

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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July 30, 2023

“You Are My Friends If....”

By Jesse Flowers



Did you know that friendship with Jesus Christ is conditional? Many today call Him 'Lord, Lord,' and convince themselves they are His friend, and He is theirs, when that is not actually the case at all (Matt. 7:21-23). One can claim friendship with Jesus until they turn blue in the face, but if they do not meet the condition He set forth, then they are not His friend.

In John 15:14, Jesus taught His disciples: *“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”* Not even the Lord's closest companions would be considered His friends if they did not obey His commandments. Notice other similar passages.

“If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15; cf. 14:21, 23-24).

The teaching of the Christ is very simple, isn't? If we love Him we will keep His commandments. And if we keep His commandments, we will be His friend.

So, what's the application for us? Have you obeyed the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16)? Have you kept His commandments (demonstration of our faith) to receive salvation by God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-10)? Do you believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 3:16; 8:24)? Did you repent of your sins (Acts 17:30)? Did you confess the name of Christ (Romans 10:9-10)? Were you baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)? If you kept these commands of Jesus, you were saved and became His friend.

As a Christian, are you keeping the Lord's commandments as a husband or a wife (Ephesians 5:22-33; I Peter 3:1-7)? As a member of this local church, are you keeping His command to faithfully assemble (Hebrews 10:25)? As an older saint, are you obeying His command to teach the younger (Titus 2:1-8)?

Do you keep the command to not love the world or the things in the world (I John 2:15-17)? Do you obey Jesus in teaching the lost (Mark 16:15)?

In other words, you are the friend of Jesus if you do whatever He commands you (John 15:14). Be honest now, are you Jesus' friend?



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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXjxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“When The Service Was Disturbed”

By Bobby K. Thompson

It is usually an annoying thing when services are disturbed or interrupted. Often preachers magnify the interruption and lose their audience when patience may have had a very good influence. In Mark 2:1-12, we read of Jesus having a service strangely interrupted, but He was not impatient in the matter. At the end of the service, *“they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.”* (Mark 2:12).

It would be wonderful to think that at the conclusion of any service the audience would glorify God. In this service, Jesus Christ was the preacher, *“and He preached the word unto them”*. (vs. 1). He wasn't speaking on political issues or social entertainment. He was speaking only the word of God unto them. He was preaching to a packed house! *“And straightway many were gathered together insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door:”* (vs. 1).

Some had come to learn of Jesus and were interested in seeing and knowing more. *“But there were certain of the scribes sitting there,”* (vs. 6) who had no doubt come to find fault with Jesus rather than receive the truth which He had to offer. It might be well for us to ponder just why we attend services. Faultfinding did not end with the scribes and Pharisees, when they were present in the services.

We need to carefully consider our motives and hearts in keeping them right in the sight of God wherever we are and in whatever we do. The interruption was caused by five men! Four men were coming in late to the service and carrying a sick man, who was sick of palsy. *“And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof, where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.”* (vs. 3-4).

When they could not get through the crowd, they went over it, uncovered the roof where He was, breaking it up and letting the bed down. We consider this an interruption, and it was! But rather than being annoyed and impatient, Jesus *“saw their faith”*.

He rewarded their faith by saying unto the sick of the palsy, *“Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.”* (vs. 5). Certain of the scribes reasoned, *“Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only? And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee, or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.”* (vs. 7-11).

It would appear that Jesus performed the lesser miracle to demonstrate that He could forgive sins. *“I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. And immediately he arose took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.”* (vs. 11-12). When Jesus saw their faith, He saw a number of things which faith will do.

Jesus Saw Faith Which Was: Cooperative.

There were four men carrying the bed on which the man with the palsy lay. It would appear that there was a man on each corner of the bed. They were cooperating in carrying the bed of a sick paralytic brother. In the work of a local congregation, there is a corner for all of us to carry. Many times the work falters because someone is not carrying his corner. We have the greatest incentive for cooperation! We are working with God! *“We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”* (II Corinthians 6:1). If some were intent upon carrying their corner, there would be less time for faultfinding and undue criticisms of others.

Jesus Also Saw Faith Which Was: Persistent.

Their feat of letting the bed down through the roof required persistence. Persistence is defined: *“to go on resolutely in spite of opposition”*. They couldn't get through the crowd. What were they to do? The normal entrance was blocked, but their persistence looked for another entrance. Another entrance was found, and that entrance was down through the roof. How badly do we want to see Jesus? Faith will find a way! People generally do what they want to do! Obstacles and oppositions are merely trials of faith. Some might have excused themselves for not going on, but if they had not been persistent, they would not have been blessed of the Lord. God appreciates persistence. Think of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8.

Jesus Also Saw Faith Which Was: Courageous and Expensive.

Do you doubt that this feat required courage? Have you ever contemplated tearing up someone's roof in order to get a person to the service? It costs something to tear a hole in a roof. These men were obligated to defray the expenses for what they had done. There is ever indication that they had courage to see their work completed. They were aware of the cost of following Jesus and their faith did not fail them. They had faith that could be rewarded! May we always be ready to put Christ first in our lives! It costs to be a Christian, but it costs far more not to be!

