

# Let's Visit

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## Seed Sowing

While our Lord was upon the earth, he spoke four parables on seed sowing. These are the lakeside parables recorded in Matthew chapter 13, Mark chapter 4 and Luke chapter 8. These parables were intended to encourage His people for the great trials ahead of them.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus taught His disciples that some of their preaching would be in vain. Some of the seed would fall into wayside hearts and never produce at all. If we are inclined to be discouraged when we see our efforts at teaching go for naught, the Lord is saying in this parable that He knew such would be the case.

Then, there are a great many people in the church who live far below their possibilities. They could do a great deal more than they are doing. It is discouraging sometimes to see people live so far below their potential. So Jesus told us about the people who would do only a small portion of the good they were capable of doing. Later when some Christians denied the Lord and blasphemed His name, they were to remember that the Lord had foreseen the weaknesses and failures of men and to take heart and press on.

Then there is the parable of the tares which also belongs in this list. Somehow, when we look and expect encouragement and strength from our brethren and find only discouragement and weakness, we are inclined to lose heart. But when actual tares grow among the wheat and we find people wearing the name of Christ but acting like the devil, we needn't be surprised. Jesus had such people in His company. He spoke these words to teach us that this would be a continuing situation.

The Lord must have known that His disciples, being few in number, would be inclined to look at

the enormous task of preaching to the whole world and five up and say we simply can't do it. So He spoke the parable of the mustard seed, giving us assurance of how the church would grow, how from a very small beginning it could become the greatest force on earth. He wanted us to have the courage to work and attempt what seemed to us impossible.

In Mark 4:26 Jesus tells the story of the man's planting and how in the process of time he slept. Yet, while he was working and while he was sleeping the forces of nature worked away and slowly produced a plant. He has taught us to know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. Remember what Paul would write in I Corinthians 15:58, *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."* Then again, *"And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."* (Galatians 6:9) We can do those good things that the Lord has told us to do and while we sleep and while we wake the good seed of God's kingdom will germinate and bear fruit. Suddenly there will be the fruit of righteousness wherever the word fell into good soil. But the sower must wait with patience for the working of God's law. Let us do today's duties in all the confidence that God who does all things well will use us to His glory.

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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

### **"America Needs God"**

Our text comes from Proverbs 14:34. The greatest need of America today is not a \$15.00 per hour minimum wage – it is God enshrined in the hearts of men and women.

## **FOR THE PANTRY....**

### **Pasta Sauce**

## **Can You Say – OUCH?**

A husband and wife had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything. They had kept no secrets from each other except that the little old woman had a shoe box in the top of her closet that she had cautioned her husband never to open or ask her about it. For all those years, he never thought about the box; but one day, the little old woman got very sick, and the doctor said she would not recover. In trying to sort out their affairs, the little old man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside. She agreed that it was time that he should know what was in the box. When he opened the box, he found two crocheted dolls and a stack of money totaling \$95,000.00. He asked her about the contents. "When we were to be married," she said, "my grandmother told me that the secret of a happy marriage was never to argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll." The little old man was so moved that he had to fight back the tears. Only two precious dolls were in the box! She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He was filled with happiness. "Honey," he said, "that explains the dolls, but what about all of this money? Where did it come from?"

And she answered, "Oh, that's the money I made from selling dolls."

*-Hillcrest Bulletin  
Stephenville, Texas*

## **Lord, Send Me!**

*"And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send and who will go for us? Then I said, Here am I, send me." (Isaiah 6:8)*

The story is told of an Arab beggar who would sit at the gate of a rich man's house. He constantly depended on the bounty of this wealthy man from whom he received his daily bread. One day, his patron wished to send an urgent message. Happening to see the beggar, he asked him to deliver the message. The beggar drew himself up and replied, "I solicit alms, I do not run errands."

All of our lives we have been soliciting and receiving alms from God; but we are not always willing to carry his urgent message of salvation or do other service for him. Freely have we received now let us freely give. We must and should give our time, our money and energy to the carrying of God's message of deliverance to those who are captives of sin and self.

You know, a mighty powerful way of teaching people the importance of Christianity is by example! We can teach Christianity by putting first things first. Are we doing that?

*-selected*

## **On The Lighter Side....**



**WOW, THIS CHURCH IS REALLY OLD SCHOOL**

## Miscellaneous



**September 12, 2021**

**Invite your family and friends  
and plan to be here!**

\* \* \* \* \*

Free will  
carried  
many a soul  
to hell,  
but never  
a soul  
to heaven.

*Charles H. Spurgeon*



## Those To Remember In Prayer

**Gene Bradshaw** is recovering from surgery this past Wednesday and is in a lot of pain.

**Jerry Pate** is scheduled for surgery July 21st.

**Melvin Williams** has been back in the hospital.

**Wayne Sims** is having more Chemotherapy.

### THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

#### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Roxie Bostick**, **Gene Bradshaw**, **Martha Jean Golden**,  
**Sue Hagler**, **Alice Hall**, **Ted and Joyce Holt**, **Betty Miller**,  
**Debra Pate**, **Jerry Pate**, **Wayne Sims**, **Melvin Williams**

#### "EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

**Mitchell Anthony** (LaResa Livingston's brother)  
**Donna Boullion** (Ted and Joyce Holt's niece) **Gil Boullion**  
(Ted and Joyce Holt's nephew) back surgery **Cody Butler**  
(Debra Pate's grandson) **Peytin Cook** (Betty Miller's great-  
grandaughter)) **Gracie Elam** (6 month old baby recovering from  
heart surgery) **Keeth Fontenot** (Debra Pate's son) undergoing  
tests for suspicious knot on his neck **Dalton Hendrix** (Joyce  
Holt's great-great nephew) **Laurie King** (Co-worker of Mike  
O'Brien,) cancer **Liam Martinez** (11 months old ) **Lamar**  
**McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues)  
**Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure  
issues; **Jared and Natalie Tate** (Mike and Roxie's son and  
daughter-in-law) **Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother) **Jo**  
**Windham** (Betty Miller's sister-in-law) cancer.

#### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

**Amanda Bradshaw**, **Leland Bradshaw**, **Michele Bradshaw**  
and **Lucas Tate**

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

### SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

**9:45 a.m.**

**"Paul's Prison Epistles - Colossians"**

**Mid-Week Bible Study**

**7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening**

**"The One Word Bible Study"**

**Please come and join us in these  
weekly activities.**



## Across The Preacher's Desk

Is the message of the cross relevant for today? What is there for men and women of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Can the events on a hill so long ago affect us now? Can the death of one man by crucifixion affect men and women when thousands can now be killed with one bomb? The answer is yes, yes the message of the cross is current and relevant. There are two short words in John's Gospel (John 19:28) that show us how current this message is. Those words are when Jesus says, "I thirst".

Jesus said, "I thirst" because Jesus died as a man. John's primary purpose was to show the deity of Jesus but in this passage he shows us the humanity of Jesus. Jesus came to feel what we feel and to know our needs. The human race had sinned and must die.

The fact that Jesus experienced that painful thirst brings new meaning to other passages. Even in our day and age with all its advancements, with cell phones and the internet and supersonic plane travel, people still die and go to hell.

Jesus knows our pain and our temptations. He knows the deep waters we pass through and he knows the storms that blow through our lives. Yet, through obedience to Jesus' commands and living His kind of life, the storms can be calmed and our thirst can be quenched. What we must do is surrender our stubborn human will to the will of Jesus, we must make Jesus Christ the Lord and Master of our lives. Not just part of our life, but ALL of our life.

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

**Commitment  
Builds  
Great  
Churches!**