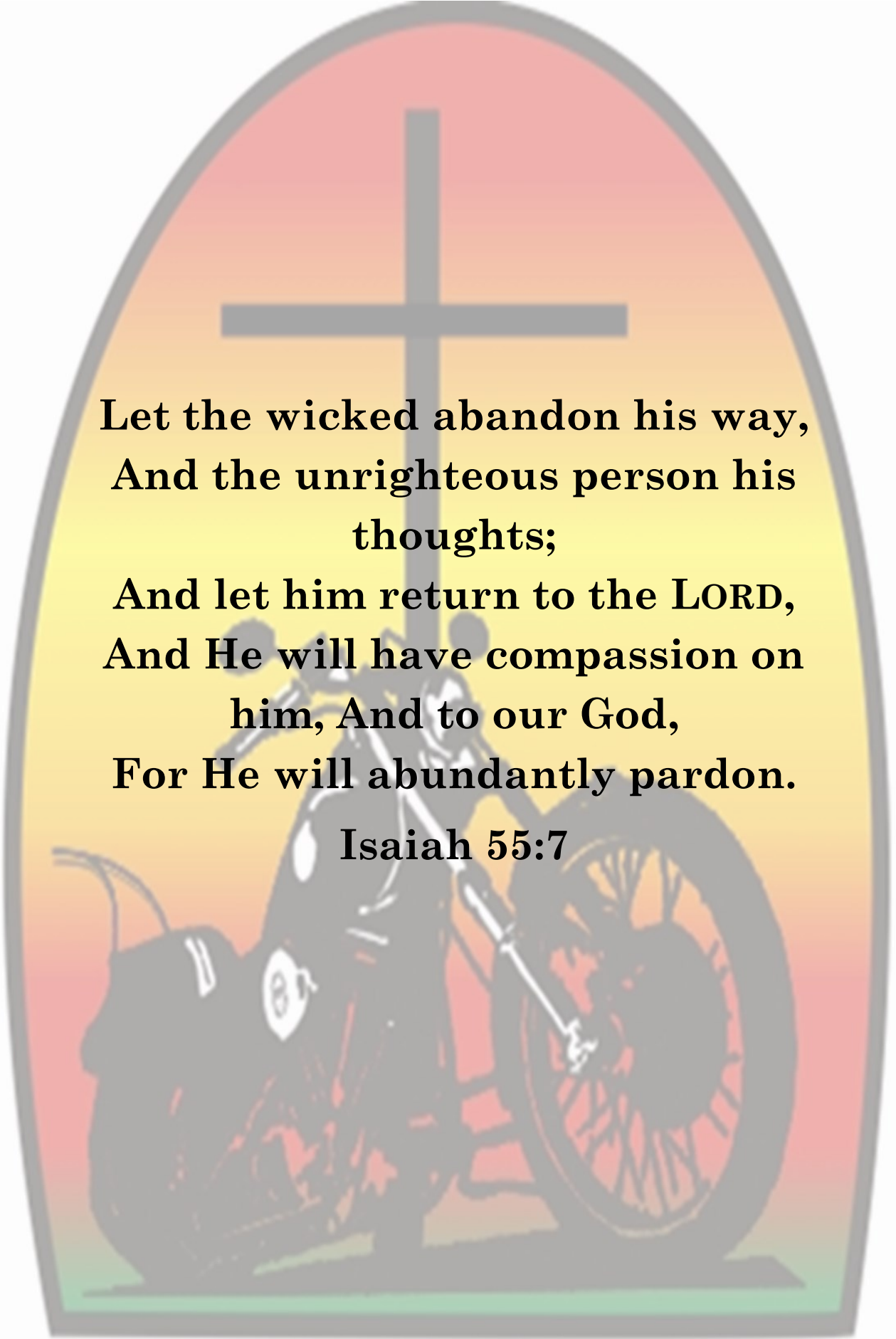


HOPE

GAZETTE
MAY 2021



**Let the wicked abandon his way,
And the unrighteous person his
thoughts;**

**And let him return to the LORD,
And He will have compassion on
him, And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.**

Isaiah 55:7

HOPE

MAY 2021

WALKING ON THE WATER

- 4 Matthew 14:22-33
- 6 Devotional: Candis Oswalt
- 10 Truth Vs Facts: Benita Tabor

DIGGING IN

- 12 Book Club
- 14 Mother's in the Bible: Kasey Parrott
- 17 Pentecost: Curly Culper
- 20 Church History: Isis Earnest
- 23 Principles of Worship: Mark Pitman
- 26 Herod Antipas: Kasey Parrott

ODDS AND ENDS

- 29 Circle J Kids Ranch
- 30 Vicki's Recipe Corner
- 31 Crittenden Critiques
- 32 Counseling Services: John Leis
- 33 Ask A Pastor: Pastor Larry Answers
- 40 Classified
- 41 Funnies

MOTORCYCLE MATTERS

- 42 Indiana's Best Motorcycle Routes

1 WALKING ON WATER

New American Standard Bible



The New Testament story of Jesus walking on the water can be found in Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, and John 6:15-21.

Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately *afterward* He compelled the disciples to get into the boat and to go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. ²³ After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. ²⁴ But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter responded and said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and when he began to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out with His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³ And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are truly God's Son!"

⇒ The miraculous feat of Jesus walking on the water, written in three of the Gospels, came right after His wondrous feeding of the 5,000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish. But it was the revelation of Jesus walking on the water that, more than any other, convinced Jesus' disciples that He was surely the Son of God.

⇒ Jesus demonstrated Himself to be in command of the natural elements, something only God can do. He showed this truth to the disciples who witnessed His divinity and responded with a confession of faith in Jesus as God: "And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'"



MATTHEW 14:22-33

DEVOTIONAL

Author Candis Oswalt

Let me begin by thanking Sister Kasey Parrott for inviting me to participate in this newsletter. It is an honor and I appreciate the opportunity and all of you taking the time to read my, prayerful Holy Spirit inspired, thoughts on this portion of scripture.

I find it very interesting how we as Christians generally approach this portion of the Word of God. Over and over again in conversation, sermons, and devotional readings, I hear and have even referred to this story as, “you know, that scripture that talks about Peter walking on the water,” or “that scripture about Peter walking on the water to Jesus.” While this story is written in three of the four of the gospels in the Bible, Peter walking is only mentioned in Matthew. Nowhere in any of the Bible translations that I have pursued is the heading on this story “Peter walks on the water”. Nope, it’s always headed, “Jesus walks on the water.” You see Jesus actually walks/walked on the water whereas Peter failed. (More about that later on.) I believe first our mindset on this scripture needs to focus on Jesus and not Peter.

While I will do my utmost to stay in the section of scripture we are discussing I must tell you there are a couple of places that I will bring in scripture from the other gospels that relate to this story, as God just won’t leave me alone with it. I believe it imperative to our study that we lay just a little foundation of what is happening at the time this story takes place. Earlier on in Matthew 14 (and the other gospels) we are told of the beheading of John the Baptist by Herod the tetrarch and the fact that his disciples gathered his body and buried him and then went and told Jesus what had happened. At the same time that this news is imparted to Jesus, Jesus’ disciples are returning and telling him of all that they had done and had taught.

Jesus rested. This was for him to grieve (yes he did grieve even though he knew John’s death was only temporal and not eternal) and for the disciples to get rest after their journeys and work. Jesus said “let’s go apart to a desert place and rest awhile.” However, the multitudes heard of it and followed them so that when they arrived on the other side there was a multitude waiting for Him.

Even in his time of grief Jesus needed to be alone with His Father. Jesus had compassion on them and ministered to them. He also fed the 5,000 during this time. (Read the preceding verses for yourself as that is the best way TO KNOW).

NEEDFUL THING

Verses 22-23a: Jesus sends his disciples ahead in a ship to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. After he dealt with sending the multitudes home, Jesus went up into a mountainside by himself. You see, the disciples still needed rest and Jesus still needed and craved time alone with His Father. Time to pray, mourn, rest, and hear from His Father. Getting alone with His Father was His habit and needed for direction in times of seeking and times of joy. If it was so with Jesus, the very son of God, it must then be even more so for us. We must not neglect and/or avoid the habit of getting alone with the Lord God.

JESUS KNOWS

Verses 23b-25: Jesus is alone on the mountain praying. He is aware of the storm and He is aware of the ship in the midst of the sea being tossed with the waves. Mark 6:48 says “and he saw them toiling in rowing;” Why would He not immediately take action when he saw them “toiling in rowing”? Part of the answer comes in the next set of verses I will discuss. The rest of the answer, in my prayerful opinion, is He chose to do the needful thing and continue in prayer alone with His Father. After prayer, about the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came down from the mountain and began walking on the water to cross the Sea of Galilee.

JESUS HEARS AND ANSWERS

Verses 26-27: As Jesus was walking on the water the disciples saw him and became quite fearful thinking it was a ghost or spirit and they cried out. Mark 6:48 states: “walking on the sea, and would have passed by them.” *Wow, Jesus walking on the water and out paced a boat being rowed by many!* He was actually going to walk on by the boat as they were “toiling in rowing”. He was not unaware of their struggle nor troubled by it. Why not? He knew who was in control. They cried out and He heard and He answered, “Be of good cheer; it is I, be not afraid.” Just as when we cry out in fear, joy, pain or worship, Jesus hears and answers. Quite often The Lord is prepared to move on our behalf and all that is needed is for us to acknowledge the need and cry out.

JESUS DELIVERS

Verses 28-31: Here is the part of the story that is only mentioned in Matthew. Matthew was written to the Jews of that time; however, according to 2 Tim 3:16-17 all scripture is God breathed and is profitable for instruction and so let us reason together.

Lovely, impetuous Peter says, “Lord, if it be you, tell me to come to you on the water” and Jesus says “Come.” Peter always acted first and thought later. This zealous devoted disciple of Jesus jumps out of the supposed security of the boat into the storm tossed Sea of Galilee, waves and the winds and the rain and thunder and lightning all around him, simply because Christ told him to.

Can you just picture the scene in your mind? Verse 29 states he started walking on the water, so when I said he failed earlier maybe it wasn’t complete failure. After all he did come when Jesus said to, he did leap out of the boat, and he did begin the walk. Verse 30 says that when he took note of the wind being boisterous, the waves swelling beneath his feet, he became afraid.

