

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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**May 31, 2026**

### ***“The Innocent For The Guilty”***

By Michael R. Baggett

*“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18 NKJV).*

Jesus never sinned ---ever! Why did Jesus have to die? Because of our sins (Isaiah 53:6). Jesus took the punishment for our sins upon Himself because we could not deliver ourselves from the penalty of our own sins (2 Corinthians 5:21).

What Jesus did is the ultimate expression of love! Jesus was completely innocent of all the charges brought against Him at His trial. In fact, one who tried Jesus, one crucified with Jesus, and even some who participated in crucifying Jesus confessed His innocence.

#### **Pilate**

Did you know Pilate the Governor declared Jesus' innocence at His trial? At least seven times Pilate declares Jesus' innocence before the Jews (Luke 23:4; 6-15; Matthew 27:24; John 19:4, 6). Pilate is made aware of Jesus' claim to be the Son of God.

John 19:8 tells us, *“When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid.”* After questioning Jesus again, *“Pilate sought to release Him”* (John 19:9-12). Could it be possible that perhaps Pilate, on some level, believed Jesus could be the Son of God? Do you know what else stands out to me?

It is how Pilate replies to the Jewish officials who correct him for hanging the accusation on Jesus' cross in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin that reads, “Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews” (John 19:19-20). The chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, *“...Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.”* Pilate answered, *“What I have written I have written.”* (John 19:20-22).

While Pilate refused to change the accusation on the sign over Jesus' head on the cross and has declared Jesus' innocence 7 times, Pilate lacked the moral courage to free Him. He cared more for his political popularity than for Jesus and justice. In the end, he caved in to the demands of the Jews and had Jesus crucified! Pilate did this even though he makes it clear that he believes Jesus is innocent. Washing his hands before the Jews, Herod announces, *“I am innocent of the blood of this just Person: see you to it”* (Matthew 27:24).

#### **The Penitent Thief**

As the suffering on the cross begins, the crowd, and the two robbers crucified next to Jesus, hurl insults at Jesus. They challenge Jesus saying, *“He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God...if thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself”* (Luke 23:35-37).

Jesus' first words from the cross are, *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”* (Luke 23:34). I am certain these words made an impression on all who heard them.

Did you know one of the robbers crucified with Jesus later that day declares Jesus' innocence? While one criminal continues to insult Jesus by insisting that Jesus save Himself and them; the other thief rebukes him saying, *"Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we received the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong"* (Luke 23:40-41).

Nor only does this man proclaim Jesus as innocent, he asks Jesus to remember him when He comes in His kingdom (Luke 23:42). Jesus assures this man facing death, *"Today you will be with Me in Paradise"* (Luke 23:43). Look what an innocent Jesus did for a guilty man! That guilty man becomes a forgiven man.

## **The Centurion and his Soldiers**

From noon until around 3:00 P.M. the land grows dark where Jesus is dying on the cross. It must have been very frightening to some onlookers. Imagine the thoughts racing through the minds of those who have beaten and crucified Jesus! How about Pilate? When Jesus cried out with a loud voice and yields up His spirit to God, the Bible says: *"Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks split"* (Matthew 27: 50-51).

It also says, ... *"The graves were opened, and many of the bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many"* (Matthew 27:52-53).

Now, that would be an experience to tell your grandchildren!

The Bible says that *"When the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'"* (Matthew 27:54). Luke 23:47 adds, he *"...glorified God, saying, 'Certainly this was a righteous Man!'"* What about you?

How does it make you feel knowing that God loved you enough to send His Only Begotten Son Jesus to die in your place? Jesus is the innocent one who stepped forward to take your punishment for sins you committed so you would not have to die in your sins and burn in hell.

The big question: What are you going to do about your sins?

The promise of eternal life is offered to you because Christ has been crucified for your sins and has risen from the grave for your justification -- the righteous for the unrighteous. The sinner must believe in Jesus and what He has done, turn away from sinning, confess faith in Jesus and be baptized for remission of sins (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; 8:37).

The invitation stands until you pass away or Jesus returns. Today is the day of salvation. Your questions are invited.

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## **"Quotes By Marshall Keeble"**

By Matt Dabbs

*"When mean things happen to you, don't get angry, just pray for him, then go off and live so your prayers will be answered. Live so your friends won't believe it, and your enemies can't prove it"* - 25

*"I've never murmured or complained at anything that ever happened to me. I've just stood still while God handled it, and He's brought me this far. The people of Israel murmured and complained and God told them, 'Stand still, I'll handle it.'" - 31*

*"The Law of Moses is like a shadow of a ham hanging in the smokehouse. You don't go after the shadow, you go after the ham. You ought not to go after the Law - go after the real thing, The Gospel."* - 34

*"You don't have to be smart to obey the Gospel - just honest."* - 36

*"The Gospel is so plain, a man in the asylum can understand it. Oh, his mind may come and go, but if it does, he can catch it coming even if he loses it while it's going."* - 36

*"Lift up Christ and he will do the drawing. Too many of us preachers lift ourselves up and as a result, we don't draw anything."* - 38

*"The Gospel has power, great power. All it needs is someone to preach it - someone with courage to tell it just like it is."* - 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, Billie 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, Randy Ferrell (diagnosed with Parkinson's disease), and Russell Briggs (Surgery Monday).

