

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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July 9, 2023

“The Power Of Simplicity”

By Bill Hall



Jesus Christ had a deep appreciation for simple things. His teaching was profound, but always simple. He reached the hearts of His hearers, not with high-sounding philosophical jargon, but with illustrations and "to the point" teaching.

He could see in a farmer sowing his seed, or a lily showing forth its beauty, or a shepherd leaving his flock to seek one lost sheep, or a loving father welcoming a wayward son, a lesson that could teach some spiritual truth.

His apostles were chosen from the humble class. He could appreciate people, not for what they possessed, but for what they were; and, in some cases, not for what they were, but for what they could become. He recognized true quality, and true quality is often found in the simple and humble.

The worship He ordained was simple in nature. *"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul... spoke to them ..."* (Acts 20:7).

Even the poorest could worship, for all that was required of a material nature was a little bread and fruit of the vine. Those of little talent could worship, for God was listening in view of the heart rather than the beauty of the voice.

He authorized a simple organization for His church, with each congregation appointing its own bishops and deacons (Philippians 1:1). There were no denominational associations, conferences, or synods. There were no inter-church organizations or societies.

Yet, through the simple organization given the church by the Lord, the world of the first century was thoroughly evangelized and the needy among them provided for. The Lord knew that success in His work would not be brought about through complexity of organization, but through dedication, faith, and commitment on the part of His followers. We make a terrible mistake when we try to substitute the former for the latter.

Why this simplicity? *"That no flesh should glory in His presence"* (1 Cor. 1:29). The complex systems which men devise tend to bring glory to themselves rather than to God.

To return to the simplicity which our Lord ordained might not be impressive to the worldly-minded, but, then, Jesus Himself is not very impressive to the worldly-minded. Besides, our purpose is not to impress the worldly-minded, but to please God and bow in submission to His will. Let us do away with our super projects and complex systems. Let us learn to appreciate simple teaching and simple ways. Above all, let us learn to appreciate Bible teaching and Bible ways.

Someone has said: "How foolish we are to think that God will be impressed with our voices when we sing; after all, He hears the angels sing! How foolish to think He will be impressed with our cathedrals; remember, He made the Grand Canyon!"

What He is seeking for is a heart that is pure, loving, and obedient to His will. And that's simple.

"ARE YOU EXCELLENT?"

By Nicolas Edwards

Psalm 16:3, *"But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight."* The saints are said to be the Lord's "excellent ones" (NKJV). As children of God, we have a high standard! We are to be excellent. This is defined as: "of the highest or finest quality, exceptionally good."

The opposite of "excellent" is: "average, mediocre, usual, ordinary, just getting by." Many people want to do the bare minimum, and still get by. This is not acceptable! Are you excellent?

GOD IS EXCELLENT.

"Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness" (Ps. 150:1-2). Just as God is excellent, He expects His people to be excellent!

"EXCEED" AND "ABOUND."

"For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:20). Notice our righteousness must "exceed". This means to abound, go above and beyond, excel, overflow, to make abundant or excellent. 1 Corinthians 15:58 tells us, *"Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...."* We are to be an abounding people!

This too means: "to overflow, to excel more than, to go above and beyond." This is the exact opposite of average, just getting by, or doing the bare minimum.

The Corinthians were said to *"Abound in everything"* (2 Corinthians 8:7). They did not do the bare minimum, nor did they just get by. They excelled and went above and beyond in every thing! How about you?

GOD HAS ALWAYS REQUIRED THE BEST.

"But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you. And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein" (Leviticus 22:20-21).

"And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? Offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? Saith the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 1:8).

In Genesis 4, God respected Abel's offering but had not respect unto Cain's. *"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain..."* (Hebrews 11:4). God has never accepted anything less than the very best!

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). Do you give your best? Do you exceed and abound in everything? Are you excellent?

Sadly, so many, even members of the Lord's church, who claim to be faithful, want to do the bare minimum and still expect to be accepted by God and go to heaven. They are like those in Malachi 1:13 who said, *"Behold, what a weariness is it!"* Is it a weariness to assemble with the saints faithfully? Is it a weariness to dress your best to show reverence? There is a reason David washed, anointed, and changed his apparel before going to worship the Lord (2 Samuel 12:20)!

"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him" (Psalm 89:7). Is it a weariness to give your best in every thing? *"The righteous scarcely be saved..."* (1 Peter 4:18).

You will not accidentally make it to heaven. You will not "Just get by" and make it to heaven. Either you will make it or you won't. God expects us to be excellent and only accepts the very best! Do you accept average or are you excellent?

It takes more than the bare minimum to be accepted by God!



