

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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April 19, 2026

“They Came Early To Hear Him”

By Joe R. Price

“Then early in the morning all the people came to Him in the temple to hear Him” (Luke 21:38).

Is it not intriguing that the people who very shortly would cry "Crucify him!" were so eager to hear what Jesus had to say? Mark records that the "common people heard him gladly" (Mark 12:37). Their interest is set in contrast with the chief priests and scribes who were looking for a way to kill Jesus (Luke 22:1-2). We must desire to hear what Jesus teaches. Additionally, we must not be influenced by the opponents of truth to reject it as these later did (Matthew 27:20).

This scene speaks of the willingness we should have to sacrifice our convenience (and even necessities) to hear the word of God. It seems quite difficult for some folks to come "early in the morning" to listen to the gospel of Christ these days. (After all, 9:30 AM on Sunday is just so early to get up!)

Never mind that some who object to such an "early" hour of worship must be on the job much earlier than that, five days a week. Maybe that is the real problem. Some will not sacrifice their chance to "sleep in" to be at worship services to hear the word of God. The people of Jerusalem (who would soon turn against Jesus) put some Christians (who affirm their allegiance to Christ) to shame when it comes to rising early to hear Jesus. Who do we think we are fooling? Not the Lord.

Some Christians appear to have little patience with sermons and classes that are not "short and sweet." Perhaps it has not occurred to them that some Bible subjects cannot be adequately presented and sufficiently studied in a twenty-minute sermon. Some may take forty-five minutes, and some require a series of sermons. This should not surprise us. The apostle Paul preached to midnight on one occasion (Acts 20:7). Jesus was known to teach for hours at a time (Mark 6:34-35).

But now, preachers are told to remember that "attention spans are shorter today, so we must accommodate the audience or lose them." Has it ever occurred to those who demand shorter sermons that we ought to accommodate our attention span to God's word, instead (Luke 8:8, 18)?

We are not advocating for preachers to take advantage of their audiences. Gospel preachers should use their time wisely, avoiding unnecessary repetition and excessive words that belabor the point (Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 6:19).

Whether early or late, all of us must be ready and willing to hear the word of Christ. *“Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).*

“SHOW LOVE & CONSIDERATION IN THE HOME”

Dear friends,

These quotations remind us to show love and consideration to each other in the home while we can.

"A man never opened the car door for his wife because he felt it was a sissy kind of thing to do and, besides, he was fond of saying, 'She doesn't have two broken arms.'

After many years of marriage, his wife died, and he was heartbroken because he truly loved her. Somehow, as the pallbearers brought her casket out of the funeral service, the husband and his family reached the hearse ahead of them.

The mortician was back a few feet and, since he knew the husband quite well, he called him by name and said, 'Open the door for her, will you?' The man reached for the door handle and then, for one second, froze. He realized he had never opened a car door for her in life.

Now, in her death, it would be the first, last, and only time.

It was a moment when years of regrets came crashing down around him."

(Illustrations Unlimited, by James S. Hewett, p. 338)

“HOW LONG, O LORD?”

By Craig Thomas

The eleventh set of eight verses is labeled "KAPH" (vv. 81-88). Let's consider two nuggets of wisdom from this section. First, a common theme in the Psalms appears in this section as the psalmist pleads for comfort from God due to his sufferings at the hands of his persecutors (v. 84). Persecution is the common fate of *"all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus"* (2 Timothy 3:12).

So, the question is not "if" but "when" one seeking to be faithful will experience such trials. Nobody desires such circumstances, but we need to have the attitude of the apostles when they were beaten for their stand for Christ. Luke records that after they were shamefully beaten for speaking in the name of Christ they went on their way "rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name" (Acts 5:41). This fiery trial did not deter or stop them! Luke goes on to tell us *"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ."* (Acts 5:42). They understood it was not their place to take vengeance for their persecution but to leave that for God (cf. Romans 12:19-20). They trusted God in His good time would exact perfect justice on their behalf. So, must we!

The psalmist is anxious and impatient in this regard as he calls out in v. 82 ("When will You comfort me?"); v. 84 ("When will you execute judgment on those who persecute me?"); and finally he calls out in seeming frustration in v. 86: *"They persecute me wrongfully; Help me!"* God's vengeance is meted out according to His timetable not ours! For example, the martyred saints in Revelation 6 call out to God for vindication in verse 10: *"How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"* God did ultimately judge their Roman persecutors, but it took several centuries for that judgment to be completed (see Revelation 19). Likewise, we too must exercise patience and wait on God's perfect vindication from those that persecute us.

The second nugget of wisdom is related to the first. As the psalmist waits for the Lord's vindication what does he do? Does he plot evil against his persecutors? No! He maintains his hope by looking to God's word (v. 81), he does not forget to observe God's law in his life (vv. 83, 87, 88), and he asks the Lord to "revive" him according to the Lord's "lovingkindness" (v. 88).

It is critical for us to remember that even in the depths of the fiery furnace of affliction God will not forsake us! (cf. Hebrews 13:5-6). God did not abandon Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace (Dan. 3:19-30). Neither will He abandon us! We need to cultivate a strong faith like Meshach and his friends by doing as the psalmist did. He looked constantly to God's word!

" 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
(Romans 8:31-39).

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Stacy & Annette Meeks, Anita Harris' mother: Hillard Switcher, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Danny Briggs (cancer), Kelcy Whittemore, Cameron Hutchins, the McCarthy family in Baldwyn (two men have cancer, one is terminal), Josh Boswell, Karen Kennemur, Dianne Johnson, Price Whittemore and Mackenzie Hughes both were diagnosed with Covid last week.

Updates: Billy Grisham is home recovering from a fall at age 94.
Sherry Fuqua Doles is still in Rehabilitation in Iuka.
Camden (Chad's son) is still sore from his hunting accident.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Russell Briggs
Preaching: Billy Randolph
Sermon #1: "1 Corinthians 16:13-14"

Auditorium Bible Class:

Preaching: Billy Randolph
Sermon #2: "Forgiving Others"

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Busby
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Blake Briggs
Scripture Reading: Proverbs 4:23-27
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Billy Randolph
Sermon #3: "Spiritual Pollution"
Closing Prayer: Brian Meade

Wednesday Night Of The Gospel Meeting 7:00 P.M.

April 22, 2026

Announcements: Brian Meade
Preaching: Billy Randolph
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer: Danny Sheffield



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