

# The University Heights Messenger

June 27, 2010

**“But he, desiring to justify himself...”**

This unfortunate statement can be found in Luke 10:29. A lawyer made the common mistake of testing our Lord. If a person were to test the genuineness of His claims and teaching simply because they had an honest, truth-seeking heart our Lord would commend them. However, His enemies learned through hard experience that testing Him intending to entangle Him in His answers simply did not work.

Perhaps the goal of the lawyer was more noble than this, though his response to our Lord's answer does not seem to offer much in support of that. Having asked what he needed to do to inherit eternal life, the lawyer received a very straightforward reply that suddenly put *him* on the spot. Instead of answering the question Himself, Jesus simply asked the lawyer how the Law answered his question. The lawyer knew the Law's precepts on this matter very well for he stated it perfectly. Jesus commended him for getting the answer correct and then told him to do what the Law states.

If that been the end of the discussion we may very well commend the seemingly “truth desiring” motivation of the lawyer's question. However, the account did not end there for in verse 29 we read, **“But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’”**

The lawyer knew very well what he needed to do to inherit eternal life before he asked the question. He knew perfectly well what the Law stated on the issue. He also knew he wasn't doing it. If he were he would have felt no need to justify himself before Jesus.

Rare indeed is the person who when confronted with a shortcoming is as eager to

fix it as he is to justify it. I would be lying to you if I did not confess that I have seen a bit of that lawyer in myself from time to time. It has been said that the gospel is designed to assault the will of man. When a person has his will assaulted by God's Word he will respond in some fashion. He *must*. More than once a shortcoming has stared me right in the eyes and I found myself engaged in mental acrobatics trying my best to justify it. However, the problem with wrong is that it's never right, and no amount of wiggling, arguing, or excuse making is going to change that fact.

Are there times when Christians seek to justify themselves before Christ when the much better course would be making corrections? Who would argue that there aren't?

What of attendance? All Christians understand that God expects them to assemble together with one another. It is not possible to read the Scriptures and come away with the conclusion that God wants us together just one time an entire week. Many reasons are given for why Christians neglect the assembly. Some have to work during those times. Some have schooling during those times. Some wish to spend time with family during hours when their brethren are worshipping. Are these reasons, and others, valid before God? Perhaps, perhaps not. I *do* know that James said, **“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”** Is assembling with the brethren a good, or right, thing? If I know that it is and do not believe what is keeping me away from it is a *better* thing, have I committed sin in failing to do what I know is right or good? I have trouble coming to another conclusion as I consider James words.

We could go on forever talking about situations in which a person seeks to justify their behavior before God. We see it in matters of evangelism, benevolence, and so many others. Let us always remember that the heart that would stand just before God is not the one that tries to justify *itself* to Him when sin rears its head, but the one that is always willing to repent and change when that is necessary.

### **IN NEED OF PRAYERS:**

**Glenn Kimberlin** remains house bound.

**Glen Davis** continues to need prayers as he experiences some difficulties.

**Richard Brundige** was hospitalized with a slow heart beat. He is awaiting the result of a test.

**Ruel Baker** has been diagnosed with pneumonia for the second time in just a few weeks.

**Robert Brundige**, Richard's brother, is in Parkside Manor in Cynthiana dealing with some issues. **Sarah** Brundige, Richard's mother, is in Cambridge Place Nursing Home and in need of our prayer.

**Reid Braswell** passed on to his reward last week. Let's remember his family.

**Harley Miller** is now in assisted living and improving. There is hope that he will be able to return home soon.

**Glenn Goldy** from East End will have back surgery Monday at Central Baptist.

Let's also remember **Esmeralda Agustin, David Day and his wife, Gail Stein, Shannon Gilbert, Harley Miller, Chuck McDavitt.**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

The information meeting is this afternoon at 5. Please make your plans to attend.

### **BIBLE READING SCHEDULE FOR 6/27-7/3:**

**Sunday:**2 Sam 14-15, Ps 119:153-160, 1 Thess 1-2

**Monday:**2 Sam 16-17, Ps 119:161-168, 1 Thess 3-5

**Tuesday:**2 18-19, Ps 119:169-176, 2 Thess 1

**Wednesday:**2 Sam 20-21, Ps 120, 2 Thess 2-3

**Thursday:**2 Sam 22, Ps 121, 1 Tim 1-3

**Friday:**2 Sam 23-24, Ps 122, 1 Tim 4-6

**Saturday:**1 Kgs 1, Ps 123, 2 Tim 1-2

### **SERMON TOPICS:**

Sunday AM. Magnifying Jesus Christ

Sunday PM. Premillennialism 4 (The rapture and tribulation)

### **REMINDER**

Sermon requests, prayer requests, and bulletin announcements can be placed in the box by the "Welcome" folders in the back. Please make use of it as I need almost everything in writing or I'll forget!