I’ve heard many sermons on this portion of scriptural text (even preaching a few myself). Many devotions and commentaries generally state something like “Peter took his eyes off Jesus and looked at his circumstances”. I believe this to be true; however, with prayer and reading I believe there’s more. As Peter was walking to Jesus, the utter impossibility of what he was doing overwhelmed all his thoughts. He started thinking “I can’t do this, I can’t walk on water, and who am I to think I can do this impossible thing?” He started thinking solely of self and who he thought he was. Thinking of himself as the world had told him he was, instead of remembering to whom he belonged, to whom he was walking to, he failed to remember the blessed assuredness that Christ can and does the impossible.

Peter became full of fear and started to sink. Only then did he do what was needful, crying out to the Lord. The Lord heard and stretched forth his hand and caught him. Then Jesus said unto him “oh thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” This rebuke isn’t saying that Peter didn’t have faith (or enough faith). Jesus is making it clear to Peter that he put his faith in himself instead of in Jesus and that is why he doubted and failed.

How often is this true of us? We start out on the path the Lord has clearly indicated in the calling He has made clear. Going when he says go, and then we start the self-talk, “who am I to think I can do this?” “Who do I think I am, I can’t do this?” on and on it goes until we’ve made it all about self instead of about Jesus Christ. We forget to whom we belong and to whom we are walking with. We put our faith in ourselves instead of in Jesus Christ and we fail/fall. I pray each of us will remember to do the needful thing and cry out to Jesus who will hear and answer and deliver us from our own destruction. I pray we learn to keep our faith in the one who is worthy of it instead of trying to place it in ourselves.

JESUS RESULTS

Verse 32: As soon as Jesus and Peter came into/onto the ship the wind and waves ceased and became still. John 6:21 states they willingly received him into the ship and immediately the ship was at the land that they had been headed to. When we willingly receive Jesus Christ and His will and His plan there are IMMEDIATE results.

Verse 33: Then everyone that was in the ship worshipped him and said “Of a truth thou art the Son of God.” Why now and not when he fed 5,000 with just five fish and 2 loaves? Why now and not when all the healings took place? Why now, I don’t know but I am so glad that THE TRUTH came to them and they accepted, acknowledged and worshipped. I pray that we would do the same.

In closing here is a little recap of what I hope you can take and hold onto from this time together in scripture:

- ⇒ Jesus knows-what’s happening with/to us
- ⇒ Jesus hears – when we cry out
- ⇒ Jesus answers
- ⇒ Jesus delivers us out of and through trouble, testing, temptation and our own self-destruction.
- ⇒ Spending time alone with the Lord IS the needful thing for us to Know and Understand Him in our innermost thoughts and being.



Artwork: Jazmin Holliday

MATTHEW 14:22-33

TRUTH VS FACTS

Author Benita Tabor

After the Lord fed over five thousand, He sent the disciples away on a boat. He then sent the people away. After they had gone, He went up on the mountain to pray. When He was done He decided to take a walk out on the water to join His disciples on the boat. The boat was being tossed by the wind and waves. The disciples saw Him and became afraid. They thought that they had seen a ghost.

Jesus knew they were afraid so He called out to them to be of good cheer and to say it was Him. He told them not to fear. Not all were convinced. Peter called out to the Lord, "Lord if it is you bid me to come". Jesus told him to come. Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water towards Jesus. As he walked, Peter felt the wind and the waves and his mind began to lose focus.

I believe it probably went something like this: The storm is crazy and men do not walk on water. Peter probably asked himself if he had lost his mind. Fear, doubt, and unbelief then took hold and Peter began to sink. But he knew who to call on in his time of trouble and he called out to Jesus, "LORD SAVE ME!" Jesus then reached out His hand and pulled him up and said, "Oh ye of little faith, what caused you to doubt?" Then when they got to the boat all the others worshiped Jesus and said He truly was the Son of God.

I love this story and how we can see it playing out in our lives today. We must remember that Jesus is the Way, Truth, Life, and the Word. He has told us to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. He warned us not to fool ourselves.

Peter was the only one who had faith enough to try the spirit to see if was really Jesus. Even though he took his eyes off what the Truth had told him to do, when he started sinking he knew who to call on to save him. This is so important for us to grab hold of.

So how does this play out in our lives today? The Bible tells us to know to do good and not to do it is a sin. To know what God says for us to do and then to choose to do something else is the opposite of faith. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. This is what Peter was learning in Matthew. After all faith is the substance of things hoped for and evidence of things unseen.

Let us say you have a bill come up out of the blue and you have no money to pay for it. God's Word says He knows what we have need of before we ever ask, and that He will see to our needs according to His riches in Glory. That is the Truth but facts say *where are we going to get the money to pay for this?* We need it now and money does not grow on trees. Who could I possibly ask for help?

Soon we are focused on facts, and then worry, frustration, and even depression start to drag us all down into despair. But what did the Truth say? So, we call on Him and there He is waiting to save us. He never leaves or forsakes us, and nothing can pluck us out of His hand. We can choose to jump. That is what we do when we choose to focus on the facts instead of the TRUTH.

What are we going to focus on? The facts or the TRUTH? Facts are subject to change without notice, but the Truth, the Word of God, never changes. He is the same yesterday today and forever. So, who's report are we going to believe? I pray we all choose to believe the report of the Lord.



2 Digging In

Book Club: The Book of Mark

Author Kasey Parrott



Join the book club where we focus our attention to learn about one book of the Bible each month. Surveying the facts and making observations makes us better able to understand the history, audience, and meaning of the text as we work to apply it to our lives today.

General Observations

Primary Type of Literature	Narrative History
Other Literary Genres Used	Sermons, Parables, Prophetic Oracles, (focus on miracles)
Author	Anonymous although credited to John Mark
Recipients	Christians in Rome
Length of Book	16 Chapters
Key Phrases/Terms	For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many – 10:45
Significant Words/Phrases Repeated	Immediately – the most common repeated word throughout the book entirety. Used 34 times.
Atmosphere/Tone/Mood	Gospel – Good news
Possible Themes	Jesus Christ is the Messiah and the savior of mankind. The Cross – the human cause and the divine necessity Discipleship Teachings of Jesus Messianic secret Son of God



The Gospel of Mark is the earliest and shortest of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). These three gospels present the “good news” (“gospel” in Greek) that centers on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The fact that Mark’s Gospel records eighteen of Jesus’ miracles and only four of his parables indicates that the writers focus is on Christ’s works rather than his words, on action rather than on thought. The author presents God’s activity through Jesus to reform and transform his people and to bring in his kingdom.

Zondervan,. South Asia Bible Commentary (p. 1284). Zondervan Academic.

OUTLINE OF MARK

1. Beginnings of Jesus' Ministry (1:1-13)

His Forerunner (1:1-8)

His Baptism (1:9-11)

His Temptation (1:12-13)

2. Ministry in Galilee (1:14-6:29)

Early Galilean Ministry (1:14-3:12)

Call of the first disciples (1:14-20)

Miracles in Capernaum (1:21-34)

Preaching in Galilee (1:35-45)

Ministry in Capernaum (2:1-22)

Sabbath controversy (2:23-3:12)

Later Galilean Ministry (3:13-6:29)

Choosing the 12 apostles (3:13-19)

Teaching in Capernaum (3:20-35)

Parables (4:1-34)

Calming the Sea of Galilee (4:35-41)

Demon-possessed man (5:1-20)

More Galilean miracles (5:21-43)

Unbelief in Nazareth (6:1-6)

Disciples preach in Galilee (6:7-13)

King Herod kills John the Baptist (6:14-29)

3. Withdrawal from Galilee (6:30-9:29)

Eastern Shore of the Sea of Galilee (6:30-52)

Western Shore of the Sea (6:53-7:23)

Region of Tyre (7:24-30)

Region of Decapolis (7:31-8:10)

Vicinity of Caesarea Philippi (8:11-9:1)

Mount of Transfiguration (9:2-9:29)

4. Final Ministry in Galilee (9:30-50)

Galilee and Capernaum (9:30-50)

5. Ministry in Judea and Perea (Chapter 10)

Teaching concerning Divorce (10:1-12)

Teaching concerning Children (10:13-16)

The Rich Young Man (10:17-31)

A Request of Two Brothers (10:32-45)

Restoration of Bartimaeus's Sight (10:46-52)

6. Passion of Christ (Chapters 11-15)

The Triumphal Entry (11:1-11)

The Clearing of the Temple (11:12-19)

Concluding Controversies with Jewish Leaders (11:20-12:44)

Signs of the End of the Age (Chapter 13)

The Anointing of Jesus (14:1-11)

The Lord's Supper (14:12-26)

The Arrest, Trial and Death of Jesus (14:27-15:47)

7. Resurrection of Jesus (Chapter 16)

OBSERVATIONS

⇒ Although Jesus repeatedly refers to himself as "Son of Man," no one else in Mark's Gospel refers to Jesus by this designation (2:10, 28; 8:31, 38; 9:9, 12, 31; 10:33, 45; 13:26; 14:21, 41, 62)

⇒ This Gospel is characterized by fast paced action, indicated, among other things, by the repeated use of "immediately" (e.g., 1:10, 12, 17, 20, 21, 19, 30, 42; 2:8, 12; 5:30, 42; 6:27, 45, 50, 54; 7:25)

⇒ Mark is the shortest and most quick paced of the gospels, implying urgency on the part of the author.



MOTHERS DAY

MAY 9, 2021

Author Kasey Parrott

As Mother's Day is recognized this month it is time to take a look at some extraordinary Mothers found in the Bible. These women were known to obey God's calling, serve sacrificially, and built their lives on faith and family.

Sarah: The Waiting Mother

Sarah, the wife of Abraham, was childless and unable to conceive (Genesis 11:30). This would have been a painful reality for both Sarah and Abraham. In Genesis 15 the Lord promises Abram he will have offspring that would number the stars. It was twenty-five more years before the promise was fulfilled and Sarah had a son, Isaac.

