

Let's Visit

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Compliments of Jesus

Jesus was a man of few words, that was his general character. He was not one of those who would tell you how to make a watch when you asked him what time it was. He was not one who used flattery or exaggeration. The complimentary things he said were but few.

Let's be honest. All of us appreciate a compliment provided it is heartfelt and sincere. Most of us however, don't really appreciate what we refer to as a "left handed compliment". You know, when someone says, "well, that's been a good old suit." Then, as someone once told me, looking at my handkerchief in my coat pocket they said, "That handkerchief in your pocket looks real good. If those ever come back in style I'm going to get me one."

Yet, when Jesus gave someone a compliment, it was not superficial. It had nothing to do with a person's clothing or style. It had to do with their heart and their character.

When Jesus met Nathaniel or as he is sometimes called Bartholomew, he said in John 1:47, "*behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile.*" An Israelite indeed. There are no doubt many things Jesus could have said, and yet he focused on the main issue at hand. There were some who were Israelites in appearance, or some who were Israelites according to the flesh, but that is where it stopped. There were some who were nominal Israelites, that is they were Israelites in name only. They offered sacrifices of repentance but were not willing to change their lives. They came to the temple to worship but it was a hollow ritual for them. Circumcision meant they looked like Israelites, but their hearts were far from God.

Yet, Nathaniel was one in whom there was no guile, that is to say there was nothing false. There was not pretense, no self-deception in Nathaniel. There was no desire to deceive others. This caused Nathaniel to marvel and confess faith in Christ. Jesus told him bigger and better things were coming.

Do you remember the dinner where Mary anointed Jesus with the expensive ointment? It was at the home of Simon, a Pharisee who was also a leper. Jesus was among the invited guests who were present at that dinner. As the story unfolds, Mary brings some very expensive ointment and poured it on the head of Jesus. Some there, including the host, Simon, wanted to be quite critical of Mary and the waste of money this represented. Yet, Jesus said, "Leave her alone, she has done what she could". He further said, "*wherever the gospel would be preached, this would be spoken of as a memorial to her.*"

There was also the time that Jesus went home with a tax collector by the name of Zacchaeus. He was a publican, an outcast, a traitor to his people. Yet, he was proud to have Jesus go home with him and be a guest in his house. As a result of that visit with Jesus, this rich man gave half of his good to the poor. He was liberal and generous. He was also honest. He vowed he would restore fourfold to any

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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

"The Greatest of These"

Our text comes from First Corinthians. Jesus commands us to love and Paul shows us how love is greater than anything else.

For The Pantry. . . Paper Towels

Compliments of Jesus – Continued from page 1

man he had taken anything from wrongly. To this man, Jesus said, *"This day is salvation come to this house."*

Yet, when I come to the end of my journey, I want to hear Jesus say to me what he said in the story of the talents recorded in Matthew 25. To the man with two talents who had gained two more, and the man with 5 talents who had gained 5 more, Jesus said, *"Well done thou good and faithful servant"*. Those are the words I want to hear my Lord compliment me with some day.

tp

Getting Something From Worship

A person once complained about getting nothing from worship. The listener remarked, "Did you take a sack?" The implication of course is we must expect something and be prepared with a container.

The tragedy is millions miss something tremendous on the Lord's Day. It isn't that they do not go to worship, but they do not get anything from it. So many arise on Sunday morning very lazy, decide if they will or will not go, then hustle to

make it, coming in late and frenzied then fidget until its over. Then, they rush away. It is little wonder they get little or nothing from worship.

People often get little out of worship because they put little in worship. Worship is participation, not spectatorship. You watch a play or opera but YOU worship. The preacher, teacher, songleader, etc. may lead the service but YOU worship. One can inspire another to loftier worship, but YOU still worship.

Worship is GIVING, yet not necessarily the contribution. You give your time. You plan to come, you reserve a time for worship. You expect something, you come for something. Worship then is action. Having come with a definite purpose and intention, then you can sing from the heart, pray and commit from the heart. Each aspect of worship is you expressing yourself to God.

