

# Let's Visit

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## Jesus' Walks Made Friends

Mark chapter 1 tells us about Jesus taking a walk by the Sea of Galilee. He started out walking alone, he was looking for followers. He was looking for disciples and friends, and he found them. In verses 16 through 20 we read of four who were destined to be very close to Him.

While the Sea of Galilee saw many memorable happenings in the life of Jesus, none was more significant than the calling of these disciples. Simon, Andrew, James and John. It reminds me of the familiar words from John Greenleaf Whittier.

*In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea.  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word,  
Rise up and follow Thee.*

Those familiar words come from a prayer song, "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind". Mark's account leads us to believe these first disciples were caught off guard and unprepared to hear the call of Jesus. However, John tells us three of the four had already met Jesus. They had been introduced to Him. Those gatherings on the bank brought about by John the Baptist had led to their meeting Jesus. John had even directed their attention to their future leader. When we sing the words of that familiar hymn: "In simple trust like theirs who heard", we know the simplicity lay in their faith. It was not in their following blindly one they did not know.

When Jesus told them to follow him, they went with him. They literally followed him about Galilee. They tried to follow his way of life. When they left their boats it was to go after Him. As they went they learned more of what this challenge meant. They were no longer able to spend their days on the lake. They were not able to just spend the day

catching fish. Now they spent their days on the dusty roads. They were in unfriendly towns. They were in strange countrysides and villages, learning the art of catching men.

On the blue waters of Galilee, these men had earned a living. They knew the hazards of storms and empty nets. They were familiar with the high tax on their catch. Yet, following Jesus they went into unknown dangers.

Yet, we see no hesitation on their part. They might not know where they were going to travel, but they did know who was leading the way. They answered the call of Jesus promptly and without hesitation.

Jesus invited them, he said "come ye after me". It gave them a choice. You see, Jesus does not coerce, he invites. We are told that straightway they left their nets to follow Jesus. That means right then, without reservation, gladly. Many times they would suffer and falter, but these four would never turn back.

These men recognized there was only one who could answer the age-old hunger of the human heart for God. And just as Jesus called these men to be his friends, he calls us. These men came face to face with Jesus. Like others who came face to face with Jesus, their lives were never the same. When you and I answer the call of Jesus, when we make Jesus the Lord and Master of our lives, then our lives will never be the same. We will live changed lives, we will live life, God's way.

*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

# Gathered Here and There



## Today's Sermon

### "Don't Be A Loser"

Our text comes from Exodus 14:12. God wants his people to be winners, to overcome, to be victorious. If we are going to be winners, we have to act like winners and talk like winners.

**For The Pantry. . .**  
**January 15 – Instant Oatmeal**



We would like to re-start our hospitality groups for our quarterly dinners. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer if you are interested. If you have any questions, please see Jana O'Brien, Sarah Fletcher or Norma Perkins.

**Each One Bring One!**  
**53 in '23**  
**Invite Someone Each Week!**

## *Please Tell Me Why. . .*

If a lawyer finds a flaw in a title to property, and does not warn about it, he has not done his duty.

If a sanitary engineer discovers conditions dangerous to health and fails to report them, he has failed on his job.

If a doctor learns of a dangerous condition in our bodies and does not properly diagnose it, we think he is a quack!

If a bank examiner knows of discrepancies in the accounts of the bank and does not report them, they lose their position.

BUT, if the preacher sees a flaw in our title to a home in heaven, and warns about it; if he discovers conditions dangerous to our spiritual welfare and reports it; if he finds a diseased condition in our spiritual body and tells us of his diagnosis; and if he finds a discrepancy in our spiritual account and reports on it; many think he is just meddling and trying to find fault.

*-copied*

## *On The Lighter Side. . .*



"What else about my sermon didn't you like?"

# Miscellaneous



## Those To Remember In Prayer

### Put This On Your Calendar.....



## March 5, 2023

This is our next "Covered Dish Luncheon" when we have "Pack A Pew Sunday" and will celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries for March, April and May.

Make your plans to be here and invite others to come and help you pack your pew!

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL** – Our next Wednesday night meal at 6:00 p.m. prior to our evening services will be on January 25, 2023.

### "THE STATE OF THE CHURCH"

Make you plans to be here for the Bible Study Period on Sunday, January 29, 2023. At that time we will review "The State Of The Church" as we go over the end of year financial reports and present the budget for 2023 along with news of upcoming things to expect in 2023.

### AREA WIDE SINGING

There will be an "Area-Wide Singing": at the **Angelina Church of Christ in Lufkin** on Friday, January 27, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the singing. Make your plans to attend if possible.

#### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick , Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Louise Johnson, Lisa Miller Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

#### "EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother), Minion Bean-(Mike O'Brien's mother) recovering from a fall and hip surgery), Ana Blair (friend of Debra Pate) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Sandra Fuller (friend of Betty Miller) Roy Garcia (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins recovering from brain surgery) Suzie Hogan (Roxie Bostick's sister) Suzanne Ihlo (Martha Jean Golden's sister recovering from a stroke) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Reba Miley (friend of Debra Pate) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; J. C. and Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's mother and father) Calvin Turner (recovering from back surgery) Tina Vaughn - cancer

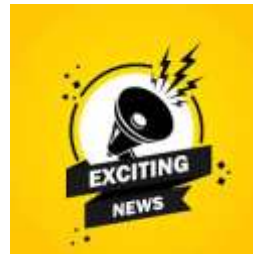
Clark Paul Williams (LaResa Livingston's cousin)

#### "INTERNET FRIENDS"

Mason McConnell, Frankie & Mandy McConnell, Wayne Minter, Courtney Workman

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

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



### SAVE THESE DATES!

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Phil Sanders**  
is coming back to Center!

**Area Wide Singing on Friday Night.**  
**Preaching on Saturday night**  
**Refreshments following the singing and**  
**Covered Dish Luncheon following the**  
**Sunday Services.**



## Across The Preacher's Desk

Some years ago, it was in the 1950's there was a country music show on television called "Jones Junction". It was broadcast out of Shreveport on KSLA and later on KTBS. They always closed the program with the same song. While I do not remember all of the words, I do remember it said, "Let a smile be your umbrella on a rainy, rainy, day." Perhaps that is similar to what Paul had in mind when he wrote "Rejoice evermore" in I Thessalonians 5:16.

Of all people on the earth, Christians have greater reason for happiness than anyone else. Christians are promised the more abundant life here upon the earth and everlasting life in eternity. Shouldn't that be a cause for happiness? If the Christian life is the happy life that it is pictured to be, then as Christians we have the obligation of showing the world that we are happy.

Why not wear a smile? Why not let a smile be your umbrella? If you are a Christian then your face should show your happiness by having a smile to greet those you meet. A smile is a token of friendliness because it denotes a pleasing personality. Wear a smile instead of a frown and show the joys of the Christian life to those around you.

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

**The Lord's Plan  
For Evangelism –  
Each one Bring one!  
53 in '23!**