Can you imagine waiting that long for a blessing? Sarah tried to believe the promise, but she had doubts until it finally came to fruition. Then she laughed with joy at what the LORD had done. Isaac would go on to continue the legacy of his father Abraham.

Hagar: The Suffering Mother

Hagar was an Egyptian slave and a maidservant to Sarah, the wife of Abraham. As a slave she wouldn't have had much influence in her own life. When she became pregnant with Abraham's child Sarah treated her very poorly. After receiving mistreatment from Sarah, Hagar fled toward her homeland. But she met the angel of the LORD who told her to return. He also promised her numerous descendants through her son whom she was to name Ishmael. Hagar thought she would get to escape her misery, but God called her to return to it. She obeyed, and He blessed her and her son just as He promised He would.

Jochebed: The Mother with a Plan

As a new Pharaoh in Egypt came to power he enslaved the Hebrews out of fear. He later commanded the Hebrew midwives to kill the baby boys when they were born. The Pharaoh did this so the Hebrews would not outnumber and overtake the Egyptians later.

A Levite woman names Jochebed gave birth to a son and was able to hide him for 3 months. As noted in in Exodus 2, when Jochebed was no longer able to hide the boy she set him in a basket and sent him down the Nile. This boy was found by the Pharaoh's daughter who raised him as her own. Jochebed was asked to nurse the baby which allowed her more time with her son. When he was weaned he was sent to live with the Pharaoh's daughter and given the name Moses.

Jochebed was determined to find a way to save her son and God blessed her with a plan. Not only was her son saved from death, she was able to nurse and raise him until he was old enough to go live with Pharaoh's daughter. Her son, Moses, went on to free the Hebrew people from Egypt, leading them in the desert toward the Promised Land according to God's plan.

Naomi: The Mother-in-Law

Naomi and her family fled to the country of Moab because of a famine in their land. Her husband died, and her two sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. After 10 years both of Naomi's sons passed away, and Naomi heard that the LORD had blessed the land of her people with food again. She told her daughters-in-law that they could return home to find new husbands. Although they both wept at her leaving, one refused to leave Naomi's side. Orpah returned to her people and her gods, but Ruth refused to leave Naomi.

Ruth was already learning from Naomi's faith even during a time of bitterness. Naomi continued to watch out for Ruth and instruct her wisely in her dealings with Boaz, who became her kinsman redeemer. The LORD blessed Naomi, and she gained a son when Boaz married Ruth. Ruth and Boaz had a child. The child was named Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David who would be king (Ruth 4:17).

Hannah: A Promise Keeper

Hannah was married to a man who loved her very much, but he also had another wife. This wife was able to bear children, but in 1 Samuel 1:5-6 we learn that the LORD had closed Hannah's womb. The rival wife provoked Hannah continually, but Hannah would go to the house of the LORD to pray. Her husband tried to console her saying, "*Don't I mean more to you than 10 sons?*" (1 Sam. 1:8) Hannah prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly; she made a vow saying,

"LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

She prayed so hard that her lips were moving but no sound came out so that the priest, Eli, thought she was drunk. The LORD blessed Hannah, and she gave birth to a son and named him Samuel, “*saying, ‘Because I asked the LORD for him.’*” (1 Sam. 1:20)

She did just as she had promised, and when the boy was old enough she took him to the house of the LORD and presented him to Eli. Hannah then prayed,

“*My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.*” And her beautiful prayer continues in 1 Samuel 2:1-10. Samuel lived a life dedicated to the LORD, and he would go on to lead the people of Israel, anointing Israel’s first and second kings—Saul and David.

Elizabeth: Believer of Miracles

Elizabeth was married to a priest named Zechariah, and Luke 1 tells us that both Elizabeth and Zechariah were righteous before God, observing all of His commands. But Elizabeth was childless, and they were both old in age. Similar to people in Job’s day, people would have thought that sin prevented Elizabeth from bearing a child. This would have been very hard to face, especially being a wife of a priest.

When Zechariah was serving in the temple, an angel of the Lord, Gabriel, approached him and said, “*Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.*” –Luke 1:13-14

Zechariah still questioned how this would be possible and because he doubted he was struck mute for the duration of Elizabeth’s pregnancy. Elizabeth was overjoyed at this blessing of life and said, “*The Lord has done this for me... In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.*” –Luke 1:25

When Mary, the mother of Jesus, came to visit her cousin Elizabeth, the baby leapt in Elizabeth’s womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She took great joy in Mary’s pregnancy and blessing from the Lord. And when it came time for Elizabeth to give birth, she named her son John. When neighbors went to confirm this with Zechariah he wrote the same name and his mouth was opened; everyone wondered at what the child would be since his birth was miraculous. John would go on to baptize people from their sins with water. He would prepare the way for the Messiah.

2 PENTECOST

Curly D. Culper

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost—Acts 2:1-13

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. **6** When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. **7** Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? **9** Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome **11** (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” **12** Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”



Pentecost is known as a celebration in honor of when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples of Christ following the ascension of Jesus into heaven. The man had left the building but his Spirit ignited the disciples and made them a group of people overcome with joy. It was said that the disciples appeared drunk to those that passed them by. What kind of drunk was it? Was it the happy loving kind? The laugh out loud kind of drunk? The kind of drunk that lets you see your friends in an honest light? Was it the kind of drunk where everyone broke out in song and thought nothing of it for the joy of their union was far greater than any judgement? The disciples were speaking a language they each understood, like an inside joke, followers of a drum only they could hear; and like all moments of true connection, it didn't matter what those on the outside thought.

I drank often when I was younger. At the time it was a beautiful thing among my friends and me. We were lacking in responsibility; we had no wives, no kids, no steady jobs, no major bills to pay. We had joy back then, but our joy came to heartache, for there was much about ourselves we had yet to learn. We were still wet behind the ears, and sometimes drank until we were green around the gills. The tests of our lives waited ahead of us, so we found an odd union in what felt like foolishness. We would have truly appeared to be drunk fools to any passerby, but inside of us there was much joy and much love. I do not think it would have taken only a bottle for us to discover this feeling, but it sure sped up the process.

I have since set the drink down, took on many new responsibilities, and joy still comes into my heart. I believe this is from the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a moving force that can ignite those who gather in the name of the Lord like a wind or wave or the wobbling of the earth itself. We know it in our hearts and we can recognize it in one another. We can't always explain it or at least talk about it in a tongue that makes sense. The Spirit is a presence felt, an idea known, and a deep love connected. It stirs so deep that inspiration moves us to connect and conquer all. Love like a fire that sits on the tongue of those filled with the Holy Spirit destined to speak of greatness on its behalf.

We understand ourselves and one another in Christ, regardless of the language. We can see our actions and know the source. There are many sources and ways to communicate: subtle gestures, body language, facial expressions, and even doublespeak. And when we share, we get to a point and can connect with each other.

Other times there can be miscommunication; even within the simplest and most obvious of conversations. But what about those times when very little is said and yet that which is most important is understood clearly? What about the ways of communicating that we can't even label? What is our native language when our hearts belong to God? What does this mean?

The fulfillment of Christ changes a person. It changes how they see the world and their place within it. It changes how they react to challenges and how they interact with other people. It changes how *we* speak. Clarity can come from a voice when filled with the Holy Spirit and what is shared clearly is concise and honest, and it cannot be twisted for there are no extra words. The tongues that the internet and television and movies would have us use are not that of the Lord, for the Lord speaks from no earth culture and needs no slang or turn of phrase to get the point across. The Lord is *just* with his words and what is shared by those who follow is *just* as well.

It is a big, vast, and complicated world filled with many nations and many people and *many* different tongues; yet, there is much that is still universal to each of us in the eyes of God. God brings us together in fulfillment. These verses are not simple stories from long ago. These are blueprints for us to see the importance of what we are doing in our daily lives, from the decisions we make to the words that we say and to the thoughts that we think. We are living the stories, and we are adding to the plan that God desires for us and the planet every day. There is much to learn from the word of God, and yet, there is even more to share. So, share on, brothers and sisters of the Spirit, and do not fear what those not in the know may think, for the one who is a passerby is simply that.

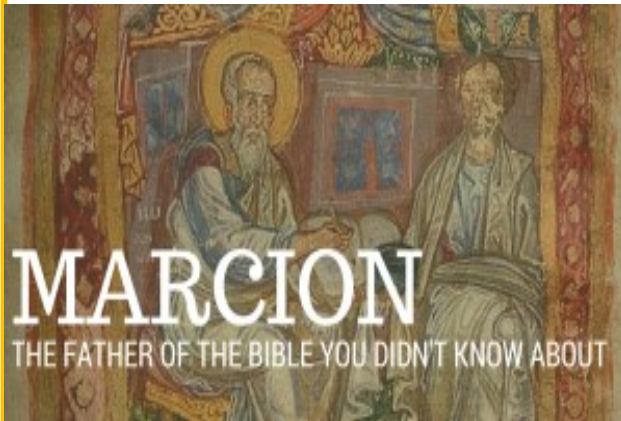




CHRISTIAN CHURCH HISTORY

Author Isis Earnest

Multiplication, Division – changes, troubles and twisted versions of Christianity introduced.



The apostles of Jesus, after His resurrection, went about spreading the news: God came down from heaven and dwelt among the world. He created by signs and wonders. He revealed Himself to be the true One. He gave His life to show the true Way to life, to restore fellowship with the Creator, implemented a new Kingdom.

Acts 2 tells us that many came to the knowledge of Jesus at Pentecost which began a new way of life, a new way of thinking. The Kingdom of God being spread widely not only among the Jewish people but to the outsiders, believers of other gods.

The disciples warned about people spreading other “gospels”, other news about Jesus and the Way to God. Something to keep in mind, and is a reminder for people of all time including us today, one must not think highly of ourselves when reading and interpreting the Word of God, The Bible.

Let us take a look about one in particular sect that emerged in the second century A.D. In my opinion not long after Jesus and the disciples teachings including Paul, but still have implication today 2000 years later.

MARCIONISM

**Heretical sect born from a troublesome preacher's kid.
Marcion of Sinope.**

Marcion, born in 110, son of the Bishop of Sinope of the kingdom of Pontus. Sinope located on the shores of the Black Sea north of Galatia and part of the Roman Empire, today is in the area of Turkey.

