

Let's Visit

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Jesus Chooses His Team

Remember when you were in school and it was time to choose teams to play various sports? I remember that when I was in elementary school, we would choose teams and they would always fight over whose team I would be on. One group would say, “you can have Perkins” and the other would say, “no, we had him last time, you have to take him this time”. It was a real confidence builder.

Well, instead of a team to play baseball or kickball or football in the school yard, where would you begin to recruit a team to alter the course of history? Would you start in the universities, would you start with the most successful businesses or would you go to the heads of government?

Jesus began with a walk by the lake. “Follow me” is what he said to them, and they did. That’s how Jesus’ uncommon mission with the apostles began.

Twelve of the most common individuals you could ever find. In fact they were more than common. They were almost misfits. In some ways they remind us of the odd couple. The neat freak and the slob forced to live together. Then, maybe they remind us of the people on Gilligan’s Island. Remember them? Seven people who were all weird in some way, stranded together on a deserted island.

Actually, maybe they are more like the “Dirty Dozen”. Remember the 1967 film that starred Lee Marvin. Twelve hardened criminals and a colonel on the outs with his commanders on a mission to eliminate the Nazi leadership during a daring raid.

However, I want us to consider who Jesus did not choose for his inner circle. He didn’t select a rabbi. He didn’t select scholars. He did not build his team from the religious establishment. He assembled a ragtag bunch of men with unimpressive resumes.

But you see, that was all a part of the plan. Jesus was not looking for religious superiority. He was not seeking extraordinary talent.

Jesus wanted ordinary people. People with hopes and dreams of their own who were willing to leave their lives behind to follow the Savior. He wanted ordinary folks. Folks like us.

What is sad is the fact that we so often put these twelve men on a pedestal. We make them some kind of “supersaint” and dehumanize them. They were just twelve men who were human in every sense of the word and we must not lose touch with who they really were. Truth be told, it almost seems Jesus chose men notable only for their ordinariness.

These men had no intrinsic ability or outstanding talent of their own. They were all Galileans. They were not the elite. They were rural, uneducated people. They were commoners and nobodies.

In that group there was Peter, the one with the foot shaped mouth and Judas the one with the checkbook who usually managed to take a little for himself. Then there was Thomas, the one we call doubting.

If you want a contrast, we have Simon the Zealot and Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector and Simon was a tax protester. Matthew was a revenue collector for the Romans and Simon was a rebel. Matthew was wealthy and Simon as a commoner.

(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



Today's Sermon

“The Fruit God Wants”

Our text comes from Galatians 5:22. The Fruit of the Spirit is Love and that is what God wants us to exhibit in our lives. Paul also tells us the attributes of this love.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Tuna

Jesus Chooses His Team - from page 1

Jesus selected the twelve from the unworthy and unqualified. They were like the rest of us. They were like Elijah, “men with passion like ours”. They did not rise to the highest usefulness because they were somehow different from us. Their transformation into vessels of honor was the work of the potter, Jesus and His alone.

God chooses the humble, the lowly, the meek and the weak. That way there is never any question about the source of power when their lives change the world. It's not the man, it's the truth of God and the power of God presented by the man.

Remember, these men were not “super saints”. When Jesus chose them, they still needed teaching. Their shortcomings and humanity seemed to overshadow their potential and time was short. They had already left the vocations they were expert in. They had abandoned their nets. They had forsaken their fields and left the tax tables. They had left the familiar to be trained for something for which they had no natural aptitude.

For them, the learning process was a difficult one. They lacked spiritual understanding and were slow to hear and slow to understand. They were at times thick, dull, stupid and blind. Yet, to remedy their lack of spiritual understanding, Jesus just kept on teaching.

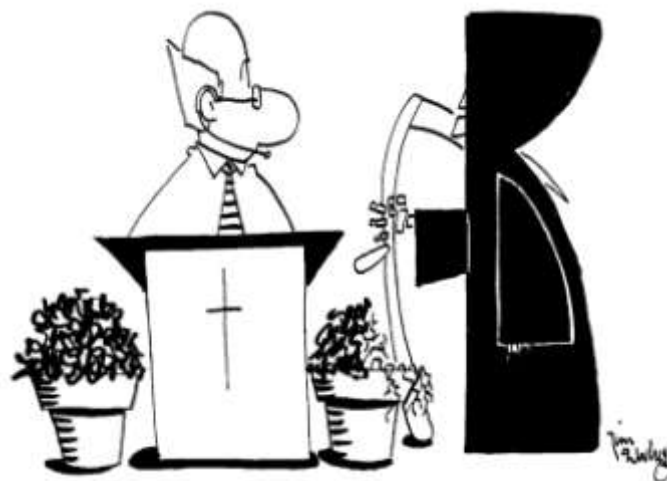
There was something else that made learning difficult on their part. They suffered from a serious lack of humility. They were self-absorbed, self-centered, self-promoting and proud. They spent a lot of their time arguing about who would be greatest among them. Yet, Jesus overcame their lack of humility by being an example of humility. He even washed their feet as he modeled servanthood.

