

Let's Visit

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Walking With Jesus Leads To Faith

Luke chapter 5 tells the story of Jesus walking by the Sea of Galilee. The crowd pressed on him, wanting to hear the word of God. Jesus saw two ships nearby that were empty of men. The fishermen were washing their nets on the shore.

Jesus got into one of the ships, the one that belonged to Simon. He asked Simon to take the ship out from the land a bit. That way it would be easier for Jesus to teach the people. So we see Jesus using a boat for a pulpit. Teaching the people who had come to him.

When Jesus finished teaching he told Simon to launch into the deep and let down his net for a draught of fish. Luke tells us that Simon was not exactly thrilled with this idea, He told Jesus they had fished all night and caught nothing, Yet, he told Jesus that at his word he would do it.

So, Simon launched out into the deep and let down the nets, The catch was large enough to break the net. They called to their partners to come and help them. Luke tells us that both ships were filled with fish.

We are tempted to stop at many points in this story. Yet, the most vital message to us seems to be that simple challenge to "launch out into the deep" You see, too often we live in the shallows of Christianity. We are content to wade in the kiddie pool and take only a little of what God offers to us. Our hunger and our thirst is often deep. Yet, God's storehouse and God's well are without limit, God can supply more than we can ever need.

Launching out into the deep is a venture of faith. Reading between the lines, we see that Simon had no great expectations. He had tried and come back already with empty nets. He wanted to tell Jesus that if he would stick to preaching then Simon would stick to fishing.

Faith is something we could all use a larger dose of sometimes. In Luke 17:5-6, Jesus tells us the kind

of faith to have. He tells us we should have the faith of the mustard seed, That was the smallest seed He could think of.

Our faith must be a faith in God, for the writer of Hebrews tells us in Hebrews 11:6 that it is impossible to please God without faith. However, our concept of the heart of God is often too small. We have faith in each other but our faith in God is small. We have faith in checks and in banks, We have faith in automobiles and airplanes, We have faith in cooks we have never met and strangers who drive us in cabs and buses. When you think about it, it's a bit silly on our part. We have faith in people we do not know and have never met, yet we are reluctant to have faith in the God of heaven who created us.

A formal faith is worth nothing at all, It is actually worth less than nothing, It deludes and misleads, A formal faith is merely a mental assent to the fact that Jesus Christ lived.

A feeble faith will not accomplish great things for God either. It sinks in the hour of trial and it shrinks from open declaration and makes a feeble fight. A feeble faith begins the fight but abandons the enterprise.

God demands a living, appropriating faith. This kind of faith is the only effective faith. A faith that will launch out into the deep. This faith will accomplish great and wonderful things. This is the faith we must have.

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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

"A Compelling and Revealing Text"

For The Pantry. . .
January 29 – Spam



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!

Love Is Beautiful

Love is the most beautiful thing in all the world. Love lives not for itself, but always for others. It must find its deepest expression in sacrificial living. For "love that is hoarded, moulds at last." It must be kept pure and strong and active to make human love worthwhile.

The sacredness of love must never be forgotten. Life without love becomes lonely and aimless. But life with love takes on new meaning. And only as we have a true understanding of God's love for man will we be able to appreciate the importance of love in the home. The foundation of the home is based on religion and love.

It becomes a religious obligation that we shall keep the altar fires of love burning brightly. When we are tempted let the fire die, let us remember these words: "Being true means doing nothing that would bring grief and heartaches to the other party. It means being faithful to the other person's wishes and expectancy. It means being loyal to your highest ideals of what a home should be and can be when you are united."

Love makes faithfulness a pleasure.

-Just a Moment

On The Lighter Side. . .



A true love for humanity will save us from becoming pessimists.

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 February 22, 2023.

Make your plans now to be here!



SAVE THESE DATES!

April 21st, 22nd and 23rd

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.

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You and I are apt to talk about "big" and "little" sins. There is an Indian proverb which says, "There is no distinction between big and little when talking about snakes." They are all alike – snakes.

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) **Celina Danley** (Sister of Joyce Danley) multiple health issues, **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) **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

Cole Barbee, 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.

"One reason sin flourishes is that it is treated like a cream puff instead of a rattlesnake."

Billy Sunday



Across The Preacher's Desk

A laugh may be the sweetest or the most bitter sound that comes from the human voice, according to the sentiment it expresses. To be sure, laughter is not an unimportant incident in a happy life, but a gift of God to serve a definite purpose and is even more useful in less happy lives.

Laughter is one of life's greatest shock absorbers. Many of the things at which we laugh would be very annoying if we did not think them funny, and laughter is nature's device for taking up the jolt. Laughter is a better response than annoyance to a horde of petty annoyances that dog our heels.

Laughter is also a source of strength. Men endure and achieve as they learn to break the monotony of routine work with laughter. The burdens of many lives are beyond the normal power and endurance of human beings. There are various sources of strength for ush and one of them is laughter. It is a familiar fact that Lincoln said that laughter, relieving the strain of care, was what kept him from breaking beneath the load he had to bear.

Laughter is the magnet that draws. It may be a very quiet unostentatious laugh, perhaps not more than a twinkle of the eye, but it is the key that unlocks the hearts of people. Laughter is a fine art when it covers a heart that may be heavy but is undaunted and unafraid. Such laughter is a principle of life. It is an expression of a noble courage, a genuine love and a deep and abiding faith in God.

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

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