Marcion himself a ship owner, wealthy man according to writings by Tertullian. As the story goes, young Marcion seduced a young maiden from his father's church, Marcion was excluded from the church.

While it is possible that his exclusion from the church was possible due to his sexual sin, the problem was more likely with Marcion's theology. He was influenced by gnostic beliefs, a movement already influencing Christians in that era, and a product of Greek philosophers.

FYI

Gnosticism: everything physical is corrupt, only spiritual things are pure; they have "secret knowledge of God", transporting the person to a higher realm, beyond the limitations of the carnal".

According to early church fathers and writings from Eusebius on heresies (panarion), in the late 130's, Marcion traveled to Rome, where no one knew of his past.

The Church in Rome accepted him and in return Marcion made a large donation of 200,000 "sesterces" (Roman silver coins) to the congregation, the large amount equivalent of 2 millions or so in today's dollar currency.

Conflicts soon arose and in 144 A.D., Marcion was ex-communicated, his donation returned to him.

What happened? Why do we care from what someone did so many years ago, you might ask today.

This man Marcion, lived roughly 2000 years ago, he gave money to the church, seduced a young girl, is that it? He got kicked out for that!! You might say...

I mentioned earlier how Marcion was influenced by Gnosticism, so it seems that while in Rome, Marcion developed, matured, his heretical ideas into a full "fledged" system. Marcion did not fully proclaim Gnosticism, his heresy did borrow freely from the gnostic world-view and he distorted and came up with parts of the Teachings of the gospels that appeal to his understandings.

The disciple of John, Polycarp of Smyrna tried to turn Marcion away from his wrong teachings, but Marcion refused and as he was removed from the church's fellowship, he formed his own congregations in Italy and Asia Minor.

Marcion teachings:

He taught that many of the teachings of Christ are incompatible with the actions of the God of the Old Testament, Marcion rejected the entire Old Testament in what he said there were errors and not loving acts of conduct, which Christ was opposed in the New testament.

His belief, that "Christ" was not a Jewish Messiah, but a spiritual entity that was sent by some entity (gnostic belief), to reveal the truth about existence, allowing humanity to escape the earthly trap of the physical world.

Marcion called YAHWEH the Stranger God, or the Alien God, in some translations, as this deity had not had any previous interactions with the world, and was wholly unknown, talking about the Old Testament.

Marcion believed there could be only one true gospel, all others being fabrications by pro-Jewish elements, determined to sustain worship of Yahweh, and that the true gospel was given directly to Paul the Apostle by Christ himself, but was later corrupted by those same elements who also corrupted the Pauline epistles.

In this understanding, Marcion saw the attribution of this gospel to Luke the Evangelist as a fabrication, so he began what he saw as a restoration of the original gospel as given to Paul.

Interesting thing is that Marcion is the first to put a “canon” together. The 11 books he accepted as the measurement of his teachings, he put together as a book.

FYI: It was actually not until 367 AD that the church father Athanasius first provided the complete listing of the 66 books belonging to the canon.

Marcion was convinced that among the early apostolic leaders only Paul truly understood the significance of Jesus Christ as the messenger of the Supreme God. Unfortunately some later corrupted those teachings and he needed to correct them in his new canon.

Marcion rejected Jesus’ apostles teachings because in his opinion they misunderstood the teachings of Christ, holding Him to be Messiah of the Jewish God consequently they falsified the teachings of Jesus.

The following 11 books were Marcion’s mutilated versions of his canon: Gospel of Luke, since Luke was a companion and traveled with Paul, Marcion accepted it but omitted the parts of his birth and deity.

- Galatians
- 1 & 2 Corinthians
- Romans
- 1 & 2 Thessalonias
- Ephesians (Marcion called Laodiceans)
- Colossians
- Philemon
- Philippians

Tertullian in late 2nd century denounced Marcion, he wrote: "expunged [from the Gospel of Luke] all the things that oppose his view... but retained those things that accord with his opinion". Other church Fathers also denounced Marcion as heretic: Polycarp, Origen, Epiphanius, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus.

Resources:

Marcionism: Wikipedia

Christian history: Timothy P. Jones PhD

New Advent – Marcionites

2

PRINCIPLES OF WORSHIP

Mark Pitman

Worship: *The highest adoration that can be given, the greatest love that can be felt and expressed, the largest value and extreme esteem that we can place on a person, place or thing. Worship: an attitude of the heart; God says, "Have no other God's before me". God wants to be Numero Uno in all areas of our lives making worship a lifestyle. Are we willing to give up other god's? My God is Awesome, everything He does is Awesome. Nothing else is Awesome like my God. Let's live a lifestyle of being Awestruck by our God. Let's live a life of continuous and constant worship to Him. Amen? Teresa*

So if we are to live a lifestyle of worship like the one expressed by Teresa how can we do that? What are some ways we can express our worship to God. The following are some principles to follow, given to us from the word of God.

True worship must be in keeping with God's nature, which is spirit. True worshipers must worship God in the power of his Spirit and in accordance with truth. God is spirit, He is not a physical being limited to one place. He is omnipresent, and can be worshiped anywhere, at anytime. It is not where we worship that counts, but how we worship. In order for worship to be genuine and true we must follow the principles of worship laid out for us in God's word. The first principle of how we should worship can be found in 1 Chronicles 16:29, "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness."

Genuine praise involves ascribing glory to God. This means we that we give credit where credit is due. In worship we must remember to give God all the glory. The next principle of worship can be found in Psalm 100:3 "Know that the Lord is God."

David says to acknowledge that the Lord is God. How can we do that? We acknowledge him when we shout our praises, appreciate His status as our Creator, accept His authority in every detail of our lives, enthusiastically agree with the guidance he gives us, and express our thanks for his unfailing love.

David goes on to say in Psalm: 100:1-3 that we are to “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.” Which brings us to our next principle of worship: singing. Music and singing were a cherished part of Israel's culture as we can see in Judges 5:3.

“Hear this you kings! Listen you rulers! I even I will sing to the Lord; I will praise the Lord, the God of Israel, in song”.

Songs of praise focus our attention on God, they give us an outlet for spiritual celebration, and remind us of God's faithfulness and character. There are many examples in the Bible of how worship goes before the victory. Praise is the key to victory in all situations. Our worship should begin by acknowledging God's love. Praise God first; then you will be prepared to present your needs to him. Another form of worship that goes hand in hand with singing is one of music. As it says in Psalm: 98:4. “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn shout for joy before the Lord, the King.” Worship should involve the whole person, and music helps lift a person's thoughts and emotions to God. Recalling God's love and mercy will inspire you to worship Him daily. The next principle of worship is the one of giving.

God wants us to give from a heart of gratitude and with joy. The act of returning to God what He has blessed us with is one the highest forms of worship. It's tempting especially if we have material wealth, to cut ourselves off from one another, each taking care of his or her own interests, each providing for and enjoying his or her own little piece of the world. But as part of God's spiritual family it is our responsibility to help one another in every way possible. Everything we have is from God: so when we refuse to return to Him a portion of what He has given, we rob Him. (See Malachi 3:8). When we do this we not only rob God we deny ourselves the privilege of worshiping God by our selfish attitude.

Along with giving is communion or as it is called in the Bible the “last supper”. This act of worship reminds us of what Jesus did for us on the cross and how we take part in His death, burial and resurrection. (Luke 22:19,20) Although the exact meaning of communion has been strongly debated throughout church history, we as believers still take bread and wine in order to remember their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Do not neglect participating in the Lord's supper as a form of worship. Let it remind you of what Christ did for you.

Preaching the word with the anointing of God is the next principle of worship that cannot be neglected. In 2 Timothy 4 : 2 “ Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and careful instruction”.

We are instructed in the word to assemble ourselves together to hear the message of the Lord, to help us grow as believers. Hebrews 10:25 “Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day approaching.” To neglect Christian meetings is to give up the encouragement and help of other believers. Not only that we are missing out on an excellent opportunity to worship our Lord. We can enter into His presence and be free to express our love and devotion to Him with unhindered praise when we are assembled together.

So if assembling together is so vital to our walk with the Lord how do we encourage ourselves when we are not assembled together? We do that with prayer and supplication to our Lord and Savior. Prayer is communication between God and his children. We are to make our requests made known to God as Paul says in Philippians 4: 6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” We are also instructed to pray without ceasing. Our minds are to be in tune with God and what His will is in every situation. This is one element of worship that is vital in our walk with the Lord. Without it we will become spiritually bankrupt.

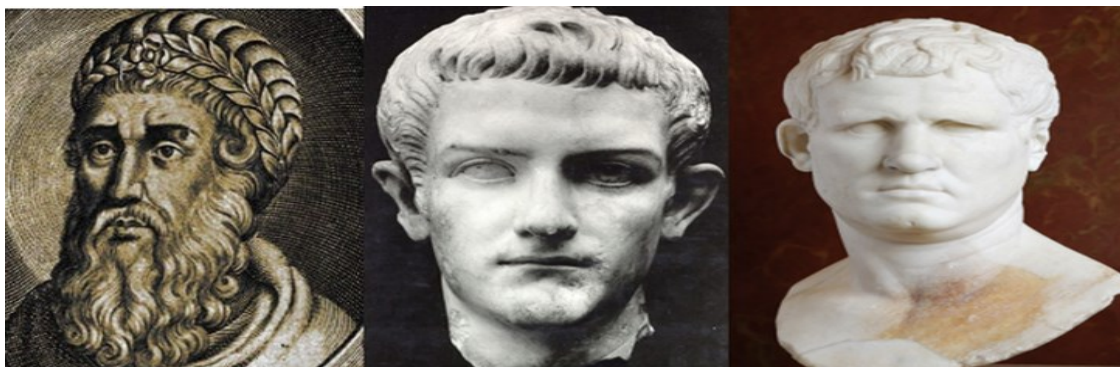
So there you have the primary elements of worship and they are interchangeable. But none of them can stand alone. We must also understand that we have an adversary who hates our worship and will do anything to keep us from worshiping our Lord and Savior. 1 Peter 5:8 “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (Read Ezekiel 28 to further understand the origin and reason the devil is so intent on destroying God's people.) To recap we must realize that worship is essential to our walk as believers. God must be the center of our lives for it is in Him that we move, breath and have our being. When we focus on God, and not the material or the natural, there is no need in our life that He will not fulfill. All we have to do is simply ask in His name according to His will. Your life should be the greatest act of *worship* and should reflect how grateful you are for the love God has shown you. Learn to worship Him with your whole being and shout to the mountain tops with unhindered praise for your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our God is an AWESOME God!!!

