

Let's Visit

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What Makes A Great Church?

The Jerusalem church was a great congregation. It started off with 3,000 and the number soon came to be 5,000. But it was not numbers that made the Jerusalem church great. It was, rather, that the greatness of the church made the numbers.

Sometimes people will look at a church building that cost a great deal of money, and the comment will be made, "That must be a great church!" But the fact of the matter is that the Jerusalem church, the greatest congregation in history, did not own a foot of ground, a brick, or a stone. It carried its work on in a borrowed meeting house. They met in Solomon's temple. They met from house to house, and continued thus for a long time. So it was not the building that made the Jerusalem church great.

Sometimes we think of the greatness of the church in terms of the preacher. It was true that in the Jerusalem church they had some great preachers. They had James, John, Peter – all the apostles were members of the Jerusalem church. But nothing is said in the record that attributes the greatness of the church to the preachers. The preachers in the Jerusalem church constituted a very small minority, as does the preacher in any congregations. People usually attach more importance to preachers than God did. They are evangelists, but they are not originators of anything, and if they are they are wrong. No, the greatness of the Jerusalem church was not dependent on the preacher.

What is the secret of the greatness of the Jerusalem church? When the church was established, there were Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven, gathered together. Men first heard the truth of the gospel. Men began to obey the gospel. 3,000 did so the first day.

What kind of people were these people who first became Christians? The Bible says they were "Jews, devout men." They had come together to worship. They were big enough to realize that God was bigger than they were. They knew that they owed their hearts and their lives to God. They had come across the mountains, the desert and over the sea to worship God. They were devout people.

You cannot build a great church out of people who are not devout, who are not sincere. You have to have the qualities of devotion, respect and reverence in the hearts of people before you can build a great church. It takes people with a sober, loyal devotion to God that will make them ready and glad to endure sacrifices and hardships for the cause of Christ.

The church in Jerusalem was made up of broadminded people. "All that believed were together and they had all things common." That is an important testimonial about those people. It takes little people to divide themselves up into little parties and sects in religion. But people who love God and who love the will of God will be ready to lay aside their sectarian prejudices and the things that put the wall between us. They are willing to speak where the Bible speaks, and to be silent where the Bible is silent.

(Continued on page 3)

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 Glory of Jesus Christ"

Our text comes from John 1:14, where John writes, "we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father"

FOR THE PANTRY....

Pop Tarts

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. "Til 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 ahs and always will, three ways. It points to the past – do in remembrance; to the future – til he comes and inward – let each examine himself.

-selected

Don't Fear Criticism

The galleries are full of critics. They play no ball. They fight no fights. They make no mistakes because they are attempting nothing. Down in the arena are the doers.

Ford forgot to put a reverse gear in his first automobile. Edison once spent 2,000,000.00 on an invention which proved of little value.

The man who makes no mistakes lacks boldness and the spirit of adventure. He is the one who never tries anything. He is the brake on the wheel of progress.

And yet, can it be truly said he makes no mistakes? You see, the biggest mistake he makes is the very fact that he tries nothing, does nothing, except criticize those who do things

-copied

On The Lighter Side.....



MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES TO ANYONE WHO GOT INJURED LAST WEEK WHEN WE SCHEDULED THE BAKE SALE AND WEIGHT WATCHERS FOR THE SAME EVENING

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*Most of us know how to say nothing –
Few of us know when.*

*One trouble with the world is that so many
people who satand up vigorously for their rights
fall down miserably on their duties.*

Miscellaneous

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



Those To Remember In Prayer

Gracie Elam, baby, only 2 months old who was born with a congenital heart defect (a small hole and leaky valve). However she must be at least 4 months old before they can perform surgery. She is currently in Children's Medical Center in Dallas. Her mother was Norma Perkins' office aide at MJHS several years ago.

We extend our sympathy to **Royce Ann Wiggins** in the loss of her father, Daniel Mosley. Services were held yesterday in Tennessee.

THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

Roxie Bostick (back issues); **Wayne Sims** (cancer); **Cody Butler** (Debra Pate's grandson)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

Amanda Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Lucas Tate

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

The worst miser in the world is the person who keeps counting his troubles as though he were fearful of losing one.

Nothing sectarian divided the Jerusalem church. They had the same worship, the same organization, the same rule of faith and practice. "All that believed were together and they had all things common." No wonder it was a great church! It must have been difficult for them all to be together, and to have all things common. They had come from many parts of the country, and from many stations in life. They were shepherds from the hills, fishermen of the sea. They spoke different languages. Their coloring was not the same. Their educational status was widely separated. But they rose above all those things that were different, and "all that believed were together, and had all things common." It takes big people to rise above so many differences, and find their unity and commonness in Christ. But that is what they did in Jerusalem. No wonder it was a great church.

"They continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine, in fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers." When they continued in the apostles' doctrine, they organized the church like the apostles told them to do. They continued "steadfastly" – engaged in the work of the Lord with regularity. You cannot build a great church out of irregular people. The Bible teaches us to "run with steadfastness the course that is set before us", and again, "In your steadfastness you shall win your souls."

The church in Jerusalem was great because the people loved one another. When people stayed in Jerusalem longer than they had planned to stay, their money ran out. But the people who lived in Jerusalem took their goods and possessions and brought them to the apostles and distribution was made as the people had need. Their love was not based on physical acquaintance, or on knowledge of individual needs, but they were willing that their goods should be given to any of the Christians, "As any man had need."

The Jerusalem church was great, not because of its wealth, not because of its political influence. It was great because it was made up of great people – people who loved the souls of men and the cause of Christ, and they were willing to back up that love by giving their hearts in full sacrifice and unselfish devotion.

*-Gayle Oler
"Just a Moment"
May 3, 1952*



Across The Preacher's Desk

All of us are aware of the "Golden Rule". It was announced by Jesus in Matthew 7:12 when he said, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them". Of course, we are more familiar hearing it as "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you".

However, though we see it practiced more and more in our society, especially by those who would riot, burn and loot, we are not so familiar with the "Iron Rule". Simply stated it is "Do unto others what you would not want them to do unto you". This is the pagan law of life and the law of the jungle. It is viciously doing unto others whatever you may wish as long as it serves your own purposes. This is the rule we see practiced in Communist Countries by totalitarian governments. This was the rule in practice when Cain killed Abel in the early morning of time. This is the rule of those who would by brute force attempt to impose their will upon others.

Perhaps, it would do more to bring humanity together and to solve the problem of man's inhumanity to man if people would put the "Golden Rule" into practice and eliminate the "Iron Rule". This might even be something our politicians would want to consider. It just might bring about more unity and harmony in our communities and our nation. I, for one, think Jesus knew what he was talking about.

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**