

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 20

May 19, 2013

## 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)

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS

### List:

**Sharon Tirey's** scan revealed pneumonia. Though we pray for a quick recovery, this is good news all things considered. **Jim Parsons** was able to worship with us Wednesday night. Let us continue to pray for him as he battles weakness and pain. **Lindsay Morgan** has been diagnosed with sarcoidosis. She will be taking medication to treat it. Let us remember the **Rutledge family** after Dawn's passing.

**Our members:** Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson

**Others:** Lenny Shepperson, Jan Hogen, Barabara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Rita Pagan, Vina Krassow, John Bennett, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein, Sandy Childress, Reese Worley, Doris Baker, Bill Childress, Susie Burton, Fred Dalton, Norma Hurt, Taylor Osterling, Vernon Johnson, Ed Sissel

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>		<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
<b>Mon</b>	Joshua 14-17, Luke 17	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
<b>Tue</b>	Joshua 18-21, Luke 18, Psalm 15	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
<b>Wed</b>	Joshua 22-24, Luke 19, Psalm 116	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
<b>Thu</b>	Judges 1-3, Luke 20, Psalm 16	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	<u>Wednesday</u>
<b>Fri</b>	Judges 4-6, Luke 21		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
		<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Bill Morelan	<u>1st Fri. of Month</u>
		Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
			Pat Seabolt	<u>3rd Fri. of Month</u>
			Adam Daniels	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
			Jamie Powell	(Finished for the time being)

### **There's A Lesson Here**

Sometimes it seems that life has a hit list with you holding the top position. Bad things just seem to be happening to you nonstop. Calamity after calamity slams you giving you no time to rest, no opportunity to gather your strength, no leisure to prepare for what might come next, no moment available in which to consider who might be asked to help. When such happens, one's sense of aloneness, one's feelings of hopelessness, the temptation to cry out against the utter unfairness of it all must be overwhelmingly profound.

“Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”  
James 5:8

And yet, consider God's servant Job. A messenger came to Job one day and informed him that all of his oxen and donkeys had been stolen, his servants all killed save the messenger. Before that messenger's report had finished a second messenger came reporting that all of Job's sheep and the servants tending them had burned to death except for the lone surviving messenger. Before the second messenger had finished speaking a third messenger came reporting that the Chaldeans had stolen Job's camels and killed his servants, the messenger being the sole survivor. Finally a fourth messenger came reporting the worst news of all, that a strong wind had demolished the house containing Job's sons and daughters, killing them all.

Surely Job had suffered enough, but that was not to be. *“So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.”* (Job 2:7-8) Job's response to all the calamity he experienced is summarized in verse 10: *“In all this Job did not sin with his lips.”*

While Job is remembered for his patience in the face of extreme adversity, it was his unshakeable faith in his Creator that stood behind his endurance. Faith is what gets us through the thrashing and pummeling that happens from time to time in our physical lives. The faith that comes through hearing and hearing through the word of God (Romans 10:17) accounts for the difference between weathering the storm or being washed away with the rest of the debris. Consider what Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-25: *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will*

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*be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.*” Life’s calamities cannot shake or destroy the house of faith that is built upon Jesus, the Rock, and His everlasting word. *“For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 3:11).

The expression: “when the going gets tough, the tough get going has a unique interpretation for the Christian. The Christian is spiritually tough, and when the going gets tough the Christian prays for increased faith. When the going gets tough, the Christian gains strength from God’s word. *“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”* (Isaiah 40:28-31) The Elders

### **Judging and the Golden Rule (1)**

Matthew 7:1-3, 12 says, *“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?...So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”* This text is part of the powerful Sermon on the Mount, a sermon in which our Lord and Savior challenges those of us who would be kingdom citizens to examine ourselves: purposes, goals, motives, and moral standards. It is for us to rise to the challenge and find out just what and who we really are.

Let us begin by considering principles of judging as set forth in verses 1-3. First, our Lord says, *“Judge not.”* Elsewhere in Scripture we are told that we’ve all sinned and to claim otherwise would make us liars and devoid of the truth. Since we have all sinned, then on what basis can we sit in judgment upon someone else? Paul puts it extremely well in Romans 2:21-22. *“You then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?”* The point is simply this: when we judge someone, yet are guilty of the same things that we are judging, we condemn ourselves with our own judgment.

Our Lord expands a bit on His teaching in John 7:24 in saying, *“Judge not according to appearance.”* It’s very easy to judge people based solely upon their appearance, isn’t it? Jesus was judged this way. Isaiah 53 says there was nothing especially attractive about Him physically. He did not share the impressive physical

attributes of such men as Saul and Absalom that would cause every eye to turn toward them based upon their physical presence alone. His lack of physical beauty is one of the reasons that we are told He was *“despised and rejected of men”* (Isaiah 53:3). Paul and Barnabas were judged once according to appearances and the result was the polar opposite of the judgment against Christ. Acts 14:11-12 says, *“And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lyconian, ‘The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!’ Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.”* These people could not have been more wrong because they judged solely upon appearances.

Today, you and I are forbidden to judge by the wrong standards. James 2:1-4 says, *“My brothers, show no partiality as you hold faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, ‘You sit here in a good place,’ while you say to the poor man, ‘You stand over there,’ or ‘Sit down at my feet,’ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?”* Sadly, there have been times when people dressed in ragged, filthy clothing have come into the assembly and the first thought that went through my mind was that this is a person looking for money. I’ve said to myself, “Look at them. They aren’t interested in the Lord or His worship; they’ve just come looking for a handout.” Sometimes I have been right and sometimes I have been wrong. Either way, how is my place to make such judgments based solely upon one’s appearance?

Having said all of this, many presume that *all* judging is wrong, yet that presumption is simply not true. We have talked about the first part of John 7:24 where Jesus told us not to judge by appearances. He then went on to say, *“But judge right judgment.”* Even in Matthew 7:15-16 Jesus warns about those who would attempt to lead us astray *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits.”* If we are to decide that someone is a false prophet, we must judge him according to his fruit. 1 John 4:1 says, *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”* We must judge, but only when we use the right standard. That standard is Scripture (1 Corinthians 4:6).

We will pursue these thoughts further in the next bulletin. AL

**Sermons:** (AM) Discipleship 1

(PM) Adam Daniels will be preaching

**Reading:** (AM) John 15:1-17

(PM) John 15:18-27