**Updates:** Billie Grisham is in Dogwood Assisted Living, here in Corinth.  
Sherry Fuqua Doles is home and doing some better.  
Camden (Chad's son) is still sore from his hunting accident.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Dan Cottrell  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** *"Jesus Teaches Us To Worship"*

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

**Workbook:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Author:** Passing The Torch  
**Starting Page & Question:** Mike Willis  
*Page 15, Question #1*

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Paul Busby  
**Scripture Reading:** *Matthew 21:12-16*  
**Song Leader:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Lord's Supper:** Danny Sheffield  
**Assisting:** —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** *"Jesus Teaches Us To Praise"*  
**Closing Prayer:** Lee Busby

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.**

**June 3, 2026**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Busby  
**Workbook:** The Book Of Mark  
**Author:** By Mike Willis  
**Starting Page & Question:** *Page #53, Question #8*  
**Invitation:** Russell Briggs  
**Song Leader:** Dan Cottrell  
**Closing Prayer:** Blake Briggs



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# “Jesus Teaches Us To Worship”

Lesson Text: **John 4:19-24.**

## I. Worship Basics 101.

- The Word "Worship", in all its different forms, is used about 191 times in the Bible.
- About 113 times in the Old Testament and about 78 times in the New Testament.
- The Word Worship Means:
  1. To honor. 2. To adore. 3. To respect. 4. To reverence. 5. To submit to in love.
  6. To pay religious homage to some person or thing.
- It Is Natural For Man To Worship.
- His Worship May Not Please God:
  1. Gentiles Worshipped The Creation, Not The Creator. **Romans 1:25.**
  2. Jews Worshipped Many Gods. **Isaiah 2:5-9.**
  3. Pharisees Worshipped In Vain. **Matthew 15:8-9.**
  4. The Athenians Worshipped In Ignorance. **Acts 17:22-23.**
  5. Samaritans Did Not Know What They Worshipped. **John 4:22.**
  6. None Of This Worship Pleased God.

## II. The Place Is Not The Important Thing.

- **John 4:20-21.**
  - However, God's People Are To Assemble- **Hebrews 10:25.**
  - To Assemble Requires A Place To Assemble.
  - The Jews Worshipped At Jerusalem.
  - The Samaritans Worshipped In The Mountains Of Samaria.
  - The Early Disciples Met at *"In the temple."* **Acts 2:46; 5:42.**
  - The Disciples Also Met In Upper Rooms, **Acts 1:13; 20:6-8.**
  - The Disciples Even Met In Homes:  
**Romans 16:3-5; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 2.**

## III. Purity Of Purpose: Worship In Spirit.

- **John 4:24.**
  1. God Seeks Worship That Is From The Heart- **Psalm 86:11-13; 103:1; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 14:15.**
  2. Honest, Reverent, Pure In Motive, Focused On God Rather Than Men.

## V. Purity Of Action: Worship In Truth.

- **John 4:24.**
  1. **Worship Must Be According To God's Word- Colossians 3:17.**
  2. God's Word Speaks Of:
    - Singing (**Ephesians 5:19**). Prayer (**Acts 2:42**). The Lord's Supper (**Acts 20:7**).
    - Preaching (**Acts 20:7**). Giving (**1 Corinthians 16:1-2**).
- **God Does Not Want Unauthorized Worship.**
  - **Leviticus 10:1-2**, The Major Problem of Nadab & Abihu's Worship.
  - **1 Kings 12:32-33**, Also The Sin Of Jeroboam In Changing Worship.
  - No Matter How Sincerely Or From The Heart— Error Is Still Error!
  - We Must Avoid Human Traditions & Doctrines Of Men. **Matthew 15:8-9.**

# “Jesus Teaches Us To Praise”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 21:12-16; Vs. 9.**

## I. Jesus Teaches Us What Praise Is.

- Praise is the joyful expression of honor, thanksgiving, admiration, and worship directed toward God.
- **Matthew 21:9 & 16.**
- **Matthew 12:34**, *“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”*
- **Hebrews 13:15**, *“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”*
- **Praise Is:**
  - A Sacrifice Given By Us, Offered To God, & Is The Fruit Of Thankful Hearts.
- **Praise Is Not:**
  - Entertainment, Hyper-Emotionalism, & Is Not Designed To Impress Others.
  - Merely Outward Only, But From A Genuine & Sincere Heart.

## II. Jesus Teaches Us Why We Should Praise.

1. We Should Praise God That Jesus Is Our King! **Matthew 21:9; Revelation 1:5.**
2. We Should Praise God For Salvation! **Revelation 19:1.**
3. We Should Praise The Lord For He Is Worthy! **Revelation 5:9-12.**
4. We Should Praise God To Better Ourselves! **Revelation 4:9-11.**

## III. Jesus Teaches Us How & When We Must Praise.

- Praise God Boldly- **Matthew 10:32.**
- Praise God With Singing & Thanksgiving- **Ephesians 5:19-20; Rom. 15:8-11.**
- Praise God Through Our Obedience- **1 Peter 2:9-10.**
- Praise God Continually- **Hebrews 13:15.**