Memory Verse of the Week:

Proverbs 9:8 (NKJB) *"Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you."*

News and Notes:

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Janet Boren, Fred Johnson, Todd Bryan, Alton Bailey, Joe Shane, Bill Woodall, Mary Ann Holley, and Anita Harris.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"Just And Unjust Condemnation"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
1 & 2 Thessalonians
Author: Mark Mayberry
Starting Page & Question: *Page #12, Question #6*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson
Scripture Reading:
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Lord's Supper: Paul Busby
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"And They Laughed At Him"*
Closing Prayer: Lee Busby

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

July 12, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: Ezekiel
Author: Dan King
Starting Page & Question: *Page #51, Question #1*
Invitation: Doug George
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Closing Prayer: Blake Briggs

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For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.



And Unjust Condemnation”

Lesson Text: **Romans 3:8.**

I. Just Condemnation In The Scriptures.

- Sin Condemns- **Romans 5:15-18; 2 Peter 2:6.**
- Noah Condemned The World- **Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 2:5.**
- The Law Condemned The Jews- **2 Corinthians 3:9.**
- Thoughtless Words- **Matthew 12:36-37.**
- Those Who Hate The Righteous- **Psalms 34:21.**
- We Can Condemn Ourselves- **Titus 3:11; 2 Samuel 24:10; 1 John 3:18-21.**
- **John 8:3-11.**
- Brethren Who Grumble Against Brethren- **James 5:9.**
- Those Who Break Man’s Laws- **Romans 13:1-3.**
- Those Who Practice Hypocrisy- **Luke 20:46-47; Galatians 2:11.**
- Those Who Violated Their Conscience- **Romans 14:22-23.**
- The Ones Who Rejected Jesus- **John 3:18-20.**
- Those Who Do Not Discern Jesus’ Body In The Lord’s Supper- **1 Cor. 11:27-29.**

II. Unjust Condemnation In The Scriptures.

- Those Who Justify The Wicked & Condemn The Just- **Proverbs 17:15.**
- Job Was Wrongly Condemned By His Friends- **Job 32:3.**
- Jesus’ Disciples- **Matthew 12:1-7.**
- Jesus Was Wrongly Condemned- **Matthew 27:3.**
- Paul Was Wrongly Condemned- **Romans 3:8; Acts 25:15.**
- The Just- **James 5:6.**

III. What Can We Learn From All This?

- The Righteous Can Be Condemned By The World, But Approved By God!
- **Psalms 34 22; Psalm 37:32-33; Romans 8:1.**
- We May Have Sin Rebuked Now— So There Is No Condemnation- **1 Cor. 11:32.**
- Peter Explains Just And Unjust Condemnation In **1 Peter 4:15-16.**

“And They Began Laughing At Him”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 9:18-26 (vs. 24).** (Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56).

I. Their Laughter Was A Reflection Of Their Own Heart.

- **Proverbs 23:7; Matthew 15:18-19.**
- What In Their Heart? A lack Of Confidence, Trust, Or Misunderstanding Jesus’ Words?
- You Don’t Laugh At People You Have Great Respect For, And Take Seriously.
- If They Had Really Known Who Jesus Was, They Would Not Have Laughed.
- They Would Have Been More Like Peter In **Luke 5:4-5.**

II. Their Laughter Didn’t Stop Jesus’ Power To Raise Her.

- **Matthew 9:25-26.**
- In Spite Of Their Laughter, The Miracle Happened Regardless.
- Jesus Would Use That Same Power In **John 11:11-15**, To Raise Lazarus.

III. Their Laughter Didn’t Prove Jesus As False.

- **Matthew 9:25-26.**
- When Jesus Raised Jairus’ Daughter, He Was Proving He Was The Christ.
- The Purpose Of Jesus’ Miracles- **John 3:1-2; John 20:30-31.**

IV. Their Laughter Should’ve Turned To Strong Belief In Jesus.

- The Reaction Of The Parents- **Luke 8:56.**
- The Reaction Of Those Who Laughed Is Not Recorded For Us.
- Did Some Believe In Jesus Afterward Or Stay In Their Unbelief?
- Some Would Dismiss His Miracles- **Matthew 9:34.**
- Some May Have Later Realized Who Jesus Really Was- **Acts 6:7.**

V. Their Laughter Didn’t Stop Honest People From Following Him.

- **Matthew 9:26-35.**
- Why? Many Honest Souls Saw Jesus As The Christ- **Luke 8:11-15.**

VI. Their Laughter Hurt Themselves More Than Anyone.

- Their Laughter May Have Kept Them From Following Jesus— Which Is Great Harm!
- May Very Well Have Lost Opportunity For Eternal Life- **John 5:40.**

VII. Their Laughter Is Still Being Mimicked Today By Others.

- The Enemies Of Jesus Still Laugh At Him.... Unbelievers And Hardened Sinners!
- But Will Not Laugh When At The Judgment Seat Of Christ- **2 Cor. 5:9-11.**
- The Unprepared Will Be Speechless- **Matthew 22:11-12.**