

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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February 21, 2021

### **“Lessons From Illness”**

By Jefferson David Tant

Some years ago, while recuperating from two emergency room admissions and two subsequent surgeries, there was been plenty of time to think and reflect on some lessons that such experiences can teach us.

#### **Lesson #1 – Life Is Uncertain**



We all have plans for great things we are going to do — tomorrow. We have plenty of time, and today’s distractions often take precedence. My own brush with the uncertainties of life came totally out of the blue. Starting with an uneasy feeling in my abdomen on a Wednesday afternoon, the pain progressed to become unrelenting and sharp by the evening. Various upset stomach remedies gave no relief, and I finally consented to go to the hospital.

This experience reminded me of the preciousness of time, and the need to use it wisely. *“Take great care, then, how you live — not unwisely but wisely, Making the most of every opportunity; for these are evil days”* (Ephesians 5:15-16 TCNT). Not too many years ago, my life probably would have ended from the complications I experienced.

#### **Lesson #2 – Pain Is Debilitating**

In the hours of testing before any relief was given, I was often asked, “On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the worst, how would you describe your pain.” At times I would reply, “I would give this a 12.” That was usually when I had broken out in a cold sweat. When the pain subsided, there was relief but also great weakness — the inability to do much of anything for some time. I thought of how this must relate to the emotional pain that sin causes. I have seen those who were so burdened by sin that life seemed hopeless. They seemed unable to do anything to lift themselves from the depths of despair and depression.

*“I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart”* (Psalms 38:8 NKJV) We do not know the cause of David’s despair in the psalm, but whatever it was, it had taken its toll on him. But how thankful that our Lord tells us to *“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28).

#### **Lesson #3 – Pain Gives Understanding**

I have suffered from pain before — fingers nearly cut off, back pain, shingles, etc. — but never anything like this. Now I am able to be more sympathetic with those who suffer from unceasing pain.

The prophet Ezekiel came to appreciate the suffering of his people when he joined them as they sat mourning in the land of Babylon where they had been taken captive. *“Then I came to them of the captivity at Tel-abib, that dwelt by the river Chebar, and to where they dwelt; and I sat there overwhelmed among them seven days”* (Ezekiel 3:15).

I can sympathize with those who have lost family members to death, for I have been there. I can sympathize with those who have lost loved ones to the world, for I have been there. And now I can better appreciate the suffering of those who live with pain.

## Lesson #4 – Pain Teaches Patience

When you lie in bed with pain ravaging your body hour after hour, you pray for deliverance and wonder when the pain will end. Yet you endure, for you have no choice.

But how could I compare my situation with that of Job? Not only did he suffer great emotional pain in the loss of his children and the support of his wife and friends, but his body was covered with sore boils from his head to his feet.

He was in such agony that he took a piece of pottery to scrape his skin. His wife told him to curse God and die, but Job remained constant. *“In all this did not Job sin with his lips”* (Job 2:7-10).

His name is synonymous with patience.

## Lesson #5 – Prospects for the Gospel Are Everywhere

Hospitals are full of people — doctors, nurses, techs, cleaners, office workers. They all have souls. Among the questions I asked of those who took care of me was “What do you do when you have Sunday off?” At least one has agreed to a Bible study, while others have expressed an interest in visiting our services.

Remember, we live *“in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom ye are seen as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life”* (Philippians 2:15-16). To whom have you talked lately? Have others seen your light?

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## “Guilt By Association”

By Whit Sasser

Was Jesus sinning when He ate with unfaithful Jewish brethren? Evidently, some thought so (Matthew 11:19), but you and I know it wasn't true; for Jesus did not sin in anything He did while on the earth (Hebrews 4:15).

Did Jesus sin when He ate the "Lord's Supper" with a member of His congregation who was a known thief and soon to be a traitor (Matthew 26:20-25)? Was He guilty for associating with a known hypocrite and showing him hospitality by washing his feet (John 13:11-12)?

Were the few brethren of the Sardis church (Revelation 3:4), who had not been stained by the sin of the majority of the members, guilty of sin for being a member of the Sardis church? Were the few acceptable members guilty of some wrong for being a part of a dead church (Revelation 3:1)?

