

Let's Visit

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Sleeping While The Wind Blows

I remember reading somewhere that long ago, the people of a small English village who were looking for work would go to the town square on Monday morning and then be interviewed by prospective employers. If someone wanted his house painted, his corn harvested, or his livestock cared for, he went to the town square and hired the workman he wanted.

One morning a farmer came wanting someone to help him with the general farm work, caring for the stock, keeping up the fences, helping in the harvest. He approached a robust young man and asked him if he thought he could qualify for the job. The young man answered every question put to him in the same manner: "I can always sleep on a stormy night." This struck the farmer as being very strange, but the man appeared otherwise normal so he was employed and put to work.

After some weeks, a storm struck in the dead of night with powerful suddenness. The rain fell in torrents and the wind blew a gale. The roar of thunder awakened the farmer and, fearing for the safety of his stock, he rushed to the attic to arouse his hired hand. Yet, in answer to the many knocks on the door, the only response was the steady snoring of the hired man.

Well, there was nothing for the farmer to do but take care of matters himself. He ran to the barns, and surprisingly found everything as it should be. The livestock were all safe in their stalls. The doors and gates which in other storms had made much noise were fastened securely. The chickens were safe in the chicken coop without a single ruffled feather. The windows were all closed and the loose tins on the roof had been nailed down securely.

Returning to the house and to his bed, he remembered what the man had said when he applied for the job. "I can always sleep on a stormy night".

You know, Paul gave us some good advice when he penned these words in Philippians 4:6-8, "*In nothing be anxious, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*"

The storms that can come into our lives are many and varied. There are storms of sorrow and bereavement that can come into our lives. There are storms of anger and bitterness and inner turmoil. There are storms of doubt that can come when we are vulnerable and our faith is weak. Then again, there are storms of temptation that can sweep suddenly over our soul. Yet, if we keep our souls securely anchored to Jesus Christ, we can survive those storms. Just as Jesus calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee, he can calm the storms that come into our lives. You see, when we put our faith and trust in God, when we live his kind of life, then we can put into practice what Paul said and we can truly "be anxious for nothing". Like the young farmhand, we too can sleep while the wind blows for we are firmly fastened to Jesus Christ the savior of the world.

tp

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

“Those Who Produce Comfort”

Our text comes from Colossians 4:11. In times of trial, we need folks who can comfort us. We also need to be able to comfort others.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Dried Beans or Peas

“I Can't

How many times is the above expression used in the wrong way? It denotes physical inability. Too many times people say, “I can't” when they actually mean “I don't want to”.

Sometimes we hear people say, “I can't go to church services because I haven't anything to wear.” Yet, they go to the movies, the club meetings, the ball games, etc. What they actually mean is, “I don't want to.”

Sometimes people say, “I can't talk to others about becoming a member of the church.” But they can talk about ball games, about the business of making money, and about politics. What they actually mean is, “I don't want to.”

Sometimes there are those who say, “I can't sing.” But they are heard singing the latest popular music and the newest country songs. What they actually mean is “I don't want to sing hymns.”

Sometimes folks say, “I can't give much to the church.” But they buy houses and lots, farms, new cars, new appliances and new furniture. They have money to take trips, to go to the movies, every ball game and every other form of entertainment. What they actually mean is, “I don't want to give to the church.”

-Gospel Guide

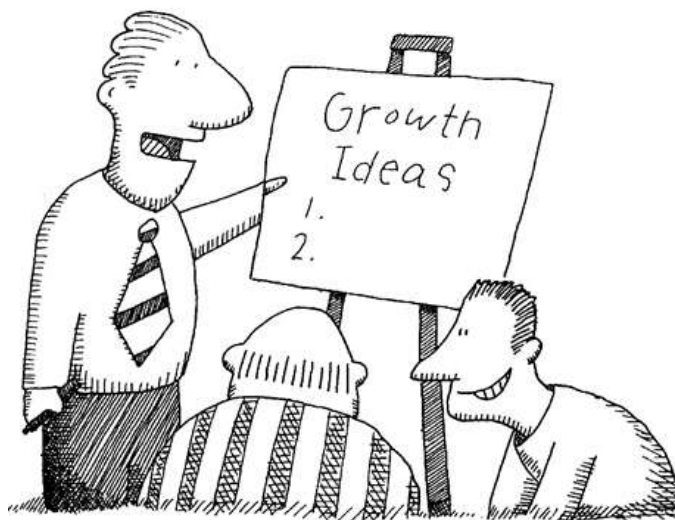
Embarrassed!

