

Let's Visit

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The Parable of The Hearts

The stories that Jesus told to teach lessons are referred to as the parables. There is a parable recorded in Luke 8:4-15 where Jesus tells us that a sower went out to sow his seed. He tells us that some fell by the way side, some fell upon a rock, some fell among thorns and some fell on good ground. However, though this is commonly called the parable of the sower, Jesus is not putting the emphasis on the man who is sowing the seed, nor is he putting the emphasis on the seed that is being sown. Jesus is rather putting emphasis on the kind of soil the seed falls on.

As with so many lessons that Jesus taught, there were those gathered that day upon whom this parable was wasted. There were those who may have heard Jesus speak with their minds wandering fruitlessly. There were those who possibly heard it with lips curled in scorn at this teacher and his homespun stories. Some no doubt swaggered away that day commenting on the fanaticism of the preacher. Some of those who listened might have done so with great enjoyment and even nodded approval, yet when it was over they went on living as they had lived before they heard the lesson. The four kinds of soil Jesus talks about represent the four kinds of hearers or hearts there are who hear the word of God.

The seed on the wayside represents the cold, the cynical and the indifferent. This represents those hearts without spiritual capacity. When the seed of the gospel is sown into a heart without spiritual capacity, it fails to penetrate the intellect. It is left on the surface. When the seed of the gospel does not penetrate the heart, but is left on the surface, there is no life and no spirituality.

The seed sown on the rocky ground represents those who are shallow of heart. These are those who are moved by sentiment and not by intellect. Jesus tells us that on this rocky ground, the word finds a hiding place in shallow soil and it does not take root. In those with a shallow heart, the word of God is given only a passing interest. In time of temptation or persecution these fall away. The Galatians were of this type of soil. In fact, Paul writes that he marvels they were so soon removed from Christ by another doctrine in Galatians 1:6.

When Jesus next speaks of the thorny ground, he is talking about those whose hearts are double minded. These are hearts with mixed motives. Hearts where the word finds a hiding place and life springs forth. However, it is subjected to self-indulgent influences and there is life but no fruit to perfection.

Jesus closed the parable of the hearts by talking of the seed that falls into good and honest hearts. The result is life and fruit in abundance. You see, the harvest does not altogether depend on the faithfulness of the sower, nor the quality of the seed, but also on the nature of the soil. People fail in life for three primary reasons Jesus says. They fail because of indifference, shallowness or double mindedness. In order for us to succeed in life, we

(Continued on page 2)

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

The Parable of The Hearts – continued from page 1

Must receive the word of God, meditate upon it and exercise patience in living the Christian life.

What we must do is examine our hearts and the way that we receive the word of God. We must be certain that our hearts are open to God as he speaks to us through his word and we are ready to obey what He has commanded us to do to live the kind of Life God wants us to live.

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Today's Sermon

The Pattern for Salvation and Church Membership

Another installment of our sermon series:

The Misunderstood Church

FOR THE PANTRY....

Tuna

More Than Forgiveness...

My father was fatally ill, and as I watched the precious life ebbing away, I was overcome with remorse at the thought that I must have often grieved that loving heart with my careless ingratitude and thoughtless disobedience. Penitently, I begged his forgiveness for my wrongdoings in the past. With a look of love in his pain-dimmed eyes he said, "I can't remember that you ever did anything wrong." I had expected instant forgiveness but was not prepared for the full measure of pardon which I received. He could not

remember my wrongs because of his great love for me. How like the Heavenly father's love for us all. "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." (Hebrews 8:12)

-selected

On The Lighter Side.....



OF ALL THE CRUCIAL THINGS I HAD ON MY AGENDA TODAY, I CONCLUDED THAT APPEARANCES WAS THE LEAST IMPORTANT

The Radiant Life

I wish to be simple, honest, natural, frank, clean in mind and clean in body, unaffected, ready to say "I do not know," if so it be, to meet all men on an absolute equality; to face obstacles and meet every difficulty unafraid and unashamed.

I wish to live without hate, whim, envy or fear. I wish others to live their lives, too – up to their highest, fullest and best. To that end I pray that I may never meddle, dictate, interfere, give advice that is not wanted, nor assist when my services are not needed. If I can help others, I will do it by giving them a chance to help themselves; and if I can uplift or inspire, let it be by example, inference and suggestion, rather than by injunction or dictation.

I wish to radiate life.

-Elbert Hubbard

*There is one thing to be said for ignorance
It causes a lot of interesting arguments!*

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

Ann Burson is hospitalized at Woodland Heights in Lufkin with kidney stones and also a severe infection.

Leyton Bell (Ryan Perkins' grandfather) is hospitalized in Abilene and scheduled for a heart catheterization on Monday

Our Church family to remember in prayer

LaJuan Baugh, Ann Burson, 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) **Leyton Bell** (Ryan Perkins' grandfather) **Jacob Benton** (friend of Ann Burson) **Edward Lee Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's Brother) **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 McCleod** (LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Trish Lout's nephew)), **Elsie Lee McDaniel** (Alice Hall's sister-in law) **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)

Those being treated for cancer:

Guadalupe Beltran (friend of Sue Hagler), **Laura Cuzzi** (Ann Burson's niece) **Harold Dawkins** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **Reita Doty** (friend Ann Burson) **David Greer** (son of Gene Greer, former minister here) **Carla Holt** (Ted and Joyce Holt's daughter-in-law) **Dora Livingston**, **Connie Mettauer**, **Tem 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** and **Amanda Bradshaw**, (Gene and Martha's son and granddaughter) in Iraq.

COVERED DISH LUNCHEON



**Sunday
December 8, 2019**

**Please plan to
come and bring
someone with
you!**

The Bible

"True religion affords government its surest support. The perpetuity of this nation depends upon the religious training of the young. It is impossible to govern the world without the Bible". Those words were spoken by our first president, George Washington.

Here is what Daniel Webster said about the Bible, "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and continue to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury our glory in profound obscurity.

Then, president Theodore Roosevelt left us with these words, "If we read the bible aright, we read a book which teaches us to go forth and do the work of the Lord; to try to make things better in this world, even if only a little better, because we have lived in it. I enter a most earnest plea that in our hurried and rather bustling life of today we do not lose the hold our forefathers had on the Bible."

You know, what these men said about the Bible would not be deemed politically correct in our world today. Great men have always recognized the value of the Bible and Bible study. Little men neglect the Bible.



Across The Preacher's Desk

"Ready or not, here I come" was the way we announced to our companions we were coming to hunt for them when we played "hide and seek" as children. Well, as far as the Holidays are concerned, "ready or not, here they come".

I was thinking the other day about the holidays of my youth (yes, it's been a while!) and going to my grandparents home for Thanksgiving. Though we never went over the river and through the woods in a sleigh, we did over the years make some rather long trips in the Oldsmobile!

I can still in my memory see my grandmother standing, outlined by the light behind her coming from the house as she would stand on the porch as we got out of the car. I can smell the pumpkin and cherry pie and the fragrance of roast turkey that had just come from the oven in preparation for tomorrow's feast.

There is also something else I remember. I remember the sadness in her eyes when sometimes part of the family was not able to be present for the family gathering. That made me wonder about something. If my grandmother was so saddened when part of her family was absent from the family table, How does the Lord feel on His Day when part of His family is absent from His Table?

it's something to think about. . . .tlp

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**