (3) Plan [Jesus knew that John was destined to die in that cell. He didn't need encouragement about his position; he needed faith in his master!].

II. THE QUESTIONS IN THE STATEMENT. Would you leave the comforts of home to go into the desert to see a:

A) Compromiser--Reed shaken by the wind

B) Celebrity--Man Clothed in soft raiment.

The only thing that would bring you into the desert is a PROPHET. And John was even more than a Prophet; he was a MESSENGER. The zeal in his life and the fire in his message were so unusual until people wanted to hear what he had to say.

Sadly, People today are in fact looking for a Compromiser (To tickle their ears) or a Celebrity (To confirm their idea that God only likes Success). They don't want someone with Confidence in his message and in his Master. That kind of person sounds too harsh and judgmental to today's politically correct Society.

Gladly, there are still some that hungry to see a genuine work of God among His people. They long to see God's power operating outside the realm of human promotion and manipulation. And when God's people will live in such a way until God can work through them in miraculous ways then we will be able to draw them away from the comfort of a warm bed into the holy fire in the house of God.

III. THE COMPARISONS IN THE STATEMENT- No greater prophet born to woman than John the Baptist yet the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he. Least Saint is better than Best Prophet!! That means we should

A) Recognize our Privileges in God's Kingdom

B) Rejoice in our Position in Christ

C) Remember our Obligation to proclaim Christ.

When Alexander was conquering the world they brought a soldier to him who was disobeying orders. He told Emperor Alexander that his name was also Alexander. The Emperor told him to change his conduct or change his name! Jesus said the least Saint was greater than John. Let's learn to live like that.

WISDOM'S CHILDREN

Luke 7:29-35

John the Baptist was "The Man with Three Lives". Elijah had been a prophet. If Israel would have accepted Christ then John would have been Elijah that was to come. Since they didn't then Elijah will come before that great and dreadful day of the Lord.

In describing him to the crowd, Jesus said he was the greatest prophet born to woman. In this scripture we see the reaction of various people to this greatest prophet; and from that see our own reaction to the wonderful works of God.

I. THE REACTIONS: Vs 29-30

- A) People and Publicans believed and were Baptized
 - B) Pharisees and Lawyers rejected counsel of God against themselves.
- Some people will accept the message of God and Some will reject it.

II. THE PARABLE: Vs 31-35 People who are not Wisdom's Children- men of this generation

- A) Location- Market Place- Thoughts occupied with this world
- B) Language- Called one to another. Seeking public opinion instead of Wisdom from God.
- C) Perplexing- Nothing you do can satisfy them; either feast or funeral. Won't dance to a tune or weep at a death.

John the Baptist worked in the solitude of the desert so they said he must be demon possessed or he would come into the city and socialize with other respectable people.

Jesus was a man of the people who socialized with everyone, not just the religious elite so they called him a rabble rouser running in the wrong circles.

III. THE PRINCIPLES: Wisdom's children vs Worldly Children

1. NOTHING you do can satisfy someone who is looking to find fault. People who want to avoid the truth can always find something in the service to criticize. Did you come to church today to find fault or develop faith? You will probably find what you came for!

2. Real Wisdom is not justified by your arguments but by your actions. This means that, in reality, Wisdom's Children are the fruits produced by that wisdom in your life. Faith makes you a child of God; Works show you are a child of God.

An interesting point for those of you who think this is too hard. The first place Wisdom is mentioned in the Bible is Exodus 28:3 in which God says He has given the spirit of Wisdom to people in order for them to sew Aaron's garments!! Who would have thought wisdom first came in a sewing factory??

Rev John MacArthur in his book "The Gospel According to Jesus" makes a statement about this principle that helps bring it into focus- "The Gospel demands not just passive acceptance of Christ but active submission to Him as well. Those unwilling to surrender to Christ cannot recruit Him to be part of a crowded life. He will not heed the plea of a rebel who simply wants Him to enter and by His presence sanctify a life of continued disobedience."

Wisdom's Children don't just sit in the marketplace and play at being righteous. They commit themselves to Christ by Faith and live by Faith so that the fruits of their life will testify to the Faith in their heart. Do you have that kind of faith??

THE FAITH THAT SAVES

Luke 7:36-50

Recently my wife was not feeling well and I told her to lay on the couch for a day. Daytime TV is absolutely worthless so she was watching a copy of "Sleepless in Seattle" we had copied during a preview week on Showtime. The times given in the paper were wrong however and we only copied the first half of the movie. I told her I would try to get another copy but no one I knew had one available. Finally, I decided to make the plunge and go to the tape rental store. I hoped maybe I could slip in, get the video, and slip out. Forget it. In order to rent a movie they have to get your life story and as soon as I started the girl said, "I know you. You're Preacher Mike!". So much for slipping in and out.

That must have been the way the woman in today's scripture felt. She wanted to ease into a banquet and show her love for Jesus but suddenly she is the center of attention and conversation. From this attention, however, we can learn the most important lesson of this chapter. It was marvelous that the Centurion's servant was healed at a distance, it was a miracle that the widow of Nain's son was raised from the dead, but the greatest miracle in this chapter is the fact that Christ would forgive and restore a fallen woman- meeting the greatest need, achieving the greatest results, and costing the greatest price.

