

University Heights Church  
of Christ  
445 Columbia Ave.,  
Lexington, KY 40508  
(859) 255-6257  
www.uheightschurch.com

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Sunday**

Bible Study: 9:45 AM  
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is  
immediately followed by a  
short worship period)

**First Friday of Each Month**

Singing: 7:30 PM

**LEADERSHIP**

**Elders**

Garry Banks, David Collins,  
John Thompson

**Evangelist**

Adam Litmer

**Deacons**

Troy Antle, Richard Brundige,  
Matt Thompson, Adam  
Litmer, Bill Morelan, Jim  
Parsons, Pat Seabolt, Adam  
Daniels, Jamie Powell

**“Equipping the saints for the work of ministry”**

*And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome, but kind to  
everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his  
opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them  
repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.*

2 Timothy 2:24-25

I have seen it happen so many times. A saint and a non-Christian study a topic that seems so simple to the saint. However, the non-Christian is just not getting it. The Christian’s patience wears thin and they begin to think to themselves that the person their studying with is purposely refusing to see the truth. Their frustration boils over and manifests itself in a deep sigh, a rolling of the eyes, or even a biting comment designed to call the honesty of the non-Christian into question. More often than not, the study is irretrievable at that point.

There *are* times when someone makes the conscious decision to reject the truth no matter how plainly it is stated. Jesus authorizes us to make that judgment call in Matthew 7:6. But I would caution against throwing in the towel too early. A lifetime of worldly or denominational indoctrination is rarely remedied over a single study. Indeed, months or even years may be required. Patience, gentleness, and perseverance are essential.

Perhaps that non-Christian we’ve studied with for such a long time, even when progress seems so frustratingly slow, may one day be our brother or sister in Christ. It would certainly be worth it then, right?

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Paul Atkisson, Barbara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Vina Krissow, John Bennett, Robert Brundige, Donald Dawson, Gail Stein, Sandy Childress, Susie Burton, Jacob Profit, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Wilma Lawson, Jannett’s mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Doris Baker, Lyn Kincaid, Bernard Larch

# University Heights Messenger

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**“It Is I; Do Not Be Afraid”**

Adam Litmer

How would you react if you were crossing a sea and noticed someone walking across the water toward your boat? I suppose *I* would react pretty much the way our Lord’s disciples did. *When they had rowed about three of four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened* (John 6:19). Add to this the fact that the sea was already rough with strong winds (a classic “dark and stormy night”) and it makes me think the statement “*they were frightened*” must be one of the greatest understatements in Scripture. However, Jesus would not have them afraid for long. Immediately after we are told they were frightened, Jesus spoke to them the words that serve as the title of this article. *It is I; do not be afraid.*

We want to spend some time considering our Lord’s words to His disciples in this article, but before we do I wonder if you’ve ever asked yourself why Jesus chose to walk on the water to begin with? It certainly was not to show off. All that He did during His life on this earth He did for a reason, including walking across the sea. Hebrews 1-2, 10 says, *But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power...And You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands.* The Son, Jesus the Messiah, created the universe and upholds it by the word of His power. His walking across the sea was specifically to show His disciples the power and authority He possessed over all things created, things *He* created. This would have impacted them even more as they considered Psalm 89:8-9. *O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O Lord, with Your faithfulness all around You? You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.* The Old Testament writers made it

clear that God alone ruled over the sea. Jesus Christ calmly walked across its surface.

What conclusion could they draw from this? There is only one to which an honest heart could arrive and our Lord made reaching that conclusion even easier in the words He spoke to them. *It is I; do not be afraid.* “It is I” comes from the Greek phrase “*ego eimi.*” That very phrase is translated “I am” in other contexts. When God spoke to Moses in Exodus 3:14, He said to him, *I AM WHO I AM. And He said, say this to the people of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.* Considering what we have already noted in our Lord’s display of power and authority over the sea, and considering that this entire event took place very shortly after the miraculous feeding of the five thousand, it is quite possible that Jesus was alluding to God’s self-identification from Exodus in His words to this disciples. If so, our Lord not only calmed their fears but at the same time clearly and forcefully exclaimed His own deity! He would add even more to prove His true identity to them. John 6:21 says, *Then they were glad to take Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.* Take a moment to read Psalm 107:23-32 and note that John 6:21 is a miraculous instance of what is said there. None but God can still the storm and bring those who travel the sea safely to their destination.

From John 6 through John 15 our Lord uses the “I am” designation several times to refer to Himself. I cannot help but remember those words to His disciples in their distress: *It is I; do not be afraid.* Because our Lord is who He is, the great “I AM,” of what shall we be afraid? *Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

### **“As A Jewel Of Gold In A Swine’s Snout”**

Greg Litmer

I don’t know much about farming or raising livestock of any kind, but I have on occasion seen pigs with a metal ring in their noses. Right next to a plot of land that my father-in-law used to own there lived a man who raised pigs, and I enjoyed watching them. I understand that pigs use their noses to dig or to root up things. I understand that they also find their noses to be awfully convenient when it comes to digging out a place in the muck and mire where they can wallow. But because some of them become a little too handy at rooting under a fence and getting out, sometimes the owner will “ring” them, put a metal ring in their noses to prevent them from doing that. Seeing those “ringed” pigs reminded me of a verse in Proverbs.

Proverbs 11:22 says, *As a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.* Down in the country it wouldn’t be all that unusual to see a ringed pig, but it would be very out of the ordinary to see a “jewel of gold” in the nose of a pig. They just do not go together, it would be incongruous, a word that fitly describes such a circumstance and is exactly the point that Solomon was making. According to *Webster’s New Unabridged Dictionary*, “incongruous” means, “out of keeping or place, inappropriate; unbecoming.” That perfectly describes a “jewel of gold in a swine’s snout.”

Just think of some of the things that are as inappropriate and out of place for a Christian as a gold ring in the nose of a pig. In Ephesians 4:29 Paul wrote, *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.* To edify means to build up. So, simply put, anything other than that which is righteous and pure and which is meant to build up the one who hears is not harmonious in character. It is out of place, just like a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout.

Consider another passage with me. In Luke 6:46 our Lord asked, *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and not do the things which I say?* That is a real good question. Over and over again the Bible indicates that a mark of a true and sincere follower of Jesus is obedience. One of the truly wondrous things about this is that Jesus showed us how. In Hebrews 5:8-9 we are told concerning our Lord, *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.* So, for any person to say that he or she is a Christian and purposely to choose not to obey certain, or any, of the commands of the Lord is just inappropriate, just as incongruous and out of character for a child of God, as is a gold ring stuck in the snout of a pig.

Surely we can all see further possible applications of this principle. I don’t want any part of my life to be so out of harmony with the life the Lord expects of His people that it would resemble a “jewel of gold in a swine’s snout.”