

# Let's Visit

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## Trading Feathers for Worms

I remember one time reading a delightful and yet profound story about a bird and a worm merchant. It seems that this bird saw this man with worms for sale and inquired about the price. He was told that the man was trading worms for feathers. Well, the bird, being a practical sort of bird (not to be confused with a bird brain) figured he had plenty of feathers and could easily spare a few, so he traded some feathers for worms and did not have to work for his worms. Well, that was almost too easy, so the bird kept on trading with the worm merchant until one day he found he could no longer fly. He was now helpless against the cats and all his other natural enemies. Having come to his senses, he got busy and went to work. He rounded up a mess of worms and went to the worm merchant to get his feathers back. Yet, the worm merchant refused to trade. He told the bird, "we are interested only in swapping worms for feathers, not feathers for worms."

Well, that got the old juices flowing and the old wheels turning. I started thinking (you already know this could spell trouble, don't you?) about how humanity is often like the bird in the story. Do you remember Esau? He sold out as easily as the bird in the story. He came in from hunting, hungry, and sold his birthright for a pot of red beans. Later, when he realized the value of what he had lost, there was no swapping back. He found out what the expression "all sales final" really meant. He was forced to live with the fact that someone else enjoyed his birthright. The story of Esau is a sad and pathetic story from the past. You see, there is a law both in nature and in the spiritual world from which there is no escape. That law is stated by Paul in Galatians 6:7, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that

shall he also reap." We live in an age when we can realize this from every viewpoint, if we are willing to learn the lesson. Throughout the history of the world, nations have reaped what they have sown. No nation or government has ever been able to stand when men become loose in their morals and did not allow God to occupy a prominent place in their thinking. In the history of God's dealings with man as recorded in the Old Testament, we can find this principle from a religious as well as a national viewpoint. Nations that forgot God soon were forgotten. God said it would be like that with all nations that forgot him. Of course they awoke and realized their mistake, but the awakening came too late. There was no swapping back.

In our own lives we can find examples of this if we take the time to look for them. Some reading this will stop right here and think of the foolish trades they have made. Today they are paying for it. They may have called in the help of skilled professionals, but the results stay with them. They may be able to get forgiveness, but they still pay for the violation of the laws of nature. They try in vain when they realize how foolish they have been, but the devil will not swap back. We realize how foolish the bird was to trade feathers for worms. Are we really that much smarter?

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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

### "The Misunderstood Church" – Music Yes, The Instrument No

People talk about Churches of Christ as being the ones that don't have music. Yes, we have music, vocal music. However, we do not use instruments of music in worship. We will explore that topic this morning.

## FOR THE PANTRY....

### Cake Mix

## Trying To Please Folks!

How true the saying is, "you can't please everybody". We might please one person or one group of people, yet displease another. Jesus knew this and replied to a group with a story of children saying to other children, "We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you and ye have not lamented. (Matthew 11:17)

We are reminded of the Old Spanish parable about a man, a boy and a donkey. They were all three walking down a dusty road on a hot summer day. They overheard some passerby say, "Look at those foolish people walking when they could be riding the donkey." Not wanting to appear foolish, the father and son climbed upon the donkey. They had only ridden a short distance when another passerby exclaimed, "Look at that poor donkey carrying those two people."

Whereupon the son climbed down and walked beside the father and the donkey. There were some who said, "look at that inconsiderate man making that poor little boy walk." Upon hearing this, the father and son exchanged places, and still they had not satisfied their fellow-man who said, "Look at that young man riding and the old man walking in the heat of the day."

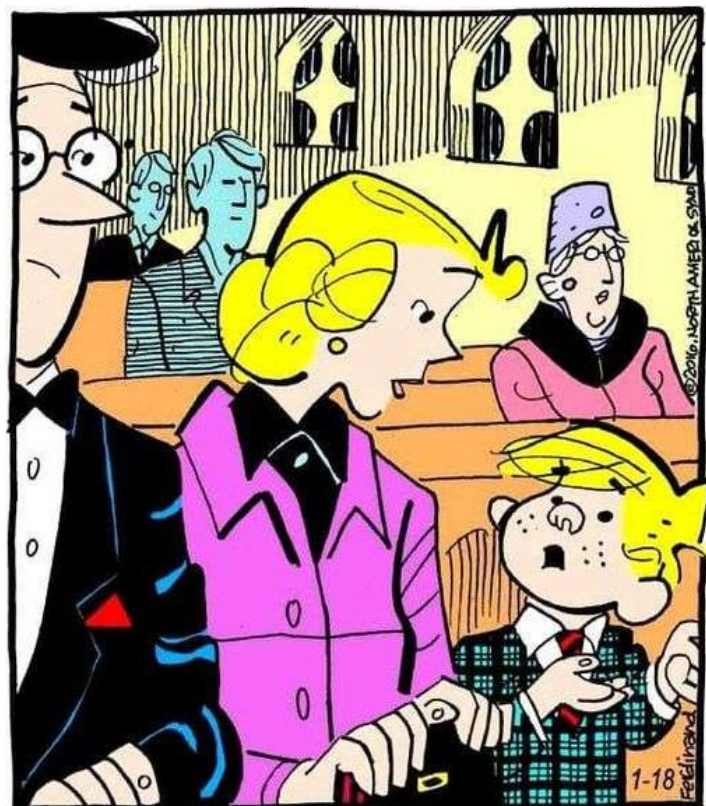
So the son climbed down on the ground. They tied the donkey's legs to a pole and proceeded to