When God asked Adam, “Where art thou?” it was embarrassing to him, because he was in the wrong place and had done the wrong thing. When God asked Cain, “Where is thy brother?”, it was embarrassing because of his sin. In the parable of the marriage feast, where the king asked the man who did not have on a wedding garment, “*Friend, how camest thou in hither not having on a wedding garment?*” the man was so embarrassed he was speechless. (Matthew 22:12)

We may have many excuses to offer now; but when we stand in the presence of the great judge there will be no room for excuses. The Lord Jesus Christ sees everyone and knows every thought and intent of the heart.

Would it be embarrassing to you for others to know just how little you study the word of the Lord, how little we talk about that blood bought institution, the church, and how little we are concerned about its progress; how little we give to its support? Oh, there are so many things we may leave undone that we ought to do and so many things we may do that are wrong that would embarrass us among men much less before Christ at the judgment.

-selected



“Besides calling every Sunday ‘Easter,’ does anyone else have ideas for improving church attendance?”

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – This past Sunday we had a wonderful time of fellowship with our quarterly covered dish luncheon. Mark your calendar now for Sunday, March 7, 2021. That will be our next covered dish luncheon. We will pray that this “present distress” will be ended by then and we can have a “normal” luncheon and time of fellowship. A big thank you to those who came, those ladies who provided such a bountiful feast, and to Sarah Fletcher, Jana O’Brien, Norma Perkins and Mike O’Brien for serving the food and drinks at the luncheon.

A dangerous Heart

The faultfinding habit is a bad one. It is easily acquired and not readily broken. We live in an imperfect world. Everything is flawed and defective. Institutions all blunder and fall short of the ideal. Persons all blunder and fall short of the ideal. Persons are all erring creatures and their faults give us offense; but one should not pay too much attention to the faults of others, or to the defects of the world in which we live. He may become a chronic faultfinder, and in that case he will become a grumbler. If he is not careful, he will degenerate into a growler. If he growls long enough he will become a cynic, of no account either to himself or to anyone else. He is a nuisance and a stumbling block. He did not intend at the start to become a cynic, he began by finding fault and the habit grew on until his mind became twisted and his heart sour.

-selected

The Reason. . .

The reason so many people are so unlike God is because they spend little time thinking of Him. Our picture of God must come from what He has written. Many reveal their unwillingness to allow God to dwell in their hearts by their attitude toward the study of His word. Bible Study is a wonderful way to change this habit.

-borrowed

Jared and Natalie Tate (Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law) who are both diagnosed with Covid 19 virus,.

Foy Metcalf (friend of Sarah Fletcher) took a bad fall perhaps as the result of a light stroke but they are still waiting on test results.

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Glenn Cogburn**, the minister of the Bullard Church of Christ. He passed away on Wednesday of this past week with Covid 19.

THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

Roxie Bostick (back issues); **Gene Bradshaw** (Pending surgery); **Wayne Sims** (cancer); **Cody Butler** (Debra Pate's grandson) **Gracie Elam** (2 month old baby born with heart defect) **Dalton Hendrix** (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Hudson Perkins** (Tim & Norma Perkins' grandson) **Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother, broken hip); **Charles Williams** (Janice Williams brother-in-law, COVID 19)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

**Amanda Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw,
Leland Bradshaw, Lucas Tate**

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

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

How was that again. . .

Janie asked Jeannie how come her sister married such a half-wit. To which Jeannie replied that she was such an incurable bargain hunter that she just couldn't resist anything that was half off!



Across The Preacher's Desk

We had our young grandson Mason who is a little over 2 years old, staying with us for a few days during Thanksgiving. As you go from our den into our dining room, you go up some stairs or steps, about 5 of them to be exact. Well, Mason already has an independent streak. So we would start up those steps and he would say, "all on my own" and hold the rail and walk up without my assistance.

Well, for a little fellow, that is a big moment. He was venturing to climb those steps without any assistance from Poppy or Gigi. He reached the top safely by just taking one step after another. The last step was just as easy as the first. However, we were near, we were close, we were ready to make sure he did not fall. He did it several times and never had an incident.

To a toddler, climbing the stairs is a big adventure. To the Christian, it is the greatest possible adventure to ascend to God. As we make that ascent, God is near, he is there to pick us up when we stumble. Remember the words of Paul, "forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14) Let's make sure we are climbing toward the heights with God.

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**