

# Let's Visit

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## Reflections on Joy

I read one time about an incident that occurred in a restaurant. I want you to get a mental picture of a man standing at a buffet in a restaurant. He is beside the salad bar. Now, do you have the picture? Do you see him? Now I want you to visualize him covered in thousand island salad dressing. It is dripping from his hair, over his glasses, down his face, all over his jacket, pants and shoes. Folks, we are not just talking about a little bit of dressing here, here are talking 2 gallons of thousand island dressing.

You see, a waitress carrying a 2 gallon container of thousand island dressing for the salad bar had paused for just a second while coming through the swinging doors of the kitchen and the doors had caught her and knocked her forward, launching the salad dressing all over this guy.

Well, this guy goes nuts and started shouting and cursing at her and telling he how stupid she was. He told her he had on a brand new suit that cost \$500.00. Then his wife chimed in telling her she had ruined her husband's \$500.00 suit. The man literally screamed at the poor waitress that he wanted to see the manager.

The manager comes out, sees this man with salad dressing dripping off all over and asks, "Is there a problem?" The man replies. "She has just ruined my \$500.00 suit, it's brand new and I want a new suit." The manager offers to have the suit cleaned but the man becomes louder demanding a new suit. To avoid a bigger scene the manager goes into the office and writes the man a check for \$500.00 and still fuming, the angry customers leave.

Now, here is the real tragedy of this story. It took place at noon on a Sunday. Now, why would someone be wearing a brand new suit on Sunday?

Do you suppose he had been to church? Do you suppose he had just heard a sermon on the golden rule?

Now, believe me, I don't want to be a judge about how people should act. However, the tragedy is that God has called us to be transformed (Romans 12:1-2). You might expect the rest of the world to behave crudely, but you don't expect Christians to behave crudely. Especially not after church on Sunday morning. You see, there are so many Christians who are living life without the joy that should accompany Christianity.

I remember reading once about Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. You will recall he was a member of the U. S. Supreme court for 30 years. At one point in his life, Justice Holmes explained his choice of a career by saying, "I might have entered the ministry if certain ministers I knew had not looked and acted so much like undertakers." There was no joy in their Christianity.

Joy comes from having a confident trust and faith in God. Faith dispels attitudes that prevent joy from occurring, things such as worry, doubt and fear. Joy also is the result of obedience. You see, obedience to God's word fosters joy in the hearts of the obedient. In Acts 8, when the Ethiopian Nobleman had obeyed the gospel, we are told he went on his way rejoicing. Joy comes into our lives when we

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### In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry  
KSLA 12 – Shreveport -7:30 a.m. Sunday  
DISH channel 239-6:00 a.m. Sunday  
DIRECT TV channel 307 -6:00 a.m. Sunday

# Gathered Here and There



Today's Sermon

## When There Is No Joy Left!

The Story of Jesus' first Miracle

### FOR THE PANTRY....

Pop Tarts

#### Reflections on Joy – continued from page 1

realize that through the blood of Christ and obedience to his commands we have been cleansed and forgiven. It is then we can find joy in Christian fellowship and Christian service. Make no mistake about it, there is joy in spending time with other Christians and there is joy in serving the Lord.

The joy of the Lord is available to us. It is the kind of joy that can sustain us through life. Nehemiah 8:10 tells us, "The joy of the Lord is your strength." We need to exhibit this joy in our everyday lives so that others might see Jesus living in us. When we have the joy of the Lord in our lives, when we have been forgiven and we are living God's kind of life (obedient) then the love of God will be reflected in everything we say and do and we won't throw a fit, even if we are covered in thousand island salad dressing.

tp

*As a certain lady was leaving the services, she was overheard to tell the minister, "That was a wonderful sermon. It was so comforting." The minister replied, "I hope it will not prove as comforting as the last one you heard. It lasted you three months!"*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Tact is the unsaid part of what you think.*

## Do You Believe In Signs?

When you dislike religious conversation, or the company of Christians; when the way to the meetinghouse seems too far; when you miss services willfully; when you see so much to dislike in your brethren, when members frequently say things that offend you; when you are more afraid of being called "over strict" than of honoring Jesus Christ; when you trifle with temptation, or think lightly of sin; when you shrink from self-examination; when you make excuses for your sins and try to persuade yourself that God will not punish or judge; when it frets you to be called on to give – Then it is a very good sign that you are drifting and are not right with the Lord.

-selected

## One In Ten!

There were ten lepers healed, and only one turned back to give thanks, but it is to be noticed that our Lord did not recall his gift from the other nine because of their lack of gratitude. When we begin to lessen our acts of kindness and helpfulness because we think those who receive do not properly appreciate what is done for them, it is time to question our own motives.

-copied

## On The Lighter Side.....



"I've stopped expecting you to make leaps of faith, but it would be nice to see a hop now and then."

