

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear the gospel (Romans 10:17)
- Believe Jesus is the Christ (John 3:16)
- Repent from sins (Luke 13:3)
- Confess faith in Jesus (Romans 10:9-10)
- Be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- Live worthy of the calling (Ephesians 4:1)

Recent Additions:

Mary Wilson (she has recovered very well from the train accident. However, she is being sent to a skilled nursing facility to continue her rehabilitation), **John Thompson** (we rejoice that the scans showed no sign of cancer!), **Taylor Osterling** (he had his first major surgery Thursday and it went better than expected. He is in the hospital recovering)

List:

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, John Thompson, Ron Tirey

Others: Gaye Brassom, Paul Ayres, Charlene Antle, Lala Whitson, Rita Pagan, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein, Michael Poynter, Taylor Osterling, CJ Nash, The Shepherd family, Faye Hensley, Sandy Childress, Edith Tirey, Nilma Covington

WEEKLY READING

Sun: Ps 28, Gn 26, 2 Ch 2, Lk 19:28-46
Mon: Ps 29, Gn 27:1-40, 2 Ch 3, Lk 19:47-20:44
Tue: Ps 30, Gn 27:41-28:9, 2 Ch 4, Lk 20:45-21:38
Wed: Ps 31, Gn 28:10-22, 2 Ch 5, Lk 22:1-46
Thu: Ps 32, Gn 29:1-30, 2 Ch 6, Lk 22:47-23:25
Fri: Ps 33, Gn 29:31-30:43, 2 Ch 7, Lk 23:26-56
Sat: Ps 34, Gn 31, 2 Ch 8, Lk 24

LEADERSHIP

<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>
Garry Banks	Troy Antle
David Collins	Richard Brundige
John Thompson	Neal Erickson
	Adam Litmer
<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Bill Morelan
Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons
	Pat Seabolt
	Matt Thompson

SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Study: 7:30 PM
1st Fri. of Month
Singing: 7:30 PM
3rd Fri. of Month
Bible Study: 7:00 PM
(Ask for location)

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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University Heights Messenger

Volume 4--Number 8

February 26, 2012

There's a lesson here

We do not often use the word rash in our vocabulary unless it is in reference to an allergic reaction. However, there is another meaning of the word that the Bible clearly cautions us against. In this sense, the word rash means to be hasty, impetuous, reckless, incautious, indiscreet, and foolhardy. Perhaps the most frequent way a person acts rashly is in the use of his mouth. There's not a one of us who has not spoken too quickly or too harshly. Each one of us has spoken recklessly, promised too much, said things indiscreetly, or blurted out words impetuously on more than one occasion. We have all had to deal with our regrets over things we have rashly said and wished we never had.

Who will you tell about Jesus this week? Who did you tell last week?

Consider Peter when Jesus came walking on the Sea of Galilee in Matthew 14. At one moment he was terrified, thinking Jesus was a ghost. The next he was saying to Jesus, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water," and then, when Jesus said, "Come," he climbed out of the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. But soon, he noticed the wind, became afraid again, and began to sink into the water, crying to Jesus, "Lord, save me." One cannot help but wonder if Peter, as he was sinking into the water, rebuked himself for speaking rashly and wished he had never gotten out of the boat.

As it is for most of us, the danger of speaking rashly was a hard lesson for Peter to learn. Following the eating of the Passover meal when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, He and his disciples went to the Mount of Olives. There He told them, "You will all fall away because of me this night." But Peter convinced that he was different from all of the other apostles said, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." (Matthew 26:31 and 33) It is so easy for us to rashly speak of how much better we will act than others do. And, just like Peter, we also often fail to live up to that which we so rashly proclaimed about ourselves. We, too, then have to experience the shame and humiliation brought on by our foolhardy speech.

