

MARKET STREET



"And this the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)

MESSENGER

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
P.O. Box 388
Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Albert Bowers.....(256) 233-4847
Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty Adams(256) 233-5147
Rusty Brand(256) 233-7343
Tim Craig(256) 233-4597
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Bobby McGuire(256) 232-7887
Frank Noblitt(256) 777-0725
Stuart Wilson(256) 233-6291

Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net
Warren Glass.....(256) 233-6086

Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.org

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

is published in the interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Market Street church.

David A. Cox, Editor

Volume I

May 17, 2009

No. 20

The Parable of the Squandered Opportunity

Dennis Carrow

One of the easiest things for us to do as Christians is to set aside our responsibility to share the gospel with others. Each of us struggle with this. We should all be sensitive to the need to reach the lost. And, if we fail in our mission, souls may be lost. This ought to awaken us to the serious nature of this subject. If this issue is so dire, why is the need for Christ often the last thing we talk about with those we come in contact?

There are several reasons we may list for our despondent disposition toward communicating our faith, but the underlying cause is our attitude!

Is It Work To Share My Faith?

We often hear the term "personal work" attached to the idea of evangelism. While there is activity and effort required to teach the gospel to someone I believe this terminology may cloud our thinking. After looking at our objections as to why we do not talk to others about Jesus we need to look within our own heart and ask ourselves, "What does my faith really mean to me?"

Initially, I think it best that we acknowledge the role Christ has in our own life. If we do not reflect faith in our daily walk what we say will have little or no significance. Once we have come to grips with Christ in our own life the next step should be very natural.

Most of our opportunities to teach someone the gospel will come in ways that are easy to overlook. In network marketing, (a business model where individuals attempt to get other individuals to team up with them in a business venture), they have something called the three foot rule. The idea is when you make your list of prospective business partners you think in terms of everyone you come within three feet of in the course of a day. These are your contacts!

Facing Our Fear

One of the primary reasons why we do not talk to others is fear. We

fear failure, we fear confrontation, we fear straining a friendship. However, within the faithful heart should be authentic sense of boldness rather than fear. We ought to pray for boldness, then walk in confidence toward those who are lost (Colossians 4:2-6).

Squandering Opportunities?

We generally refer to the parable found in Matthew 25:14-30 as the “parable of the talents.” And, we sometimes draw a parallel between the talent in the parable as one’s ability. However, the parable states the talent was given each one according to his ability (v. 15). So we understand the talent is not one’s ability, but one’s opportunities. Consider, since the talents are equal to opportunities the basis of the condemnation of the one talent man was his wasted opportunity. What we learn from this parable is that we will be held accountable for what we do, or fail to do, with the opportunities God provides for us.

We should open our eyes to opportunities that we may already be experiencing. And we should be willing to itemize various opportunities and plan to utilize them to the best of our ability.

Sometimes we think in grand terms when it comes to teaching others, but the truth is we should approach this in a simple and practical manner. While we worry about the difficult issues that may arise, we should allow the principles in the word of God to flow naturally through our lives. When this occurs, all that follows is showing how God works in our life, and will also work in the life of someone who is seeking.

Consider the simple approach in which Paul addresses Philemon in verse six: “that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgement of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.”

Trusting In God’s Power To Save

Our approach to opportunities should reflect a trust in God’s power to save. And regardless of how others may respond our disposition should never be altered.

There are three ways people will respond to the gospel. Some may mock, some may desire to study further, and others will believe. (ref. Acts 17:32-34). May we learn from the parable of squandered opportunity to carefully utilize those that are set before us.

~via *What Is True?*; Little Rock, Arkansas

Remember our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Jesus: The Way He Loves

Dee Bowman

There is no vocabulary expressive enough to say what needs to be said about Jesus. It is astounding to me that the gospel records give only small details about his life, that they speak in such matter-of-fact language, and without any glowing reports of either His demeanor or His work. If men, unguided by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, had written records of His life and living, there would be literally volumes, and they would be filled with words extolling Him and citing how wonderfully astonishing were His works and how beautiful His life, and innumerable and expressions too multitudinous to count.

But in spite of our inability to contain ourselves when we speak of Him, there is the ever-present need to say things about Him so that we may emulate His life in ours. Let me try.

Jesus Christ was “in the beginning.” “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” There’s power in that. If He was in the beginning and He was God, and He came to the earth, it says that the mission He came to accomplish must have been terribly important. And it was.

Jesus Christ was the agent of creation. “All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made.” How amazing that He who was the means by which all things were made, came and became a part of what He made. What humility! What love!

Jesus Christ was the witness to men of God Himself. “That was the true light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” What an enterprise is that one which caused God Almighty to send His Son into this world to enlighten the world with a true picture of the Creator. Does it not seem astonishing that One so great would literally bend down to us through His Son? Can you get hold of that? Can you fathom such love, such devotion?