We look at these men and we see their weaknesses and wonder why Jesus chose them. Why didn't he just choose a different group of men. No one could ever examine this group of men and conclude they did what they did because of their own abilities. There is no human explanation for the influence of the apostles. The glory goes to God alone.

Their relatively brief time of training with Jesus bore eternal fruit. To be sure, at first it might have seemed to have gone for naught. When Jesus was betrayed, they were scattered like sheep. Yet, when we come to the book of Acts, we see these men do the work Jesus trained them to do. They changed the world for Jesus. They turned the world upside down. If they can do great things through the power of God, so can we.

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On The Lighter Side....



“No, No, I'm just here for your mic battery”

Miscellaneous



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Covered Dish Luncheon
Make your plans to be here!



Those To Remember In Prayer

Wayne Sims is scheduled for a biopsy on January 26th.

Betty Miller is still battling "walking pneumonia"

THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

Roxie Bostick (back issues) Gene Bradshaw (recovering from 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) Ernie Hill (Jerry Pate's cousin) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Foy Metcalf (friend of Sarah Fletcher) Jared and Natalie Tate (Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law) Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's mother, broken hip);

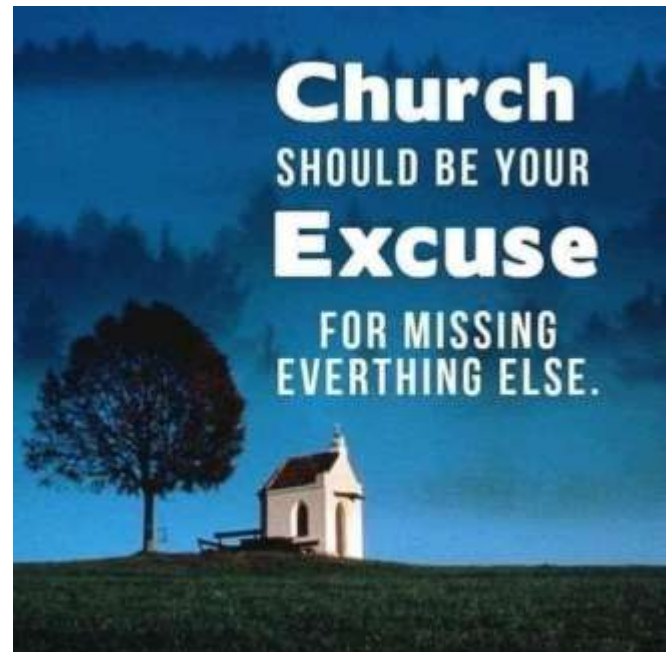
THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

Amanda Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw,
Leland Bradshaw, 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



The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper as pictured in the New Testament was a very simple, but a very impressive and meaningful rite. No priestly intervention – no, not so much as a preacher was required. Baptized believers assembled "upon the first day of the week to break bread," to sing and pray and "exhort one another." This "communion" was observed for several purposes or reasons:

1. For spiritual nourishment. "Take eat", "Drink ye all of it".
2. For a monument. "This do in remembrance of me."
3. For a testimonial, "Ye do proclaim the Lord's death."
4. Announcing his coming. "Till the Lord come."
5. Christian fellowship. "By being many are one bread and one body; for we are all partakers of that one bread."

The Lord's table now points, always has and always will, three ways. It points to the past – do in remembrance; to the future – till he comes; inward – let each examine himself.

-copied

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Diamonds are chunks of coal that stuck to their jobs.

Tact is the unsaid part of what you think.



Across The Preacher's Desk

Paul's second letter to Timothy is the last of his letters that has been preserved for us. In chapter 1 and verse 12 he writes, "I know whom I have believed". Dr. Moffatt's translation reads: "I know whom I have trusted".

Notice what Paul says. He does not say he knows what he believes. He says he knows the one he has trusted. It was personal with Paul. His trust was in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. Paul trusted Jesus completely. No reservations. No hedging or contingency plans. No hesitation. He had placed his faith in a person, not merely a message.

A little later in this letter, chapter 4, he tells young Timothy that the time of his departure is at hand. However, he tells him that a crown of righteousness is waiting for him.

The faith that sustained Paul in his final imprisonment and execution is available to us. Paul had made Jesus Christ the Lord and Master of his life when he was obedient to the things Ananias told him to do. When we make Jesus the Lord and Master of our lives by our obedience and putting Him on in baptism and living obedient to His will, like Paul we can know whom we have believed, we can know whom we have trusted and we can face the end of life with the same confidence Paul had that a crown of righteousness is waiting for us.

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**