I. THE STORY- Jesus goes to the home of Simon, the Pharisee- Jesus ate with Pharisees as well as Publicans! This was a "Master's Men" meeting because woman were not invited- Pharisees would not talk to women in public and would certainly never invite them to sit at a meal with them.

The dining area was open to the streets and it was not unusual for a crowd to gather and watch the "celebrities" eat. How shocked Simon was when this woman (the impression is that she was a prostitute) came into the room and began to weep on the feet of Jesus. Evidently, Jesus ignored her as she washed his feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and then anointed them with ointment. Simon couldn't believe that Jesus would allow such a thing to happen if He was the prophet he claimed to be. In answer to that Jesus told

II. THE PARABLE- A certain man had two people who owed him money. One owed him \$50 dollars and the other owed him \$5000 dollars. When neither could pay the man decided to cancel the debt for both of them. The question Jesus asked was which would love the man the most??

Simon said he assumed the man that to whom the most debt was forgiven. Jesus said that was right and then went on to describe how that love was exemplified in the life of the woman and not in the life of Simon.

The important thing for us to see is that it's not the AMOUNT of sin but our AWARENESS of sin that causes us problems. ALL sin is a debt we can't pay. To try to justify the amount of sin debt we owe would be like asking if you want me to blow you head off with a shotgun or a magnum .44!!

This is the part of today's message for Christians. We get so busy thinking about how much better we are than the drug addicts, prostitutes, and derelicts until we forget how little WE show God our love. Prayer is a form, Witnessing is forgotten, We look for excuses to miss church instead of opportunities to serve God. Our love grows lukewarm and indifferent as we forget what Christ has done for us and what He has promised those who serve Him. It's time we repented and came back to God with broken hearts asking Him to renew first love.

III. THE SALVATION- At the end of this scripture Jesus tells the woman that her faith has saved her. That's the kind of faith we want to learn about and talk about today.

A) Notice what DIDN'T save her:

1. Her Tears- Real, but many people shed tears
2. Her gift- Great, but God's Grace can't be bought
3. Her Love- Many people love others tremendously but that doesn't save. In fact it was not even God's love that saved her- God loves the whole world but the whole world is not saved.

B) How DID she get saved?

1. BASIS OF SALVATION- Repented of sins and put faith in Christ- This happened immediately after Jesus had issued His great invitation- *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.* (Mat 11:28-30). We believe she responded to this invitation.

2. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION- How did she KNOW she was saved? Jesus told her! She rested in God's Word.

3. PROOF OF SALVATION- Her love for God as expressed in her sacrificial devotion for Him. Faith must lead to works or it is a faulty faith (James 2:17).

4. PRODUCT OF SALVATION- Peace- Jesus literally said, "Go Into Peace". This Peace is what the world is longing for. And it is ours simply by trusting Christ- *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:* (Rom 5:1)

This woman had Faith and Jesus said it saved her. Do YOU have that kind of faith? This faith will lead to:

1. ACKNOWLEDGING CHRIST- She publically showed her love and devotion for Christ. *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* (Rom 10:9-10)

2. SERVING CHRIST- Even if it means washing His feet with your tears!

3. TRUSTING CHRIST- Believing His word about your Pardon and Peace
George Wilson was arrested for mail thief and sentenced to be hanged. President Andrew Jackson granted him a pardon but he refused to accept it. The case was taken all the way to the supreme court where Chief Justice John Marshall wrote "A pardon is a slip of paper, the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged."

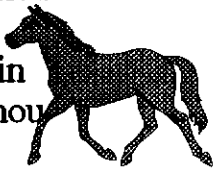
Jesus Christ has signed your pardon. If you go to Hell it will be because you refuse to accept that pardon and become a child of God.



END TIME STORMS

LUKE 21:5-28

If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan? (Jer 12:5)



End Time Storms mean that many things we count on will be destroyed, stone by stone



- 1) NEGATIVE RESPONSE-8-9
 - A) Do Not Go After False Christs
 - B) Be Not Terrified of the Chaos

The Church is not Storm, it is People
Indwelt by the Spirit. The Agency of
People is the destruction of the Church.

2) POSITIVE RESPONSES 10-19

- A) 10-11 Be AWARE of the Coming Storms
- B) 12-15 USE Trials for Spirit Directed Testimony
- C) 16-19 Keep TRUST in Trials
 - (1) Even if Family Forsakes
 - (2) Patiently Depend on God's Care no matter the Circumstances



3) THE EXTENT OF THE STORM- 20-28

- A) Foundations will be Destroyed-20-24 (Attack on Bible, Church, Morals, etc)
 - B) Nature will Change- 25
 - C) Fear will Abound- 26
 - D) God's Plan will be Completed- 27-28
- You CANNOT hinder God's Plan- You can LOOK for His return or await His Wrath.

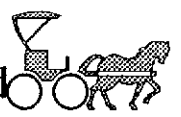


If your Christianity will not get you out of bed on Sunday Morning will it carry you thru the coming Storms??

If you are not willing to serve God while the sun is shining what makes you think you will be able to when the storm strikes??

SHELTERS FROM END TIME STORMS

- SAVED by Trusting Christ for the Pardon of your Sins
- Committed to Serving God
 - A) in your Daily Life and
 - B) by taking your Place in the Body of Christ (The Church)
- A Daily Relationship with Christ that builds Love and Trust



What will it cost you Not To Be Ready??