Another example of rash speaking is found in Matthew 14. John the Baptist was in prison for telling Herod that it was not lawful for him to have Herodias as his wife. Herod would probably have been content to let John languish in prison, but at his birthday party he was so pleased by the dancing of the daughter of Herodias that he rashly promised to give her whatever she asked. When she requested the head of John the Baptist on a

platter, how Herod must have regretted his reckless promise. But he had backed himself into a corner and he could not afford to lose face with his guests, so he had John beheaded. When we make promises, we create expectations in the minds of those who hear the promises. We obligate ourselves to fulfill those promises. The ones who hear the promises are seldom aware whether or not we spoke rashly. They simply want what was promised to happen. How foolish it is to make rash promises, reckless and impetuous promises, promises that are spoken too hastily and commit us to things that we never took the time to consider beforehand.

Sometimes, we even speak too hastily before God. There are many Christians who have fallen away, back into the world, after confessing Jesus to be the only begotten Son of God whose death, burial, and resurrection makes it possible for them to triumph over sin and eternal death. The fact that they are unfaithful perhaps bears witness to the rashness of their confession and their failure to adequately consider the full cost of discipleship.

The writer of Ecclesiastes learned a thing or two during his life of self-indulgence. He wrote in chapter 5, verse 2, *“Be nor rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.”* The Elders

“And Peter”

Peter was a broken man. He had always seemed to be so strong and brave. After all, he was the only one of the Lord’s apostles who had the courage to step out of the boat and onto the surface of a restless, tossing sea (Matthew 14:28-29). He was the one who spoke up upon the Mount of Transfiguration and suggested that a tent for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah be erected (Mark 9:2-7). He was the one who rebuked Jesus Himself for speaking of the things that He was to suffer at the hands of the elders, chief priests, and scribes (Matthew 16:21-22). He was the one who drew his sword and struck off the ear of Malchus at the Lord’s arrest (John 18:10), disregarding the fact that he and his fellow apostles were facing a large band of trained soldiers and apparently quite outnumbered (John 18:3). More than all of this, he was the one who said to Jesus, *“Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death”* (Luke 22:33).

What do you suppose went through Peter’s mind when His Lord and Master, the One he loved above all others, responded by saying, *“I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me”* (Luke 22:34). Peter voiced his thoughts and they are recorded for us in Matthew 26:35: *“Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!”* Stubborn, impetuous, fiery Peter could not fathom a situation in which he would deny Jesus. There is no doubt that Peter meant every word he said and, at that moment, was prepared to die for the Lord. Of course, it is so much easier to show such courage before circumstances demand one make good on his words. While Peter had been very courageous in the past, his courage was about to be tested as it had never been tested before. Peter would fail the test as thoroughly as it could be failed.

“Then they seized him (Jesus) and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, ‘This man was also with him.’ But he denied it, saying, ‘Woman, I do not know him.’ And a little later someone else saw and said, ‘You also are one of them.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I am not.’ And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, ‘Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I do not know what you are talking about.’ And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly” (Luke 22:54-62). Peter was a broken man.

One can only imagine the anguish of spirit experienced by Peter in those days leading up to the Lord’s resurrection. Jesus didn’t have to imagine. Knowing Peter’s anguish, Jesus sent a special message of comfort to Peter in Mark 16:7-8. *“Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”*

Perhaps Peter no longer felt worthy to be considered among the Lord’s disciples. Perhaps his denial of Jesus so shamed him that for a time he could not bear to meet their eyes. Luke indicates that Jesus may have appeared first to Peter in Luke 24:34. While Peter was a broken man, Jesus was prepared to forgive him and help him to become better than he had ever been before. How Peter’s heart must have soared when Jesus appeared to him and forgave him. How his spirit must have lifted to the heavens when Jesus informed him that He still had such tremendous plans for Peter.

Practically, what may we take from this account? One wonderful lesson is made very clear: our Lord is merciful and He is forgiving. Suppose that we were in our Lord’s position. Would we have been so quick to forgive one who was so adamant in his willingness to die right along with us and yet deserted the moment we needed him the most? How Peter must have rejoiced that *Jesus was!* How wonderful it is that each of us may be forgiven provided we meet the conditions for that forgiveness. Do you stand forgiven before Jesus Christ? If not, He stands prepared to forgive and save you if you will but do what He asks. Jesus is ready. Are you? AL

Sermons: AM Denominationalism

PM The Social Gospel

Reading: AM (Matthew 26:36-56)

PM (Matthew 26:57-75)