



Living By Faith

"The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17

November 14, 2010

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:45 AM
Worship..... 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service..... 2:30 PM
Worship..... 6:00 PM

Tuesday:

Redstone Class 9:30 AM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class..... 10:00 AM
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister Jim Moore

Don Smith..... James Thomas

Preacher:

Ryan Smithey

Works We Support:

Belize Mission & Kindergarten
Cherokee Home for Children
Food Pantry
Gospel Broadcast Network
Gospel Chariot Missions
House to House, Heart to Heart
Lake Cisco Camp
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Life Lessons from a Lowly Beggar

by Eddie Parrish

On some mid-afternoon following the Pentecost events of Acts 2, Peter and John found themselves in the presence of a physically disabled beggar outside the temple's Beautiful Gate (Acts 3:1-10).

Consider the following lessons from the record of his dramatic healing:

Don't Ever Give Up (3:2).

The paralyzed man had convinced some of his friends, family or perhaps strangers to carry him from his home (wherever it was) to the temple every day so he could ask for financial help from passersby. We learn later that the man was over 40 years old (4:22). How long he had been carried to the temple for assistance is not revealed. But the tenor of the text suggests that it had been happening for an extended period—long enough for the people to know who the man was (3:10). Though it must have been difficult and tedious day after day, the man persisted. "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up" (Gal. 6:9).

Keep Your Expectations Up (3:5).

If times then were anything at all like today, the man was probably turned down much more often than he was helped. It would have been easy for his expectations to be always negative. Yet he looked at Peter and John "expecting to receive something from them." What gave him confidence in these two men he had never met I don't know. But his expectations were positive. As we look to the Lord for help, our expectations should be way up (James 1:5-6; Mark 11:24; Matt. 21:22; Heb. 11:6).

Some Things are More Important than Money (3:6).

"I have no silver and gold," said Peter (in stark contrast to those who claim healing power today, but I digress). The man only wanted a little money to help with life's necessities, but Peter was about to give him something worth so much more. He not only would receive his physical health, but would also be introduced to the One by whose power he was healed—Jesus of Nazareth. All of this world's silver and gold is not as valuable as one soul (Mark 8:36-37).

Sometimes We Get More Than We Asked For (3:6-7).

The man only asked for money. He got so much more. At times I find myself in need of the reminder of Ephesians 3:20, which boldly proclaims that our God "is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us." When we teach people about prayer, we often highlight God's possible answers to prayer as "yes," "no," or "wait." What we don't often mention is that God sometimes says, "yes - and more!"

(Continued on page 2)

Let us know if you want to study the Bible to know more about Christ and His Church.



*For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time
are not worthy to be compared with the glory
which shall be revealed in us.*

Romans 8:18

You Never Know What a Day May Bring (3:9-10).

As the beggar sat in the arms of those who carried him to the temple, I doubt that he planned to be walking, leaping and praising God by day's end. But our God can do marvelous things. As the days, months and years roll by, how easy it seems to create routines that become habits, then ruts. These ruts can not only be in our activities but in the way we think, too. Let us be reminded that just as the mercies of God "are new every morning" (Lam. 3:23), so can be our optimism for each new day.

Obviously, the beggar was never the same from that day forward. How he must have looked back on that day with the greatest of joy the rest of his life. Could this be a similar day for you? There's no reason why not.

He's Not So Far Away

By Andy Baker

Praise God that He is not absent from this world. In fact, He has created all of us with the purpose that man "should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him..." (Acts 17:27). You and I are built with an instinct of seeking God to know Him, but the last part of Acts 17:27 is most encouraging: "though He is not far from each of us." God has not left us as "babes in the woods" but freely gives us reassurance that He is there for us, ready to offer help and ready to accept our worship. He is close enough to each one of us that:

We Don't have to go to extreme lengths to please Him. It seems in Acts 17, the Athenians' altar to the "unknown god" was their effort not to anger or neglect the god they did not know. How many people today are searching and thinking that God is calling them to do extreme things before He is pleased? Grueling pilgrimages, child sacrifices, snake-handling, charismatic outbursts, and holy wars are all extreme inventions of man in an effort to please a God whom they do not know. He's not that far away.