In His
service;
Mark
Pitman

2 Herod Antipas

Author Kasey Parrott



King Herod (Father)

Herod Antipas (Son)

Herod Agrippa(Grandson)

Herod Antipas

In order to understand the political and social culture and setting of Jesus and his ministry, it is important to understand the Herodian family. The Herodian family ruled over the Palestinian area from 40 B.C. until around A.D. 100. Herod the Great, the ruler at the time of Jesus' birth, ruled from 47-4 B.C. He was followed by Archelaus (4 B.C.-A.D. 6), Philip the Tetrarch (4 B.C.-A.D. 34), and Herod Antipas (4 B.C.-A.D. 39).

Antipas, the younger brother of Archelaus, was born c. 20 B.C. He was made tetrarch of Galilee and Perea. These were the territories where both Jesus and John the Baptist concentrated their ministries. Like his father, Herod the Great, he founded cities. He rebuilt Sepphoris which was the largest city in Galilee and was the capital of his territories until he built Tiberias.

Although the Herodian family had built twelve cities, Tiberias was the first city in Jewish history to be founded within the municipal pattern of the Greek polis. In the process of building the city an ancient cemetery was struck, and subsequently Antipas had difficulty in populating it because the Jews regarded it as an unclean area. Antipas offered free houses and lands as well as exemption from taxes for the first few years for anyone who would move into the new city. Named in honor of the emperor Tiberius, it was completed around A.D. 25 and served as Antipas's capital.

Reign

As far as Rome was concerned, Herod Antipas was a good ruler. The only important recorded event early in Antipas's reign was the deposition of his brother Archelaus in A.D. 6. Together with his half-brother, Philip the tetrarch, and a Jewish and Samaritan delegation, he went to Rome to complain about Archelaus to Tiberius. Although Antipas hoped to receive the title of king, Tiberius allowed Antipas to have the dynastic title of Herod which was significant for both his subjects and the political and social circles of the Roman world.

Antipas and John the Baptist

In the Gospels Herod Antipas is best known for his imprisonment and beheading of John the Baptist (Mt 14: 3-12; Mk 6: 17-29; Lk 3: 19-20). This event came about when Antipas divorced his first wife and instead married the wife of his half-brother Herod Phillip (not the tetrarch). This marriage was unlawful because the half-brother was still alive. It was John the Baptist criticism of this union that led to his arrest (Mt 14:3; Mk 6:17).



Herodias

Antipas's imprisonment of John the Baptist was not enough for Herodias. At the appropriate time, probably Antipas's birthday, at Machaerus in Perea, Herodias arranged for a banquet for Antipas in order to eliminate John the Baptist. When Herodias's daughter danced before the guests, Antipas was overwhelmed and promised under oath to give her anything she wanted, up to half of his kingdom. With the advice of her mother, Salome asked for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Although Antipas was sorry for his rash promise, he granted the request to save face before his guests. John was beheaded in A.D. 31 or 32.

Antipas and Jesus

Antipas's relationship to Jesus is seen in three events. First, Antipas heard of Jesus' ministry and concluded, with some irony, that Jesus was John the Baptist resurrected (Mt 14: 1-2; Mk 6: 14-16; Lk 9: 7-9). The second incident was Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem. While Jesus was in Antipas's territories, some of the Pharisees came to warn Jesus that he should leave because Antipas wanted to kill him (Lk 13: 31-33). The third event was Jesus' trial by Antipas in A.D. 33 (Lk 23: 6-12).

This third event is listed in no other Gospel besides Luke; however, its occurrence in Luke makes historical sense. Luke was writing to Theophilus, probably a Roman official, who would have been interested in the relationships between the Herods and the prefects of Judea, especially since this event reports the reconciliation between Antipas and Pilate (Lk 23: 12). Since the account reports no progress in the trial, it is understandable why the other Gospel writers left it out.

In Luke's account, Pilate, knowing Antipas was in Jerusalem for the Passover and hearing that Jesus was from Antipas's territory, Galilee, sent Jesus to him. Pilate was not legally obligated to do so, but he wanted to extricate himself from an awkward situation in which the Jews wanted to crucify Jesus while Pilate felt that he was innocent. Furthermore, Pilate needed to improve his relationship with Antipas. The relationship had been strained by Pilate's massacre of some of Antipas's subjects (Lk 13: 1), and it was further aggravated when Antipas reported to Tiberius the trouble Pilate had caused the Jews when he brought votive shields to Jerusalem. Subsequently Tiberius had ordered their immediate removal in c. A.D. 32. Hence, Pilate had overstepped his bounds and needed to appease Antipas. On the other hand, Antipas did not want to give Pilate any reason to report him to the emperor, and so after mocking Jesus, he sent him back to Pilate without comment, thereby paving the road for reconciliation between the two leaders from that day forward (Lk 23: 12).

Exile

In A.D. 36 Aretas IV attacked and defeated Antipas's army. Tiberius commanded Vitellius, governor of Syria, to help Antipas against Aretas. However, before this could be accomplished Tiberius had died and Vitellius withheld his aid until he received orders from the new emperor Caligula. When Caligula became emperor (A.D. 37), he gave his friend Agrippa I, brother of Herodias and nephew of Antipas, the land of Philip the tetrarch as well as the tetrarch of Lysanius with the title king. Later Agrippa went to Palestine (c. August of 38) to see his newly acquired domain. His presence in the land provoked Herodias's jealousy because he had obtained the much-coveted title king, which Antipas had never received, although he had ruled well and faithfully since 4 B.C.

Finally, under Herodias's persuasion, Antipas and Herodias went to Rome in A.D. 39 to seek the same honor. Agrippa heard of this and sent an envoy to Rome to bring accusations against Antipas. This action resulted in the banishment of Antipas and Herodias to Lugdunum Convenarum, now Saint-Bertrand de Comminges in southern France, in the foothills of the Pyrenees. Caligula learned that Herodias was the sister of Agrippa I and excused her from the exile, but she chose to follow her husband. As a result, Agrippa I obtained Antipas's territories of Galilee and Perea.

Although his reign seemed to be peaceful at most moments, not like his father's terror filled reign, it proved historically important in the ministry of Jesus. Antipas's decision to behead John the Baptist is now the legend of his reign and what he is known for. Understanding this man, this dynasty, gives us political understanding of the historical and cultural events taking place in the gospels.

SAINT BERTRAND DE
COMMINGES TODAY



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- Green, J. B., Brown, J. K., & Perrin, N. (Eds.). (2013). *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (2nd ed.). Downers Grove, IL, United States of America: Inter-Varsity Press. Retrieved September 18, 2019

3 | Circle J Kids Ranch

June 14-18th, 2021

The goal at Circle J Ranch is to minister the gospel of Jesus Christ to each child in a fun and interactive way! For some it may mean getting saved for the very first time or even being baptized, for others it might mean having that one on one moment with their counselor to unload hardships and pain they are feeling. We desire to create an atmosphere where the Holy Spirit can minister to each and every individual that walks on campus.

Circle J is our opportunity to reach beyond our church and our community for the cause of Christ and have a fun time while doing it. We have horseback riding, paint ball, swimming, Indian Village, Fort Friendly, Potter's House, and daily chapels. Whoever said serving the Lord wasn't fun couldn't be more wrong!

Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. – Proverbs 22:6

There are many volunteer opportunities available! You can pick up a volunteer packet at the information station or go online to thehop-e.com to fill one out there.

Kids Camper Applications are also available online or at the information station!



Call 812-876-9002

Ext 112

for more information!

3

Vicki's Recipe Corner

Vicki Swafford



Champion Roast Beef Sandwiches

1/2 cup sour cream
1T dry onion soup mix
1T prepared horseradish, drained
1/8T pepper
8 slices of rye or pumpernickel bread
1/2lb sliced roast beef
Lettuce leaves

In a small bowl combine the first 4 ingredients and mix well.
Spread 1T on each slice of bread.
Top four slices with roast beef and lettuce; cover with remaining bread.
MAKES FOUR SERVINGS

Peanut Butter Pie

Crust:
1 1/4 Cup chocolate cookie crumbs (20 cookies)
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup butter, melted
Filling: 1 8oz package cream cheese, softened
1 cup creamy peanut butter
1 cup sugar
1 T butter, softened
1T vanilla
1 cup whipping cream (whipped)
Grated chocolate or chocolate cookie crumbs optional

Combine crust ingredients; press into 9" pie plate. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes. Cool.
In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, peanut butter, sugar, butter, and vanilla until smooth.
Fold in whipped cream. Gently spoon into crust.
Garnish with chocolate or cookie crumbs if desired.
Refrigerate.
MAKES 8-10 SERVINGS
****Very rich dessert****

3

Crittenden Critiques

Restaurant Reviewer: Keith Crittenden

Keith is a graduate of the Illinois Culinary Institute of Chicago. He has worked in the restaurant business for over 20 years.