When a sister in Christ is "disfellowshipped", but attends services regularly, eats the Lord's Supper, shares in the work of the church through her contributions, sings, prays, and studies with the faithful saints, are the faithful church members guilty of sin by associating with her in the services? This is not hypothetical, but a real-life situation, known firsthand.

Do parables such as the tares and wheat and/or the dragnet, wherein good and bad are temporarily mixed together, have any bearing on this (Matthew 13:24-52)?

May a sound evangelist preach in a denominational church, thus having an association with them, but not be guilty of sin? Is he automatically guilty of endorsing their sin, condoning their false doctrines, or participating in their error when he does?

May a faithful saint attend a denominational funeral or wedding, thus having an association with them, but not be guilty of promoting false doctrine in doing so?

I realize that the Scripture teaches to me to not associate with some who are walking immorally, or are being divisive, or are espousing false doctrine, or are walking disorderly, but my question is: am I automatically guilty by association with anyone not in step with God? It seems some think so.

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## Memory Verse of the Week:

### Psalm 119:11 (NKJB)

“Your word I have hidden in my heart,  
That I might not sin against You.”



## **“The Other Son of Luke 15”**

Lesson Text: **Luke 15:11-32** (Particularly **vs. 25-32**).

1. Why did Jesus teach this parable? (see **15:1-3**)

2. Who does the Prodigal Son represent? \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Who does the Older Brother represent? \_\_\_\_\_.

4. The Obvious Applications For Us Today:

### **I. He Was Guilty Of Self-Righteousness (15:29-30).**

A. **Luke 18:9**- Did some have this problem in Jesus' day? \_\_\_\_\_.

B. How can we be guilty of that today? \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ . (See **Matthew 5:20**).

### **II. He Lacked Self-Control.**

A. **Luke 15:25-28**— “*But he was* \_\_\_\_\_.” (15:28).

B. Did his lack of self-control help in any way? \_\_\_\_\_.

C. What does **James 1:19-20** say? \_\_\_\_\_.

### **III. He Was Selfish (15:29).**

A. Is Selfishness—Self-centeredness is a spiritual problem \_\_\_\_\_.

### **IV. He Had An Unforgiving Spirit.**

A. **Luke 17:3-4**, Does Jesus teach us to forgive others \_\_\_\_\_.

B. **Matthew 18:35**. What if we don't forgive others? \_\_\_\_\_.

### **V. He Did Not Rejoice To See A Sinner Repent (15:29-30).**

A. Christ came to call sinners to \_\_\_\_\_. (See **Matthew 9:13**).

B. What does it show about us that we cannot rejoice? \_\_\_\_\_.

### **VI. He Was Jealous.**

A. He was jealous of the treatment the younger brother received— **15:29-30**.

B. Some may not see the harm that jealousy does, but does jealousy lead to other sins? \_\_\_\_\_.

C. Is it a work of the flesh? \_\_\_\_\_. (See **Galatians 5:19-20**).

### **VII. He Was Not Humble— Rebellious Against Father's Will.**

A. He wanted to tell his father how to run his house in **15:29-30**.

B. **Titus 1:7; 2 Peter 2:10**- Does the Bible condemn self-will? \_\_\_\_\_.

### **VIII. He Did Not Have The Spirit Of Christ (Luke 15:32).**

A. Bottom line, he lacked the kind, loving, selfless, forgiving, and pure spirit that Christ had, and that all followers of Him should have (**Rom. 8:9; Phil. 2:5**).

B. How should he have been to his younger brother?



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## And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, Dan & Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Steve Switcher, Roy Robinson, Danny Cottrell (Dan's Dad) and Annie Jean Harrison.

### Those Who Serve:

<b>Announcements:</b>	Russell Briggs
<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Scripture Reading:</b>	Doug George <i>Luke 15:28-32</i>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Lee Busby
<b>Lord's Supper:</b>	Paul Johnson
<b>Preaching:</b>	Brian Meade
<b>Sermon:</b>	<i>"The Other Son Of Luke 15"</i>
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Sam Johnson