We don't have to do extreme things in worship to be heard by Him. Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18 teaches us that a man who is approved by God will follow God in worship to Him. The prophets of Baal had to make up their own worship because they made up their own god. Their efforts to cut themselves, leap upon their altars, and cry aloud failed to produce a spark which would "light the fire." However, a simple prayer by an obedient man of God caused a fire

within a nation to realize what was right, even if it was short-lived. God calls us to make our lives and worship as he directs (John 4:24; 14:15). When our imaginations run wild with the things we think or imagine are okay, we forget that He's not that far away.

We don't have to be anyone great to be acknowledged by Him. "You see your calling, brethren, that not many noble are called" (1 Cor, 1:26-27). The gospel call is to everyone; however, it is not the ones that this world views as great that have accepted it. Some people, because of who they are or what they have, are the only ones who have access to the president or celebrities, or other people our world views as great. Yet, we have access in our humility to the One who created this world (Eph. 2:18). In fact, one cannot find Him without child-like humility (Matt. 5:3; 18:1-4). He's not that far away.

We don't have to grope around in the dark in order to find Him. One of the most frightening things to me is to be lost in the blackness of a cave without a light. Some have the idea that this is how God has left us: groping around in this world without knowledge of what He wants. This is not the case! God has given us His Light to shine in the darkness, to illumine our path, to guide us home, and to lead others to Him (Psa. 119:11; John 1:4-5; 8:12; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Whenever we kneel to pray, or pick up our Bible to study, or fellowship with the saints, or serve the needy, or help the lost, may we always remember that our God is always right there. He's not that far away.

Television

The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish)
Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB
In Search of the Lord's Way (Mack Lyon)
Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB
Gospel Broadcasting Network
Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org
Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am
on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)
Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).
Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)
Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)
Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)
Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Bible Reading Schedule

Sunday...Jeremiah 52; Hebrews 5
Monday...Lamentations 1-2; Heb. 6
Tuesday...Lamentations 3-5; Hebrews 7
Wednesday..Ezekiel 1-3; Hebrews 8
Thursday...Ezekiel 4-7; Hebrews 9
Friday...Ezekiel 8-11; Hebrews 10
Saturday...Ezekiel 12-13; Hebrews 11
Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)

News & Notes

Things that Never Come Back

By Terry Jackson

As youngsters, several of us boys were exposed to stories about the Australian aborigines and how they could bring down a running animal with a boomerang. In these pieces we learned that these natives could throw the boomerang and it would return. Wow! We had to get us one of those things! So we talked our parents into taking us to M.E. Moses to buy some. After we got them we realized that, in order to bring down running game, we needed to practice. Of course, the practices would be easy because the boomerang would come back to us. It didn't. We spent the better part of a day chasing those crazy things all over the vacant lot until finally we realized that as far as we were concerned, the running animals were safe! Supposedly the boomerang was devised to come back to its possessor. Ours never came back!

There are some things that will never return to us. Notice the wisdom of William George Plunkett, "Three things that never come back: the spent arrow, the spoken word, the lost opportunity." How often in our lives have we said, done or not done something that we later regretted? It would be nice if our words or opportunities came with a reel so that if we spoke an unkind word or missed an opportunity of kindness we could reel those things back to us. We can't – so we must be very careful about these things. Paul wrote that we were to "redeem the time, because the days are evil" (Eph 5:16). In Colossians, he wrote, "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (4:5-6). The idea of redeeming the time is to buy back or as one author defined, to rescue from loss. Time is such a precious gift to each of us but how often do we squander our time on urgent things and miss the things that are really important?

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services**. Last week **28 contacts** were made. Remember our 3rd Sunday finger food supper following the meeting next week as well.