Lennie's

514 E Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington IN 47408
812-323-2112

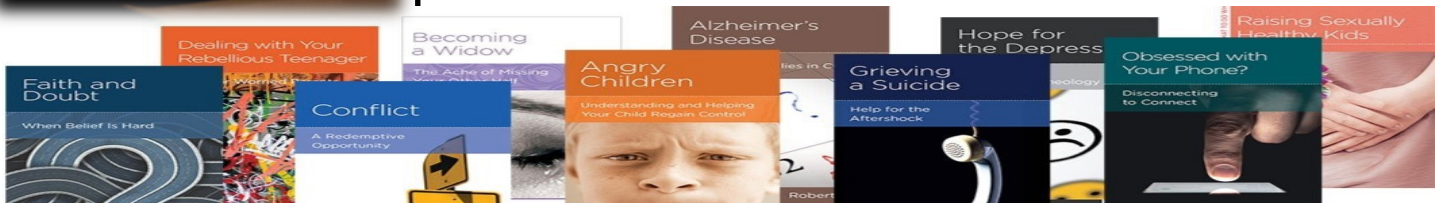
Reservations:	Not required but can be made online and by calling restaurant.
Hostess: ★★★★★	Hostess was nice and pleasant.
Waiter/ Waitress: ★★★★★	Was able to recall specials of the day, knowledgeable, and did not overly hover. He allowed ample time for me to look at the menu for myself and made good suggestions.
Atmosphere:	Comfortable and laid back; has a wood stove that is unique and interesting.
Menu: ★★★★★	Menu is well balanced. Offers a variety of foods: wings, pizza, soups, Stromboli's, pasta, and deserts.
Price: ★★★★★	This is a moderately priced venue. Entrée's were in the \$12-19 range depending on what you ordered; Specialty pizza were about \$20; Deserts were from \$3-\$10. The ice cream is sourced locally from The Chocolate Moose.
Food: 💰💰	Favorite Food Items: Lennie's Original, Bacon Turkey Melt, Wild Beet Spinach Salad, French Onion Soup
Additional Contact Information	https://www.lenniesbloomington.com/menu/

☒ Curbside Pick-up
 ☒ Dine-in
 ☒ Delivery

Counselor's Corner



CHURCH COUNSELING SERVICES



This month's highlighted booklet is ***"Christ and Your Problems"*** by Jay E. Adams. Do you have problems that seem too great to bear? Do you wonder if there is an way out of the mess you are in? This helpful booklet was written to put such problem cases in perspective. Showing first that no one's problems are unique, Jay Adams offers genuine hope based on God's promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13. Readers will gain the courage needed to take responsible action, knowing that a real solution is to be found in God's way.

Please take advantage of our Counselor's Corner in the back of the church. For you....or a friend or loved one.

Counseling Services Offered to Church Members. *If you need help, or know someone who needs help, please let Pastor Larry or John Leis know.*

Counselingathope@gmail.com

812-876-9002 ext 105

RESURRECTION ON THE SQUARE

Taking it to the streets! April 3, 2021

Photo's provided by
Michelle Brown and
Teresa McIntosh



3

Ask A Pastor

Please feel free to submit your questions to parrottkasey@gmail.com to receive an answer in the next edition!



QUESTION:

Bonita Porter: Pastor Larry, probably 20-25 years ago you preached a sermon about OBED-EDOM in the Bible. I have never forgotten it. Such a powerful message. Can you preach the sermon again?

ANSWER: Pastor Larry has given the sermon for your review!

“WHAT IS THE CAUSE FOR REAL CHANGE ?”

HOW Many in Here, Was WON to the LORD, Through the EFFORT, of SOMEONE ELSE, WITNESSING to YOU?

HOW MANY in Here,. . (Since You Received Christ),. . Has Gotten Involved, in SOME WAY, . . . IN WITNESSING, and HAS WON SOMEBODY ELSE to the LORD?”

The POINT That I Want to Make With THIS, . . . IS THE Multiplication Factor. . Of the Gospel!

AND WHAT I Mean By THIS is; MORE Often Than NOT,. . ITS NOT SO Much WHAT You Accomplish, RIGHT NOW, . . . BUT Its WHAT You SET into MOTION;. . THIS IS WHAT Brings About,. . The Multiplication Factor!

There's MANY EXAMPLES of THIS, in the BIBLE, . . . BUT a MORE Modern Day VERSION of WHAT I', Talking About, . . .

IS At the Age of 14, . . A Young Boy by the Name of BILL WILSON,

. . (In New York City),. . Him and His Mother Sat Down on the

Edge of a Drainage Ditch and Finally His Mother Got Up and Said.

“I Can't Take it Anymore.” And With That, She Told Her Son, BILL, “to Wait Right THERE;”. . And SO, HE DID,. . HE WAITED FOR THREE DAYS! HIS Mother NEVER Did Come Back!

BUT on the THIRD DAY,. . A MAN Stopped and HE Picked BILL UP, AND on That VERY SAME DAY, . . . HE Enrolled BILL, and PAID His WAY into a Christian Youth Camp !

HOW DID THIS EFFECT. . THAT Young BOY'S LIFE? WHAT Did THIS Young BOY End UP DOIN' WHEN HE GREW UP? BILL WILSON, NOW Pastors ONE of the LARGEST Churches in AMERICA, TODAY!

YOU Might Say; “Well, That's Funny,. . I NEVER Heard of HIM.”

That's Because HIS CHURCH is a KIDS CHURCH,. . In METRO, N.Y. AND HE BUSES in OVER 23,000 KIDS a WEEK!

AND MY POINT IS . . . “What Happened That Day?? THAT Man WHO Invested a Few Moments of His TIME, And a few Dollars,. . HE SET SOMETHING INTO MOTION!!

WHEN YOU Look at the 3 ½ Yrs of Ministry in the Life of JESUS - **“WHAT DID HE DO ?”**

SURE, HE Gave Sight to the Blind, – HE Healed the Paralytic – Raised the Dead – HE Did a Lot of Wonderful Things IN Those 3 ½ Years, - . . . BUT YOU Know WHAT?, . . . HIS GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT. . Was WHAT HE SET Into MOTION! AND IF YOU NEED PROOF of THAT,. . JUST LOOK AROUND YOU!!

The QUESTION That WE Want to ADDRESS This Morning is; **“WHAT IS THE CAUSE. . For REAL CHANGE!!!** Some people Equate REVIVAL, or CHANGE,. . To Running Down to Brownsville, or Going Up to Toronto, . . . And I’m NOT Minimizing What GOD Has DONE in Those Places, One Bit!!

BUT I Will Tell YOU, WHAT, I AM DOING! I’M MORE Interested in WHAT MY GOD is Doing Right Here,. . And Right Now!!!

You Know,. . Everybody Talks About the Manifestation of What’s Going on THOSE PLACES,. . BUT Nobody Seems to BE Talking TOO MUCH About. . WHAT CAUSED IT to HAPPEN!

Everybody Just Wants to Make Some Kind of a Pilgrimage to Some Kind of Geographical Location, in HOPES

That. . SOME of IT MIGHT “RUB OFF!”

BUT Those People. . WHO PAID the PRICE for Revival, . ? (Those WHO PRAYED and FASTED and SOUGHT GOD), . . . WHAT was Their Greatest Accomplishment ??

IT’S WHAT They SET Forth. . Into MOTION!!

SO, WHAT is the CAUSE for REAL Change? WHERE Does REAL REVIVAL COME From? DOES IT Come From Some Geographical Location? DOES IT Really Come From a Certain Speaker, or Preacher?

Once Again, I’m Gonna Use the Life of PASTOR BILL WILSON, From New York, . . . HE’S NOW in His 37th YEAR as a PASTOR, and Street Preacher, . . And I’m Gonna Make ONE Quick POINT.

Those Kids That HE USE to Pick Up, on His BUS Route 37 Yrs. Ago, . . . THEY’RE NOW Driving the BUSES!! Those Dirty Little Snotty Nose KIDS, That Everybody Else, Just Walked on BY – THEY. . Are NOW Teaching the LOVE of JESUS CHRIST to OTHERS!!!

Pastor Bill’s Ministry is Now in its THIRD Generation!! AND **THAT’S WHAT the GOSPEL DOES ! It MULTIPLIES!!**

AND WHAT a Difference Pastor Bill’s Ministry Has MADE in New York City; AND YOU Might Be Saying; “ BUT 23,000 Is Only a Drop in the Bucket, Compared to the MASSES in New York City, AHH YES,. . BUT That FIGURE ONLY Shows Pastor Bill’s IMMEDIATE IMPACT, . . . You’re Leaving Out the Multiplication Factor!

ITS WHAT HE'S SETTING FORTH INTO MOTION!!

AND Praise GOD, Another POINT to Be Made IS,. . . THAT MAN, WHO PICKED UP Young BILLY, (All Those Years Ago),. . . HE DIDN'T HAVE to PRAY About WHAT HE DID,. . . Before HE DID IT!! NO,. . . HE'D Already READ HIS BIBLE and HE KNEW WHAT to DO!

The PROBLEM Today With a Lot of People; They're Still Waiting on GOD to TALK to em' Through a "BURNING BUSH!" They're STILL Waiting on That, "PILLAR of FIRE," Experience! A lot of People NEVER MOVE. . . Until GOD SENDS LIGHTENING From Heaven!!

According to the WORD of GOD – DO YOU KNOW WHAT the "CALL" of GOD is ? It's the "NEED!" A Lot of People Never Find the LONG Range "CALL of GOD" ON Their LIFE, Because They FAIL to SEE the "SHORT" Range NEEDS. . . RIGHT IN FRONT of EM!!

THEY'RE STILL CHASIN' AFTER the BIG ONE That GOT AWAY! SO THEY GO Through LIFE, NEVER Accomplishing ANYTHING! . . . NEVER SETTING ANYTHING. . . Into MOTION!! SO WHATS the CAUSE for REAL CHANGE??

According to the WORD of GOD, WE Read That the ARK of the COVENANT Had BEEN STOLEN By the PHILISTINES! MANY of YOU MAY KNOW the STORY!

THE "ARK of the COVENANT," Was a 2 ft X 4 ft Box, That Contained, the Tablets on Which was Written the TEN COMMANDMENTS; a Golden

POT of MANNA, – And Aaron's ROD! AND WHAT The "ARK of the COVENANT," Represented to GOD'S PEOPLE,. . . WAS the "PRESENCE of GOD,"!!!!

WHEN the Hebrew Warriors Went into BATTLE, – WITH the ARK, . . . THEY WON! . . . BUT WHEN THEY LEFT IT at HOME, . . . THEY LOST!!

NOW, the PHILISTINES, (Being the ROCKET SCIENTISTS THEY WERE), . . . IT Didn't Take em' Too Long to Figure THIS ONE OUT! SO, THEY STOLE THE ARK of the COVENANT!! AND They Kept it for Nearly 20 years!!

SO After DAVID, Became KING, the FIRST Thing on HIS Agenda, Was to GO OUT and GET the ARK BACK! SO HE DID!