Have you ever worshipped? Really tried to gain the most from simple worship? Do you leave inspired, forgiven and directed? Do you want to return? Worship to God transcends all other human experiences. Come to worship planning to get something out of it and you will.

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



"According to the tests, it's not water you are retaining. You're holding a grudge."

Miscellaneous

Save the Date!

May 22, 2022

Our Next Covered Dish Luncheon!

**We will celebrate birthdays and
anniversaries for June, July & August**

We will also have a "Special Celebration"



**Make your
plans to be
here and bring
a guest!**

What Is My Role In The Church?

PILLARS – Worship regularly, giving time and money.

SUPPORTERS - Give time and money if they like the preacher

LEANERS - Use the church for funerals, baptisms, marriages, but give no time nor money to support the church.

SPECIALS - Give occasionally for something that appeals to them.

SPONGES - Take all the blessings and benefits but do nothing to support the church.

SUNNY GLEN CHILDRENS HOME

The grocery truck from Sunny Glen Children's Home will be here the week of May 8th. They have requested that we collect especially **paper towels, mayonaise, salad dreddings and healthy kids snacks**. They are always very appreciative of our efforts and what they are able to take from our pantry to help with their work. The members of this congregation are to be commended for their generosity.



Those To Remember In Prayer

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick , Gene Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden,
Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ted and Joyce Holt,
Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims,

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother) Ana Blair
(friend of Debra Pate) Donna Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's
niece) Gil Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's nephew) back
surgery Gayle Foster (Cancer) Dalton Hendrix (Joyce Holt's
great-great nephew) Sandra Hogan (friend of Roxie Bostick)
Wendy Johnson (friend of Norma Perkins) Julia Keffer
(Bobbi Holder's mother) Laurie King (Co-worker of Mike
O'Brien,) cancer : Bruce Ligon (friend of Tim and Norma
Perkins) Liam Martinez (11 months old) Lamar McCormick
(friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Calvin Smith
(Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; Katilyn
Tate (Roxie Bostick's daughter-in-law) Jared and Natalie
Bostick (Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law) Marc
Tate (Jana O'Brien's brother) Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's
mother) Tina Vaughn - cancer (Sue Hagler's Daughter)
Stephen Williams, recovering from surgery.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE
Amanda Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw
Jeremiah Soape and Lucas Tate

**If you want someone added to the prayer list, please fill
out a card and put it in the offering plate.**

HIGH PLAINS CHILDREN'S HOME

It was a pleasure to have brother Trent Davidson with us last Lord's Day to share his presentation of the work being done by High Plains Children's Home in Amarillo. After seeing the many good things going on there, I think all of us can take just a little more pride in the fact that this is a work that we at the Center Church of Christ are helping to support.

CHILDREN'S HOME OF LUBBOCK

Remember we are collecting toilet paper as a part of the "Big Heart Campaign" for the Children's Home of Lubbock. We are over halfway to our goal of 1,000 rolls of toilet paper, with 572 rolls collected as of Friday, April 1st.



Across The Preacher's Desk

Jesus didn't quit assembling with the disciples because Judas was a hypocrite, or because Peter was always "buttin in". Nor did he quit because James and John "flew off the handle" occasionally. His interest in these men was not lessened because they were envious and jealous of each other at times. He did not quit teaching the high standard of life because some of his close associates failed miserably to live as they should. He did not refuse to teach others because they were unkind and unbelieving.

Jesus did not quit as a leader because some could not see "eye to eye" with him and criticized him to his back. He did not cease to teach good morals, just because he associated with an adulterous woman, an unscrupulous business man or demon worshippers. When he didn't get everything his way he didn't stop praying nor did he give up the fight because all his disciples fled from him when there was danger.

Instead, he chose a course of right and was sure it was right, and let nothing stop his development and accomplishments for God. He drank the bitter cup of betrayal, crucifixion, death and burial. But he didn't quit there. He came from the grave to be the ruler of the universe.

If you ever feel like quitting or taking off, just remember Christ and Him crucified. I believe that will keep you at your post of duty.

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
52 in '22!**