Ladies Bible Class

Remember the Ladies Bible Class that meets every Wednesday morning at 10 AM in the fellowship hall. Make plans to join them as they study the Life of Christ

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Today: Bible Search** at 2:30 PM. Please remember to bring cookies and such if you signed up for them and come to help and enjoy this time together.
- ◆ **Nov. 14: Vicksburg** devotional at 2:30 PM; **Bible Search practice** at 5:15 PM; **Visitation meeting and fellowship meal** following evening worship.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

November Birthdays: Linda Jiminez (08), Emilee Evetts (13), Juanita Barnum (15), Xavier Martinez (28).

November Anniversaries: Barbara & Gene Bannister (06).

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Recent Records	October 31, 2010	November 7, 2010
Bible Class	54	66
AM Worship	75	81
PM Worship	49	49
Wednesday PM	48	52
Contribution	\$2038	\$1696

Privileged to Serve	11/14/10 - AM	11/14/10 - PM	11/21/10 - AM	11/21/10 - PM
Greeters	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		John & Tina Barnum	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		James Fuller Joel 2:12-13		Michael Fuller
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Michael Bickford	Hank Wheeler	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	James Thomas*, John Barnum Tom Wilcox, Hank Wheeler	James Thomas	Allen Griffith*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith
Closing Prayer	Ken Makuta	Matthew Churchwell	Jim Moore	Gene Bannister
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	November 17 James Fuller	November 24 Ken Makuta	December 1 Michael Bickford	December 8 Allen Griffith

Studies For The Week of November 14th:

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians (Chap. 15)*

Wednesday Class *Hosea (Chap. 12-14)*

Christ & The Law (Matt. 5:17-20)

1. Christ's Relation To The Law (v17-18)

- a. His mission was to fulfill – the Old Testament pointed to Him (Deut. 18:15, Rom. 10:4); He was to fulfill its promises (Luke 24:44; Acts 13:29) and establish a new covenant (Heb. 8:13; Heb. 10:9).
- b. He was not destroying (overthrowing, demolishing) the law, but fulfilling it (to complete, accomplish, carry out to the end).
 - i. This is what Paul says Christ accomplished (Eph. 2:15; Col. 2:14; Gal. 3:24-25).
 - ii. None of it would be ignored, discarded, or disrespected.
- c. That sets forth an attitude of respect toward the word of God that we should follow (1 Pet. 2:21).

2. Christ's Expectations of Others (v19-20)

- a. We should have the same respect for God's Word that Christ did.
- b. We are not to loose His commands from off of us or others (Matt. 15:8-9; James 2:10), instead follow it (Acts 1:1; Jude 3; Titus 1:9; 2 Cor. 13:5, Matt. 7:21, 24).
- c. The counter-example to this attitude is the Scribes and Pharisees who hypocritically approached the world of God (Matt. 23:2-3, 5, 23-24, 28) – their outward lip-service to God would not cut it, Christ expects more (as will be practically illustrated in the coming verses...)

Zacchaeus' Zeal (Luke 19:1-10)

Zacchaeus may have been a "wee little man" but his account teaches us some great lessons about:

1. Searching

- a. Zacchaeus was searching for Jesus (v3-4) – he did so even against obstacles which others would stop others (Lk. 11:31-32; 14:16-21; Matt 6:33).
- b. Jesus was searching for Zacchaeus (v5) – Shows Jesus interest in all (19:10), the poor (18:35-43) and the rich (v2); He desires the salvation of all (Gal. 3:28; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).

2. Opening

- a. Zacchaeus opened his home and heart (v6, 8) – He was rich and powerful (v2), yet he opened up to Jesus; many of like sorts would would not (Matt. 19:21-22, 1 Cor. 1:26).
- b. Jesus opened His mouth/invitation (v5) – Jesus desired to come into his life as he does all men (Rev. 3:20; John 3:16 ; Rom. 1:16; Matt. 11:28-30).

3. Changing

- a. Zacchaeus changed his life (v8) – a true picture of repentance (Matt. 21:28-32; Acts 26:20; Matt. 7:21).
- b. Jesus changed the life of Zacchaeus and many others (v9-10) – Salvation was brought to the house of Zacchaeus and those present learned the gospel was for all; image the impact Jesus has had on many (1 Cor. 6:11; 1 Pet. 1:22-23).

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