Jesus Christ was “made flesh and dwelt among us.” It is impossible to over-estimate the value of that simple statement. Hear that again, please: He was “made flesh,” who was the agent of creation, the illumination of the Father, the Word of Heaven; yet

He relegated Himself willingly to a fleshly body, one subject to all the temptations of mankind. He was made flesh and dwelt among us. God came to be a man, left heaven to become flesh? Why? Why would He do that? Why would He? Love, that's why – a love like has never before nor since been seen. Oh, what a Savior!

Jesus Christ brought grace and truth to mankind. “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” Now, that's something to think about, something to arrest and maintain our attention. Grace, the predicate on which all forgiveness rest, could never have been but by the Savior. Man could not save himself. Hear it: man could not save himself. Never. Without grace, this marvelous attribute of Deity made evident in Jesus Christ, there would be no good future for any man-no, not one. And this grace, sequentially, brought to man the truth of the gospel, the “mystery” revealed in Him to take away the sins which separated man from his Creator. Grace and truth, the necessary parts of salvation, are brilliantly illustrated in the cross He bore. And all for us, that grace and truth might come together in man's redemption. Thank God for our Lord Jesus Christ!

And Jesus Christ died for us. “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” God's love is the basis for our reconciliation, the motive for the Savior, the means for our propitiation. He went to the cross for you and me. He hung there for you and me. Do you hear? He hung there for you and me.

And you're going to tell me that it makes no difference to you? If you walk away from Him, if you merely ignore the salvation He purchased for you, you say, in essence, “none of that makes any difference to me.” How can you do that?

Come to Jesus. He will save you.

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN – 770AM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Peggy Taylor; Athens - Limestone Hospital – rm. 306
Reba Byram; HealthSouth Huntsville

At Home:

Polly Davis	June Dawson
Gilbert Hardy	Brandon Craig
Matt Poff	Becky Munoz
Norman Brown	Angela Green
Jeff Waddell	Tim Melson
Benton Hardy	

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118 Mary Smith, rm 85
Rosella Pugh, rm. 33 J.D. Clanton, 11E
Lorene Bradford, rm.117

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17
Pauline Lovell,

Limestone Manor:

Ruth Owens, rm. 80

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.
Jimmy Killen, at home
Reba Adams, at home
Mauvis Phillips, at home
Majorie Lambert, at home
Ellis Dunnavant, at home

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

- Cody Brown; Iraq
- Brandi Lawrence; Afghanistan
- Joel Smith; Iraq

ELDERS/DEACONS MEETING: This afternoon at 4:15 the elders and deacons will be meeting.

NEW BABY: *Samuel Price Wilson* is now at home with his parents, *Stuart and Molly Wilson* and his big sister, *Caroline*. We rejoice with the Wilson family in their new addition and look forward to Sam being here at services with his family.

VBS INVITATIONS: There are invitations on the table at the entrances of the building for you to pick-up and send or give to those that you invite.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: In preparation of the VBS, we will be gather Saturday morning, May 23rd at 10:00 a.m. to work on classrooms, bulletin boards, etc. Everyone that would like to help with this, even if you are not teaching, is invited to join us. We will need your help!

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE STUDY: We will be conducting a HighSchool/College Age study on four Saturday evenings during the next few months. We will begin the first study on Saturday, May 30th followed by studies on June 27th, July 25th and August 22nd. If you know of some people in these age groups, please invite them to join us.

GLASSES AWAY: *Warren and Joan Glass* are away today as Warren is preaching for the *Flint Hill church* in Bessemer, Alabama. We look forward to their return.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of May 10th

- Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 131
- Morning Worship 169
- Evening Worship..... 133
- Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 93

Vacation Bible School

June 8 -11, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ
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Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 17th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Marty Adams
- Song Leader Frank Noblitt
- Prayer Marion Mitchell
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Wayne Vaughn
- Assisting Bonnie Sutton
- Serving Curtis Glass..... Tommy Burns
- Raymond Brown..... Delmer Carter
- Closing Prayer Rusty Brand

Evening Worship

- Announcements Marty Adams
- Song Leader Frank Noblitt
- Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
- Preaching Rusty Brand
- Lord's Supper Wayne Vaughn
- Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Other Assignments for Sunday May 17th:

- Usher Tyler Cox
- Work Sound System Tim Craig

Wednesday, May 20th:

- Song Leader Joel Hamm
- Bible Reading.....(Proverbs 14:1-12)
- Nathaniel Adams
- Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
- Invitation David Cox
- Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Sunday, May 24th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Stuart Wilson
- Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
- Prayer Joel Hamm
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Wayne Vaughn
- Assisting Bonnie Sutton
- Serving Curtis Glass..... Tommy Burns
- Raymond Brown..... Delmer Carter
- Closing Prayer Tyler Cox

Evening Worship

- Announcements Stuart Wilson
- Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
- Prayer Jack Cannon
- Preaching Song Service
- Lord's Supper Bonnie Sutton
- Closing Prayer Frank Noblitt

Other Assignments for Sunday May 24th:

- Usher Marty Adams
- Work Sound System Cory Nelson