carry the donkey. Everyone then exclaimed, "Look at those foolish people."

This only goes to prove that you cannot please everybody. Have you ever tried? Some people empty their lives of happiness and joy trying to please others but never do quite enough. So they still complain and find fault. You can be sure that those kind of folks never try pleasing others.

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## On The Lighter Side....



"HOW COME WE ASK FOR 'DAILY BREAD'... WHEN WE COULD BE ASKIN' FOR 'DAILY DONUTS'?"

\* \* \* \* \*

*A clean conscience was invented long before tranquilizers.*

*The older we get, the farther we had to walk to school in our youth.*

*It is often difficult for those who have nothing to say to keep quiet.*

*Reasons that sound good are not always good sound reasons*

# Miscellaneous

## Mark Your Calendar!



**Sunday  
December 5<sup>th</sup>  
Our Next Covered  
Dish Luncheon**

**Make Your Plans  
To Be Here!**

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**MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING** – Our regular men's business meeting will be today immediately following the morning worship in the church offices. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

**FALL GOSPEL MEETING** – October 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>. Marshall Church of Christ, 414 N. Washington, Marshall, Texas. Services at 7:00 p.m. each evening. Scott Cain of Tuscaloosa, Alabama will be doing the preaching.

## UPDATED PANTRY ITEMS

The truck from Sunny Glen Children's Home will be here the week of November 15<sup>th</sup> to pick up what we have in our pantry for them. When we listed the pantry items for October, we had not received their list of requests for this "grocery pick-up". The following is an updated list of pantry items for the next four weeks.

**October 24<sup>TH</sup> – Cake Mix**

**October 31<sup>st</sup> – Cake Frosting**

**November 7<sup>th</sup> – Kids Fruit Drink Pouches**

**November 14<sup>th</sup> All-purpose liquid cleaners**

Let's fill our little red wagon and make sure we collect these items for their grocery pick-up!



## Those To Remember In Prayer

### THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

#### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

#### "EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother) Ana Blair (friend of Debra Pate) Donna Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's niece) Gil Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's nephew) back surgery John Fincher (Dale Fincher's uncle) Gayle Foster (Cancer) Dalton Hendrix (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew) Sandra Hogan (friend of Roxie Bostick) Julia Keffer (Bobbi Holder's mother) 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; Katilyn Tate (Roxie Bostick's daughter-in-law) Jared and Natalie Tate (Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law) Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's mother)

#### 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.

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## Don't Stay From Worship!

Don't stay away from worship because you are rich – we can cure that.

Don't stay away because you are poor – no charges are made for admittance or exit.

Don't stay away because you are tired – rest your body here while you find rest for your soul.

Don't stay away because the church is not perfect – you are not either, so you will fit in all right. You wouldn't if you were.

Don't stay away because it rains – we have a roof on the building, just like yours at home.

Don't stay away because you think the roof will fall in if you come – we will take the risk. Really, is it not a lot wiser to come on to worship like the Bible, your common sense and conscience tell you to do? We will be glad to see you.

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## Across The Preacher's Desk

One of the things we have lost sight of over the course of the “pandemic” or as I often refer to it “the present distress” is the fact that Worship is not a spectator sport. I have the utmost admiration and gratitude for the lengths so many have gone to in their effort to keep the Worship of God vital through “virtual church services” and the many different ways technology has enabled people to “attend” Worship from home. Yet, the fact remains, no virtual service can ever take the place of Worshipping God with other Christians.

You see, no photograph is ever a substitute for a presence. Take away the living, flesh and blood relationship between preacher and people and something quite irreplaceable is lost. To be sure, no on-line service can ever take the place of having fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ as we gather around the Lord's Table, lift our voices in songs of praise, join our hearts in prayer and study from the word of God. Somehow, sitting in our living room in our pajamas with our coffee cup in hand just doesn't give us the same lift and the same encouragement.

To watch and participate in an on-line or “virtual” service is just not the same as being in person for Worship. To be a spectator is not enough. Nothing will do but to share and sharing is difficult without being physically there. Our aim should be not to gather on the Lord's Day around a computer screen or smart-phone but with other saints.

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

**God's Plan of  
Evangelism....**

**Each one bring one!**