SO THEN, AFTER the ARK was Brought HOME, . . . DAVID Decides to Have a FESTIVAL,. . . To CELEBRATE the RETURN of the ARK! And So,. . . HE Wants to DO It Up RIGHT! BUT, in ORDER to DO IT UP RIGHT, . . . IT Took About 3 MONTHS of PLANNING and PREPARATION! . . . BUT All of a SUDDEN, THEY Realized THEY Had a PROBLEM!

"WHAT Would THEY DO With the ARK, Until the TABERNACLE Was Made READY? " Until all the Preparations Were Made ? SO, THEY FINALLY Decided to Put IT in Somebody's HOUSE,. . . BUT My Goodness,. . . HOW in the World DO You Decide WHOSE HOUSE to PUT the ARK, IN?

SO, Here In II SAMUEL 6:10. . . DAVID decides to put it in OBED-EDOM'S House,. . . And SO IT Remained there

for 3 Months!!! ALRIGHT, . . . BUT WHO in the World is OBED-EDOM?? AND HOW'S Come WE Never Heard of This CAT BEFORE?? AND WHY DOES HE Get to KEEP IT in HIS HOUSE ?

WE DON'T KNOW WHO HE WAS, . . BUT WE DO KNOW That HE WOUND UP HAVING . . . (the "ARK of the COVENANT") . . . (the "PRESENCE of GOD") . . In HIS Living ROOM for 3 Months !!

SO the Tabernacle was Made READY, . . AND David is Planning THIS BIG Celebration, . . AND HE Wants to Make Everything REAL GOOD, . . . SO, HE'S Gonna NEED a lot of HELP ! . . A Lot of VOLUNTEERS ! SO in the Book of I CHRON. 15; . . . They Needed Some HELPERS, some Custodial Engineers, (Some PORTERS)

AND SO, WE SEE Here, That OBED-EDOM VOLUNTEERED !! NOW Remember, . . Here's a MAN, Who's Had the "PRESENCE of GOD" . . SITTING in HIS Living Room for 3 months ! AND WHEN THEY Needed Somebody to HELP CLEAN the Bathrooms, . . . GUESS WHO VOLUNTEERED ? OBED-EDOM !

NOW, THIS Doesn't SEEM Too Significant, BUT it Turns Out THEY ALSO Needed SOME SINGERS for the Festival, . . AND IF We'll LOOK at I CHRON. 15:18 . . . LOOK WHO'S VOLUNTEERED ! ITS OBED-EDOM Again !!!

NOW, Wait a Minute, . . HE'S Already Volunteered to Clean the Floors and the Bathrooms, . . AND NOW HE'S Volunteered to BE ONE of the SINGERS !!!

YOU SEE, The "ARK of the COVENANT" Had Been in HIS HOUSE, BUT NOW, They Were Gonna Be Movin' IT to the TABERNACLE, . . AND I BELIEVE WE Can SEE WHERE THIS is GOIN' !

HE Was Saying, "That Wherever the "PRESENCE of the LORD" IS, . . THAT'S Where I Want to BE !!

CHURCH of GOD, . . ONCE YOU'VE TRULY . . BEEN IN the "PRESENCE of GOD," . . . YOU'LL NEVER BE the SAME !! EVERYTHING CHANGES !!! OBED-EDOM said," HEY, . . IF You NEED Somebody to Clean the Bathrooms of the Tabernacle, . . I'll CLEAN the BATHROOMS !!!

HE said," HEY, . . IF YOU NEED Some SINGERS, . . I'LL SING ! "BUT You Can't Sing OBED-EDOM!" HE said, " I KNOW, . . BUT I Just Want to Be Where the PRESENCE of the LORD IS !" AND THATS WHAT THE PRESENCE OF GOD DOES !!!

Around churches, . . . IN the Leadership of Churches, WE Have WHAT WE Call the 80 - 20 Rule ! THIS Means That Usually 20 % of the People . . DO 80 % of the WORK ! AND YOU Can Usually Recognize THOSE 20 % of the People. Because They LOOK Like Their All BURNED OUT !!

NOW Did YOU EVER WONDER WHY THAT IS ?? I Use to Wonder About That ! . . . BUT THEN I Realized, - "IT MUST BE, THAT ONLY 20 % of the People, Had Ever Really Been in the Presence of GOD !!!

YOU SEE, OBED-EDOM Had EXPERIENCED, (For 3 Months) SOMETHING That HE'D NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE !!! WHEN YOU'VE Been in the PRESENCE of GOD, . . . You're WHOLE LIFE CHANGES !!!

DID YOU EVER Wonder WHY Pastors are Always Yellin', . . . "GET IN THE WORD !" "COME to the HOUSE of GOD !" "GET in Your PRAYER CLOSETS!" WE DON'T SAY Those Things Just to Get a BIG Number on the SCORE BOARD . . . On Sunday Mornings ! WE SAY Those things to Get People Into GOD'S PRESENCE, . . . SO There Will Be a LASTING CHANGE in THEIR LIFE !!

IN I CHRON. 15:21 . . . WE Can SEE That They're Still Gettin' Volunteers Together, . . . AND IT Says Here That THEY NEEDED Some One to PLAY the HARP, . . . (They Must've Been Gettin' Together a GOSPEL BLUES BAND)

WELL, Sure Enough, . . . GUESS WHO VOLUNTEERED ? THAT'S Right OBED-EDOM !! "WOW, . . . WHAT A GUY !!" THIS Guy's Somethin' ELSE ! HE Just Got Through CLEANIN' the CAN, . . . HE Rushes Up to the STAGE to GRAB a MICROPHONE to SING, . . . And Now He's Wailin' on the HARP, ALL at the Same Time!

AWW HE DON'T CARE, . . . HE Just WANTS to BE NEAR the PRESENCE of GOD !!! WOW, . . . WHAT'S UP With THIS GUY ? HOW Does THIS WORK ?

I'LL TELL YA HOW IT WORKS ! It Works When You've Been in the PRESENCE of GOD !!! YOU Just Want to SERVE ! YOU Just Want to WAIT on GOD ! ISA. 40:31 says; "But they that WAIT upon the Lord, Shall Renew their Strength; They Shall mount up with Wings as Eagles; They Shall Run and Not grow Weary; They Shall Walk and Not Faint."

HOW DO WE WAIT . . . Or SERVE the LORD ? JESUS says in MATT. 25:40 "Whatever You Do, even unto the Least of these, my brethren, You've done it unto ME."

YOU Just Want to BE Around the Things of GOD !! YOU Just Want to BE Around the PEOPLE of GOD ! YOU Just Want to SERVE HIM, Cause When You've Truly Been in HIS PRESENCE, . . . YOUR WHOLE LIFE CHANGES !!!!

WHY is IT That WE Can Get a FULL HOUSE on Sunday Mornings, BUT WE Only Get HALF the Crowd on Wednesday Evenings ? I Can Tell YOU WHY, . . . And IT'S NOT Because Its a School Night, . . . Because IT Doesn't Change Through the Summer ! Are You With Me ??

OBED-EDOM Was Saying;" Whatever's GOIN' On With GOD, . . . WHEREVER GOD'S PRESENCE IS, . . . That's Where I WANT to BE ! Because my LIFE Has Been CHANGED !!

I CHRON. 16: . . . Lists the "Gatekeepers" for the Tabernacle; Let ME Explain WHAT the GATEKEEPERS ARE! The "Gatekeepers" Guarded the Outer Doors to the Tabernacle ! Would You

like to KNOW WHO'S NAME Appears Here, as ONE of the "Gatekeepers ?" **Thats Right, .. OBED-EDOM, .. RIGHT HERE it is in Verse 38 . . . WHAT'S OBED Tryin` to TELL US Here ?? WHAT WAS HE SAYIN` ?? NOW DON'T MISS THIS !!**

HE was Sayin' . . . "I'm NEVER Gonna HAVE the ARK in MY HOME Again, . . AND Nobody's ALLOWED in the HOLY of Holies, EXCEPT the HIGH PRIEST, OBED-EDOM was Sayin', "i'll NEVER BE Able to BE That CLOSE to the ARK Again, . . BUT IF You'll Just Let Me STAND NEXT to the DOOR (**NOW DON'T Miss THIS)**

"IF You'll Just Let ME STAND NEXT to the DOOR," "I Know I Can't GO IN, . . BUT IF That's as CLOSE as I Can Get," "Just Let Me Stand There, Because I Remember When IT Was In MY HOUSE, . . . And IT CHANGED MY LIFE !!!"

"ALL I WANT . . IS to BE AROUND the PRESENCE of GOD !!!
.. AND THIS, .. RIGHT HERE .. Is the CAUSE FOR REAL CHANGE, ..

IT'S the "Asking – the Seeking – the Knocking !

..... Its the Hungering – Its the Thirsting –

HEB. 11:6 . . GOD is a Rewarder of those who Diligently Seek Him !"

JAMES 4:8 . . Draw Nigh to GOD and He'll Draw Nigh to you."

MATT. 5:6 Its those who Hunger and Thirst after Righteousness, for THEY shall be Filled !"

In **I CHRON. 16;** . . . It Lists the "MINISTERS" of the Tabernacle. Whatever the High Priests Needed, . .

The MINISTERS of the Tabernacle Were to ASSIST Them in Performing IT ! **Whether it Was Cleaning Up After the Sacrifices, or Carrying In the Wood, . . Or Whatever it Was, . .**

WOULD You Like to KNOW WHO VOLUNTEERED to BE A Minister of the Tabernacle ?? Here it IS . . In **Verse 38 . . . OBED-EDOM . . . !!**

ISN'T IT FUNNY ? WE NEVER Heard of This GUY Before, AND NOW, ALL of a Sudden, . . The ARK of the COVENANT – (the PRESENCE of GOD,) . . Has Been in HIS Living Room for 3 Months, . . AND NOW, . . THIS GUY Can't DO ENOUGH !!!

You SEE, WHEN You've TRULY BEEN in the PRESENCE of GOD – YOUR PRIORITIES CHANGE !! **SUDDENLY, IT'S NO Longer, "WHAT'S in IT for ME ?"**

WHAT AM I SAYING ?