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: Doug George
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Leave Us Alone"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Author: 1 & 2 Thessalonians
Starting Page & Question: Mark Mayberry
Page # 23, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Lee Busby
Scripture Reading: Psalm 127:1-5
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Paul Busby
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Building Strong Homes That Last"
Closing Prayer: Danny Sheffield

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

August 2, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Workbook: Ezekiel
Author: Dan King
Starting Page & Question: Page # 70, Question #1
Invitation: Dan Cottrell
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer: Brian Meade

“Leave Us Alone...”

Lesson Text: **Luke 4:31-37; vs. 34 NET- “Ha! Leave us alone,...”**

I. Times When It Is Good To Leave People Alone.

- **Proverbs 20:19; 26:20.**
- **Proverbs 26:17.**
- **2 Chronicles 35:20-24 (vs. 21).**
- **1 Peter 4:1-4.**
- **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12.**
- **Matthew 15:14.**
- **Matthew 7:6.**

II. Times When We Can’t Leave People Alone.

- The Great Commission Won’t Let Us- **Matthew 28:19-20; Matthew 16:15-16.**
- We Must Seek To Gain Our Brother- **Matthew 18:15-17.**
- Restoring The Unfaithful Requires It- **Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20.**
- Preaching On Sin And Godliness- **John 16:7-11; Acts 24:24-25.**
- Preaching On Religious Error- **Acts 4:1-4; Acts 17:16-24; Titus 1:10-13.**
- Why? Because We Don’t Want To See Them Lost- **2 Corinthians 5:10-11.**

III. Why Do People Want To Be Left Alone?

- They Are Content And Happy In Disbelief- **2 Thessalonians 3:2.**
- They Don’t Like The Message Of Repentance In The Gospel- **Acts 17:30-34.**
- Don’t Like To Be Obligated By The Cost Of Discipleship- **Matthew 16:24-26.**
 - Don’t Want To Be Bothered Or Restricted In Any Way!
- They Love The Pleasures Of Sin- **2 Timothy 3:1-4.**
- Those In False Religion Want To Be Left Alone- **Acts 19:23-41.**

IV. But Are People Better Off By Being Left Alone?

- They May Fight Us Every Step Of The Way To Be Left Alone In Sin...
- But Sin Is Actually Hurting Their Lives More Than They Choose To Realize!
- Song By Pink Floyd: “Another Brick In The Wall”. “We Don’t Need No Education.”
- All We Are Trying To Do As The Church Is To Help People Out Of:
 - The Destructive, Perverse, Lewd, And Filthy Conduct Of Sin! **2 Peter 1:4.**
 - Many Will Not Be Saved Because They Want To Be Left Alone- **John 8:21.**

“Building Strong Homes That Last”

Lesson Text: **Psalm 127:1-5.**

I. The Importance Of Strong Homes.

- Lessons From the Fall Of The Roman Empire.
- Strong Homes Are Built On Strong Foundations.
- Weak Foundations Of:
 - Materialism, Greed, Lust, Pride, and Selfishness... **Proverbs 21:19.**
 - How Satan Attacks The Home- **2 Corinthians 2:11.**
- Father Knows Best How We Should Build Our Foundation On Him- **Psalm 127:1.**

II. Get Togetherness And Unity In The Home.

- The Togetherness Of A Family:
 - Living Together.
 - Eating Together.
 - Going Places Together.
 - Worshiping Together.
- Unity In the Home Means Peace, Harmony, And Cooperation.
 - It Means A Sense Of Teamwork Among The Family.
 - Much Like In Sports, And Even In The Church- Teamwork... To Be Successful.
 - **Ephesians 4:16.**
- All This Requires: **1.** Spending Time Together. **2.** Communication. **3.** Family Love.
- **Storge Love Definition:** "cherishing one's kindred, especially parents or children; the mutual love of parents and children and wives and husbands; loving affection; prone to love; loving tenderly; chiefly of the reciprocal tenderness of parents and children."

III. Get Christ In The Home.

- Satan Cannot Destroy A Home Where Christ Lives! **Ephesians 6:10-11; James 4:7-8.**
- How? By Getting Christ In Us By Obeying The Gospel And Making Him Our Pattern.
 - **Acts 10:1-2; vs. 24; vs. 44-48.**
 - **Acts 16:11-15.**
- When The Home Is Guided By His Pattern & Teaching- **Matthew 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 11:1.**
 - When Family Members Put Away What Destroys Unity- **Ephesians 4:17-32.**
 - We Put Off Lewdness, Uncleaness, Greediness, Lying, Stealing, Corrupt Speech....
 - We Let Forgiveness, Honesty, Good Works, Kindness, And Love Reigns!
- **Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4.**

IV. Get The Home Into The Church.

- We Teach Our Family To Be A Strong Christian, Who Also Loves God's Family!
- Parents Need To Set An Example Valuing The Church... **Matthew 6:33.**
 - If Our Children See Us Taking It Lightly Or Neglecting It For Other Things...
 - But If We Make Sacrifices And Do Our Best To Honor God And Christ...
- Our Family Needs To Love Assembling With The Saints... **Acts 20:7.**
 - Gospel Meetings, Singings, Love For Brethren- **1 John 4:11-12.**