# Miscellaneous

## CHRISTMAS PARTY



Tonight following our 5:00 p.m. class, at the home of Tim and Norma Perkins. Men please bring a man's gift and ladies bring a ladies gift in the \$10.00 to \$20.00 price range. Also please bring finger foods.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**April 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 2020**  
**Annual Area-Wide Singing & Gospel Meeting**

### Have You Met This Person?

"Almighty God, as I sit here this lovely Sunday morning, surrounded by the Sunday Paper and watching television, it has just come to me that I have lied!

I said that I was not well enough to go to church. That was not true. I would have gone to work if it had been Monday morning. I would have played golf if it had been Wednesday afternoon. I would have attended my luncheon club if it had met this morning. But it is Sunday morning, and Sunday sickness seems to cover a multitude of sins.

God have mercy on me. I have lied to thee and to myself. I am not sick, I am lazy."

*-selected*

*Tolerance is sometimes only a suspicion that the other fellow might be right.*



## Those To Remember In Prayer

We extend our sympathy to **Thelma Hinton** in the passing of her brother, Winston Smith. Services were held Wednesday.

### Our Church family to remember in prayer

LaJuan Baugh, Dale Fincher, Martha Jean Golden, Rodney Golden, Sonya Golden, Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ted Holt, Dora Livingston, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Permenter, Mike Permenter, Janice Willaims, Melvin Williams, Betty Willis, Alda Yarbrough.

### Our "extended family" to remember in prayer:

**Joe Barr** (Melvin Williams' son) **Tim Bartlett** (friend of Betty Miller) **Leyton Bell** (Ryan Perkins' grandfather) **Edward Lee Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's Brother) **Leslie Bradshaw** (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) **Pauline Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's sister-in-law), **Bethany Bridges** (Debra Pate's friend), **Jennifer Britt** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **Kaden Butler** (Debra Pate's great grandson) **Marcus Cruz Cranford** (Sue Hagler's-great-great grandson) **Ronnie Emanis** (Sue Hagler's nephew) **Mary Fleming** (Mike O'Brien's aunt) **Hugh Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother) **Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's sister-in law) **Mike Fults**, **Jonica Glaze** (student from Tenaha injured in serious car accident) **Virginia Goodrum** (Debra Pate's sister-in-law) **Buddy Hancock** (Martha Jean Golden's brother) **Allison Harbison**, **George Holder**, **Larry Landry** (Glenna Noles Brother) **Vickie Lee** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Juston Lout** (Patricia Lout's son) **Shirley Lout** (Mike Lout's mother) **Glynn McCleod** (brother-in-law to LaJuan Baugh, Sherry Burgay and Trish Lout) **Mitchell McLeod** (LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Trish Lout's nephew)), **Elsie Lee McDaniel** (Alice Hall's sister-in law) **George McNatt** (Dale Findher's neighbor) **Roger Scott** (LaJuan Baugh's son-in-law) **Robert Shull** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Winston Smith** (Thelma Hinton's brother) **Margie Weaver** (friend of Debra Pate) **David Williams** (Melvin Williams son)

### Those being treated for cancer:

**Guadalupe Beltran** (friend of Sue Hagler), **Harold Dawkins** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **David Greer** (son of Gene Greer, former minister here) **Carla Holt** (Ted and Joyce Holt's daughter-in-law) **Dora Livingston**, **Connie Mettauer**, **Tom Morrison**, **Teresa Richard** (Friend of Norma Perkins) **Bobbie Smiley**, **Ronnie Stanfield** (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) **Tina Vaughn** (Sue Hagler's daughter) **Jo Windham** (Betty Miller's sister-in-law)

Also remember **Leland Bradshaw**, **Amanda Bradshaw** and **Andrew Bradshaw** (Gene and Martha's son and granddaughter and grandson) in Iraq.



## Across The Preacher's Desk

“Tis a sad, sad story they relate  
These weak and foolish beings  
Who never get through the day  
But someone hurt their feelings.”

Injured feelings are given as an excuse for a lot of wrong doing. Alcoholics have used hurt feelings as an excuse for going on another binge and not a few Christians have forsaken the church because some member of the church hurt their feelings.

Let's face it, there are tactless, ill-mannered people who are forever saying crude and harsh things that would puncture the feelings of most anyone. Yet, it matters little what people of this disposition say or do. No life has ever been lived without a few knocks. If every sensible adult would stand firm and fight their own battles with life, each little knock would leave them stronger and more knowledgeable than before. Remember, kites rise against the wind, not with the wind.

Hurt feelings usually spring from a well of self-pity and folks, life is too short to spend one minute in self-pity, or in seeking after the pity and sympathy of others. We must make sure we are not one of those tactless people who needlessly hurt the feelings of others, and we must also make sure we don't "wear our feelings on our sleeve" just waiting for someone to hurt them.

*it's something to think about. . . .tlbp*

**Great Churches are built with  
Commitment!**