



LET'S VISIT

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UNDER THE FIG TREE

It is in John chapter 1 that we read of Jesus meeting Nathanael. Here is how it reads in verses 47 and 48, “*Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.*”

Here's a news flash. Nathanael was not aware that anyone saw him under the fig tree. He quite honestly probably thought he was alone. At least he knew he had not seen Jesus. Yet, Jesus was aware of what was happening. What actually happened under the fig tree, we are not told. That is left to our imagination. Whatever it was, I am certain the Lord did not think it was important enough to tell us. But something happened that caused Jesus to think well of Nathanael. It is possible he had gone there alone to pray, as that was a very common thing with devout Jews. It may have been this that caused Jesus to know what kind of person he was. Jesus saw Nathanael when he was unaware of it and it caused Jesus to think highly of Nathanael.

There is a message in that for us. Jesus knows what is going on when we are in secret. The Bible pictures him as one who can be in all places at all times. It is not that Jesus is trying to spy on anyone, He is just there. Things are open to him. We cannot hide from him. We may be able to keep our secrets from other people, but there are no secrets with Jesus. He knows what we do in private as well as what we do publicly. The thoughts and intents of our heart are open to Jesus.

It is when we think we are not being watched that what we are really comes to the surface. It is not difficult to be very pious at worship. It is to be

expected. We are generally careful of what we think and how we act when we are worshipping. Yet, when we are alone is when we show our real selves. You cannot really tell how well behaved a child is by seeing him in the home with his parents or in the school room with his teacher. However, watch him when he is out on the playground, when he is perfectly relaxed. When that child thinks no one will know what is happening, he will show his real self. So it is with “grown up children”. There are times when we think the Lord is not present. Those are the times when words are spoken and deeds done that we realize should not be done. Yet, that is the time when our real character is judged.

Have you ever thought about how that affects us? If a realization that Jesus is always watching keeps us from relaxing, there is something sadly amiss in our lives. The Bible does not picture our Lord as one who destroys relaxation. If a child has acted as he or she should, and their parents are the kind of parents they should be, then the child will be able to relax when the parents are near. By the same token, if we are unable to feel free and relaxed in the presence of Jesus, then there is something wrong with us and not with Jesus.

You see, there is no part of life that can be sweeter than the life that is lived for the Lord and is fully aware that He is near every hour of the day and

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In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 -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



Myths, Misconceptions & Misinformation (Lesson 5 in a Series)

For The Pantry. . .
October 5 – Macaroni & Cheese

Offering – September 28, 2025 . . \$ 2,766.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

Under The Fig Tree – continued from page 1

night. In fact, there is a strong feeling of security because of it. What more could we ask than the presence of Christ at all times? He is there to sustain us, to comfort us, and to keep us, if we will realize his presence and make him welcome.

Yes, Jesus saw Nathanael under the fig tree and there judged his character. Jesus sees us all hours of the day and knows what we really are also. May we so live as to be lifted up by the presence of our Lord.

tp

Mrs. Prayer Meeting Passes

(NOTE: We would really like to have more "bodies in benches" for our Wednesday Night Bible Study.)

Mrs. Prayer Meeting died recently at the First Neglected Church on Worldly Avenue. Born many years ago in the midst of great revivals, she was a strong, healthy child, fed largely on testimony and scriptural holiness, soon growing into world-wide prominence, and was one of the most influential members of the famous church family.

For the past several years Sister Prayer Meeting has been in failing health, gradually wasting away until rendered helpless by stiffness of knees, coldness of heart, inactivity, and weakness of purpose and will power. At the last she was but a shadow of her former happy self. Her last

whispered words were inquiries concerning the strange absence of her loved ones, now absent from her presence, busy in the marts of trade and places of worldly amusement.

Experts, including Dr. Works, Dr. Reform and Dr. Joiner all disagreed as to the cause of her fatal illness, administering large doses of organization, socials, contests and drives but to no avail. A postmortem showed that a deficiency of spiritual food, coupled with a lack of fasting, faith, heartfelt religion, shameless deserting and nonsupport were contributing causes. Only a few were present at her death, sobbing over memories of her past beauty and power. Carefully selected pallbearers were urged to tenderly bear her remains away but failed to appear. There were no flowers. Her favorite hymns, "Amazing Grace" and "Rock of Ages" were not sung. Miss Ima Modern rendered "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" but no one had any idea where this fancied isle might be. The body rests in the beautiful cemetery of Bygone Glories awaiting the summons from above.

In honor of her going, the church doors will be closed on Wednesday nights, save on the third Wednesday of each month, when the Ladies Pink Lemonade Society serves refreshments to the members of the men's handball team.

-Southern Presbyterian Journal

On The Lighter Side. . .



"As slim as your chances are for salvation, it's nice to see you keep trying."



No Excuse Sunday December 7, 2025

Make Your Plans To Be Here
Sunday, December 7, 2025
Our Annual
“NO EXCUSE SUNDAY”

Put this date on your calendar, make sure you plan to be here, invite your friends and neighbors to come and worship with us and stay for our covered dish luncheon. We will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries for the months of December, January and February and enjoy a great time of fellowship together.

Hospitality group 1 is in charge of the luncheon that day. The members of that group are Marsha Bounds, LaResa Livingston, Betty Miller, Lisa Miller and Melonia Molloy.

Communion Preparation - October
Larry & Melonia Molloy



Wednesday
FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Plan to join us on October 29th for the last Wednesday night fellowship meal in 2025.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!
Save this Date. . .

December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party



OUR “CHURCH FAMILY”

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Gene Bradshaw,
Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden,
Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout,
Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Willis

“EXTENDED FAMILY” AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) Leslie Adams (friend of Diedra Hughes) having surgery for a brain tumor; **Richard Barbee** (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) **Peggy Baylor** (Tim Bradshaw's mother) **David Bissett** (Mike O'Brien's brother in law- cancer) **Dwayne Brister** (Cissy Amos' cousin) **Debra Clifton** (friend of LaResa Livingston) **Coleen Dickerson** (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate's mother) **Dot Grant** (Friend of Debra Pate) **Suzi Hogan** (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) **Ted Holt** (former member of this congregation) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Albert Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's father) **Norma Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) **Karen McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle); **Heather Simmons Stewart** (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; **J. C. Tate & Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's father and mother) **Max Windham** (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw,
Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026

**Reserve these dates for important events
in the life of our Church for 2026**

March 1, 2026 – “Pack-A-Pew Sunday”
April 24, 2026 – Area Wide Singing & Fellowship
June 7, 2026 – “Friends and Family Day”
September 13, 2026 – “Back To Church Sunday”
December 6, 2026 – “No Excuse Sunday”
December 20, 2026 – Annual Christmas Party



Across The Preacher's Desk

Is the message of the cross relevant for today? What is there for men and women of the 21st 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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**