

Let's Visit

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Going Away Fasting

In the 15th chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew, there is the story of a multitude that had followed Jesus for three days without having anything to eat. The disciples began to wonder what would happen to them. Jesus said in verse 32, *"I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way."* So, Jesus took the loaves and fishes that were there and provided food for all of them. They went away filled. There are many ways this story may be applied to reveal truth for us.

Regardless of what some might think, preaching is not an easy business. The preacher who is what the Lord would have him to be is deeply concerned about the congregation that he faces each week. They have come to receive some instruction that will help them in right living. It is a betrayal of confidence if they are fed on milk instead of meat. The preacher will have to give an account to God if he sends them away fasting when the Lord has commanded that he break the bread of life.

Parents often send their children away fasting. It is their God-given privilege to instruct their children in the way of the Lord. Of all the responsibilities of parenthood, none can be compared to this. The parent who fails in this one thing has failed in everything.

Christians sometimes send their neighbors away fasting. They never speak to them about the word of God. It may be that they have lived near each other for years, and count each other as the best of neighbors, but somehow they talked about everything else without ever getting around to talking about Christ. How much yearning there was in the heart of the neighbor to know Christ we may never know. We might reason this way: "They never asked me about Jesus." Beloved, few ever do.

Christianity is something you have to take to and teach to others. That is why Jesus said, *"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."* (Mark 16:15) If men knew what Christianity was, and the value of it, they might come seeking it, but unless we tell them they have no idea. It is our duty to show them. What grief awaits those who have failed in this way.

Then, we may deliberately go away fasting. We may come where the bread is broken, but refuse to eat. Our minds may be so full of other things that we allow the lesson to slip away without giving it thought. In this case we are just enduring a sermon and are glad when it is over. We would not think of staying away, but we commit a great sin when we allow our souls to go away hungry when there was food for us. The very lesson that person needs to withstand some temptation coming during the week may have been presented but they failed to receive it. The temptation comes and they slip into sin. Not because there was not sufficient food to sustain them in the hour of trial, but because they would not eat it.

God has provided all that we need to feed our souls and the souls of others. If we go away fasting or send others away fasting, it will not be because of a lack of proper food, but because we allowed souls to die of hunger in the midst of plenty.

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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

"My Lord Faces Temptations"

Our text comes from
Matthew 4:1-11. Following
His Baptism, Jesus faces
temptation, and shows us
how to deal with it.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Hamburger Helper

Study...

To Show Thyself Approved

Paul wrote to Timothy and said, *"Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* (II Timothy 2:15) I had the privilege of hearing Cleon Lyles preach on numerous occasions. One time in particular, I remember he was stressing the importance of reading and studying the Bible. He made the statement, "There was a time when members of the churches of Christ were known for their study of the scriptures. If people in a particular town or city were having a discussion of a Bible subject and could not remember a scripture, one would say, go ask Mr. or Mrs. So-and-so, they are members of the church of Christ, they study their Bible, and they will know where to find it. Now, if you ask a member of the church of Christ where to find a scripture, they will say, I don't know, let me ask my preacher. Then, when they call the preacher, he will say, let me get back to you, I need to look that up in my concordance."

Well, what kind of a reader are you? Do you search the scriptures daily? The Bereans were commended for their study of the scriptures. *"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica*

in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11)

Moreover, do you give attendance to reading? Paul would encourage young Timothy, *"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."* (I Timothy 4:13)

When we read, do we understand what we are reading, do we meditate on it and meditate on its meaning? When Philip met that nobleman from Ethiopia, he asked him if he understood what he was reading. (Acts 8:30)

And, the most important aspect of our study of the Bible is whether or not we believe and obey what it says. John recorded the miracles of Jesus, he called them signs and he would write, *"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name."* (John 20:30-31) Yet, it was in the sermon on the mount that Jesus himself emphasized the importance of obedience to His will. He said, *"Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven."* (Matthew 7:21)

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On The Lighter Side.....



Well, I could have cast the first stone!

Miscellaneous



September 13, 2020

Our annual "Friends and Family Day" is tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2020.

Pray that we can have the worst of this pandemic behind us and have a wonderful time of Worship and Fellowship on that day!



Those To Remember In Prayer

Daniel New (Kenley Dover's grandfather)
Ronnie Stanfield Recovering from Knee Surgery.
Tina Vaughn diagnosed with Bell's Palsy
Jerry Pate recovering from knee surgery

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

LeLand Bradshaw and Lucas Tate

Special Announcement

Remember, that even though we are not requiring the wearing of masks in our assembly, we do still want to do everything we can to be safe both for ourselves and for others. We would therefore ask that we all remain aware of social distancing and being respectful of other's personal space.

-thank you

All or Nothing At All!

Christianity is either a fraud or it is worth more than anything else in the world. Christ was either an imposter or the son of God. The Bible is either a forgery or else it is the word of God. There can be no other choice. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me" (Luke 11:23) Where do you stand on these matters>?

It is a strange thing that so many people profess to believe in Christ and to believe the Bible and are yet so utterly indifferent in following the commandments of Christ and the teachings of the word of God. How can this be?

How can a man or woman profess to love God and at the same time refuse to keep God's commandments? How can a man or woman profess to believe the Bible and at the same time refuse to read and study it?

Too many professed Christians today are not living the Christian life before the world, are not attending the services of the church, are not studying the Bible and are not giving to the support of the church. These indifferent and lukewarm Christians are doing the church more harm than all the unbelievers in the world.

John addressed one of the seven churches of Asia where the members were in this condition. In Revelation 3:15-16 he wrote these words: "*I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot. So because thou art lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth.*"

It must then be a matter of "all or nothing at all". No man or woman can stand with one foot in the church and the other in the world. You can't get just far enough into the church to be saved, and stay just far enough out in the world to enjoy its sinful pleasures. If the church is worth anything it is worth everything.

Resolve to make the kingdom of heaven first in your life. The cost of discipleship is high, but the cost of rejecting Christ is eternal destruction.

-Jack Shakelford

With some people, telling lies is not only a shortcoming, but one of their major accomplishments.



Across The Preacher's Desk

Once upon a time there was a man who called himself a Christian, but he was indeed an unusual one.

On Monday, while at work, something went wrong. He forgot about God and cursed and swore, using the name of God freely.

On Tuesday, he heard some “juicy gossip” about a brother and passed it on to another without determining whether it was true or not. He even embellished the story and made it worse than before.

On Wednesday, making a business transaction, he saw an opportunity to take advantage of someone by misrepresenting an article and did so for a few dollars involved in the transaction.

On Thursday night, he went to a friend's home for a little game of cards – he didn't lose too much. Naturally there was a cocktail or two and a couple of beers. “A cheap nights entertainment”, he said.

On Friday, he became angry at everyone at work. They simply could not see things ought to be done his way so he told them off.

On Saturday, the grocer made a mistake and failed to charge him for a pound of butter. He said that was their own fault.

On Sunday morning, he went to church and took part in the services – you know, the part where you sit in the pew and mutter that the services are too long and the sermon is boring.

This man was indeed a strange Christian!

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**