OBED-EDOM, . . . WHO WAS HE ?? WE DON'T KNOW ! BUT WHAT WE DO KNOW, IS, . . Is That the ARK of the Covenant Had Been in HIS Living Room for 3 Months, . . . WE KNOW . . . That He'd BEEN in the PRESENCE of the LORD !!!

AND THIS, . . . Is Something THAT CAN'T BE Taught !! You See, Some THINGS Have to be EXPERIENCED !! SOME Things are TAUGHT, - And SOME Things are CAUGHT !

I CHRON. 15; . . . Lists the "DOORKEEPERS of the Tabernacle. **The Doorkeepers Were Different Than the Gatekeepers.** The Gatekeepers Guarded the OUTER Doors to the Tabernacle, . . BUT the Doorkeepers Guarded the INNER Doors to the Holy

Of Holies !!! . . . The DOORS to WHERE the ARK of the COVENANT was KEPT !

Would You Like to KNOW WHO VOLUNTEERED, to BE a DOORKEEPER ?? I'M NOT KIDDIN' HERE in Verse 24 . . . When Does This Guy Ever QUIT ?

OBED-EDOM !! I Mean THIS Guy's Already Pullin' 2 Shifts! 8 hrs. As a Gatekeeper – 8 hrs as a Porter – and Somewhere In Between, He's Cleanin' the Can, Singin' and Blowin the Harp ! HOW DOES THIS WORK ??

To Those Who KNOW, HOW it Works, . . . They DON'T NEED an EXPLANATION, . . .

BUT to Those WHO NEED an EXPLANATION, . . NO EXPLANATION CAN BE GIVEN !!!! YOU Have to EXPERIENCE IT, or You'll NEVER Understand IT !

The CAUSE for REAL CHANGE – Comes From Being in the PRESENCE of GOD !!! I'm Gonna CLOSE with THIS;

I've Had a Lot of Things HAPPEN to ME . . Since I've Been a Christian, . . . And NOT ALL of its Been GOOD !!! BUT You Know What ?? . . ALL I Have to DO is Look at My Life, To LOOK at the Experiences That I've Had, . . WITH GOD Right Beside ME ALL the Way, . . . AND I Remember, HOW the PRESENCE of GOD Has Taken ME Through Each and Every Trial and Circumstance.

AND I KNOW . . BEYOND ANY SHADOW of a DOUBT, . . That HE'LL CONTINUE to Take ME THROUGH !! HOW DO I KNOW ??? HOW Can I be SO SURE ?? BECAUSE I'VE BEEN . . IN HIS PRESENCE !!!



A special thanks to Pastor Larry Mitchell for sharing this sermon and answering the request of members!

Classifieds



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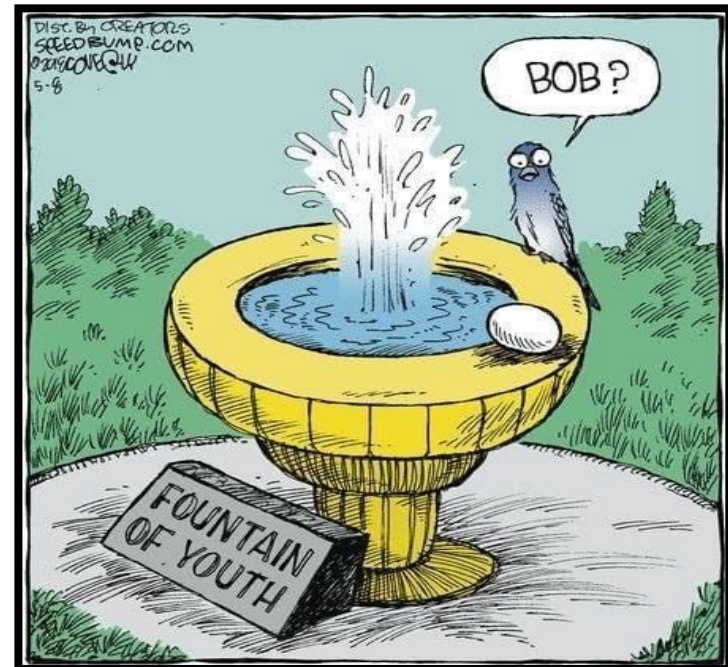
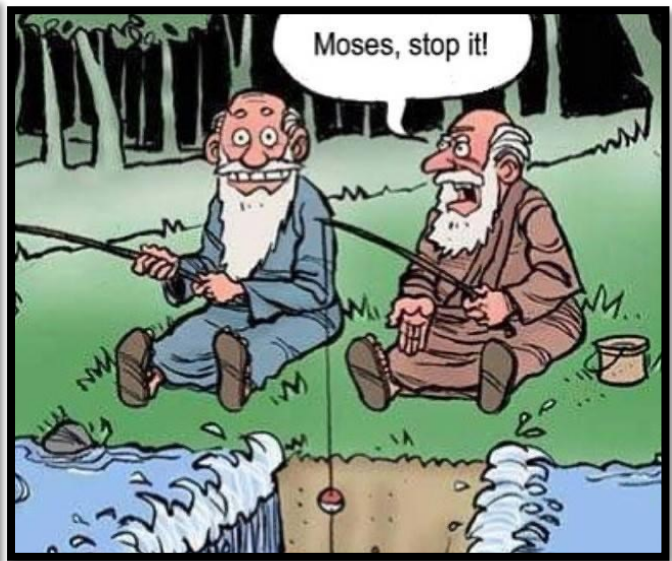
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Funnies



4

MOTORCYCLE MATTERS

Indiana's Best Motorcycle Routes

Written by: Hannah Kirkland—Indianapolis Southside Harley Davidson

Looking to put some miles in on your bike? There are plenty of routes that you can take nearby that will make you feel like you've gone on a vacation, instead of a couple hours from home.



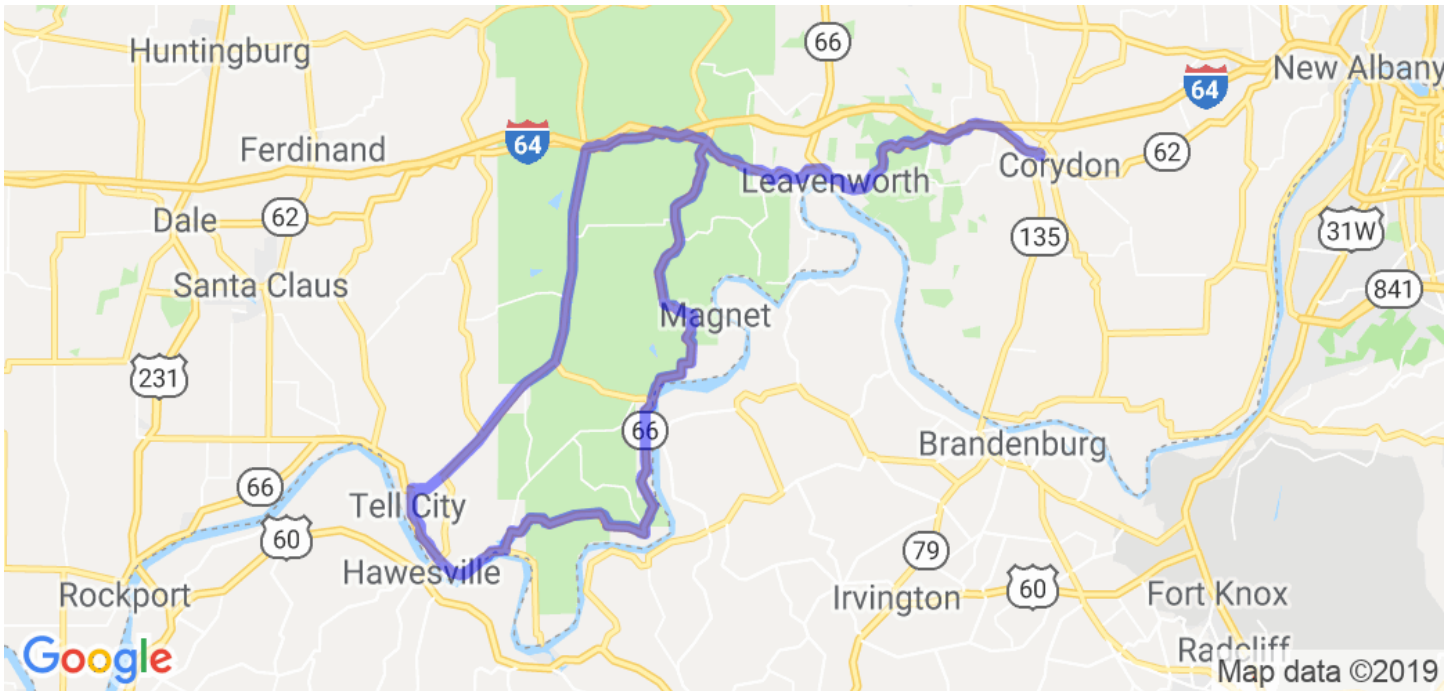
State Road 135 south of Indianapolis is a scenic and enjoyable ride. There's the small town of Bean Blossom, that hosts a large Biker Fest every June, and not too far from that is the village of Nashville. Stop by for lunch and visit the various shops the town has to offer. Brown County is known for its awesome foliage in the fall, so you need to put this ride on your to-do list if you haven't been. If you keep going south on SR 135 you'll hit the tiny town of Story, Indiana. It's a curvy trail that will eventually take you to Story Inn, a hotel with a killer restaurant and lots of events.

If covered bridges and dams are what get your gears going then head out on SR450. If you go west out of Bedford then you'll get a great view of the White River. You'll pass lots of farms, ride through rolling southern, Indiana hills, and see the Williams Dam built in Lawrence, Indiana. Though it hasn't been used for its original purposes since the 1960s, it's an area many bikers like to stop and take in the view.



Finally, a must-do ride is the Crawford-Perry County River Loop. In total it's about 120 miles and there's some beautiful sights to see. The Ohio River, Hoosier National Forest, and Cannelton Locks and Dam. Awesome for spring or fall, the scenery on this trip cannot be beat.

<https://info.southsideharley.com/indianapolis-southside-hd-blog/author/hannah-kirkland>





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