

MARKET STREET



"And this is 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
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Athens, Alabama 35612
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Volume XII

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No. 26

Two Men with Different Attitudes

David A. Cox

"God, be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13)

In Luke 18, Jesus taught a parable of two men who had gone to the temple to pray. The two men were completely different in their attitude and perhaps in the lives that they had lived before that day. One man was a Pharisee; the text describes them as those who trusted in themselves as being righteous and despising others. The second man was a tax collector. Let us learn about God's mercy and grace in this parable.

The Pharisee. There is no doubt from the text that the Pharisee is filled with great pride and accomplishment in his life. The prayer he prays in the House of God is to inform God of all the good works he was doing and had done. He is thankful for not being an extortioner, unjust, or an adulterer. Indeed, we ought to be thankful for God's grace and His word that we can know how to live a life that pleases God. The Pharisee then points out that he is thankful not to be like the tax collector who was there to pray to God. The Pharisee continues to extol the great virtues in his life to God. God knew the life that he was living. There was no need to pray in such a way, but for others to hear the things he said.

After reading the Pharisee's prayer, it is evident that the Pharisee sees salvation based solely upon his works. There is a need to boast about himself and how deserving he is. There is no room for God's grace in the Pharisee's life. The Pharisee's confidence is misplaced. Yes, we ought to have confidence toward God, but the Pharisee had long past confidence and boasted in his service to God. The sad thing is that he like all men need God's grace, but he thinks God needs him.

The Tax Collector. The tax collector comes to God's House, knowing that mercy can be found there. He knows that he desperately needs God's grace. There is no boasting about his life and the things he had done. He understood that God knew the good and the bad, and his desire was to repent and find forgiveness. The text tells us that he stood "afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying

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

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843
Tommy Coblentz..... (256) 232-3312
Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737

Deacons

Joel Hamm (256) 278-1977
Danny Holt (256) 206-2746
Larry Mitchell..... (256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris..... (256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl..... (256) 683-9396

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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

‘God be merciful to me a sinner’” (Luke 8:13). The tax collector came to God to receive the forgiveness of sin. He was not interested in justifying his life to God, or anyone else. He knew that his life had not been lived in the way that God would have him to live it. What he was interested in was the justification from God, and that is what he received.

Lessons for Us. From these two starkly, different attitudes are three things we can learn.

1. *God Honors Humility.* There is no doubt that we see the tax collector’s humility and the arrogance of the Pharisee. Jesus tells us that the humble man is the one that left the temple justified. Indeed, we need to remember “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5).
2. *The Problem of Satisfaction.* The Pharisee’s attitude shows one who was completely satisfied. There were no changes, and he really did not need to do anything else. God has never been pleased with such an attitude. The church at Laodicea in Revelation 3 possessed such a view. Their thought was we “have need of nothing” (Revelation 3:17). Satisfaction can be a real hindrance in our being what God desires. It was for the Pharisee.
3. *The Great Message of Encouragement.* The hope that is seen in this parable cannot be missed. For the one who understands the deep sense of sin and what it has done to the relationship God desires for us, there is great hope to have it restored. God’s abundant mercy is available to all who come to Him and change their lives to please Him. The humble, contrite confession and repentance were essential to the tax collector going home justified. God’s mercy and grace are plentiful, and He desires for all to be saved. What a great encouragement for us when we fail.

May we truly learn from the attitudes of these two men. When man will love mercy and humbly seek to do God’s will, he will receive from God what he needs.

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Sunday Mornings

on WVNN 770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30a.m. - 9:00a.m.

Holding Forth the Word of Life

Bill Hall

“Hello, Simon, did you hear about the incident up at the temple yesterday? We were a little late for the hour of prayer, and when we got there, we heard this awful commotion in Solomon’s porch. Peter and John had just healed a lame man—they’re always trying to get attention, you know—and Peter was doing the preaching as usual.

Well, Simon, you should have heard the sermon. No, on second thought, I’m glad you were spared the agony. Do you know that Peter preached the same old sermon that he used on Pentecost? People get tired of hearing the same old thing.

And he was so offensive. He actually accused them of being ignorant and said they had been guilty in the crucifixion of Jesus. They were guilty, of course, but Peter doesn’t have to be so plainspoken right to their face. And scripture, scripture, scripture! I get so tired of hearing scripture all the time. I thought he would never get through.

And, would you believe, it was the very time I had chosen to take Joseph with me. I was just mortified! I apologized for what happened, but I just know he’ll never go with me again. In fact, he might never speak to me again.

But that’s not all! Before Peter got through preaching, the priest and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came up and arrested Peter and John right there. Simon, I was so embarrassed! We’ll never do any good with all this bad publicity. They get a good crowd together and then ruin it all by getting arrested. The apostles don’t know a thing about gaining public favor.

And all they want is money. They probably want more people to sell their possessions. They won’t get mine! I can’t stand fanatics; besides, those people are just showing off giving all that money.

And, by the way, Simon, I hear they are counting the number of converts again. Boy, they sure do go for numbers. But let them count. The way they’re going, there won’t be a church left around here. We can just get ready to close the doors. Nobody wants to be a part of a church where the preachers preach the same old thing all the time and are constantly being arrested.

Did you say something, Simon? What did you say? The number is what? The number of men is up to... to... 5,000?!"

~via *Kirkland Bulletin*; Chiefland, Florida.



To Be Faithful

Steven Matthews

"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" — Revelation 2:10

What exactly does "be faithful" mean? The Greek word for "faithful" is *pistos* — a person who shows themselves faithful in the transaction of business or execution of commands; can be relied on. When I think of that definition, I immediately think of God. Every day, God is good and faithful to us. Every day, we have God's unflinching love. He can be trusted.

So, how can I be faithful and remain faithful to God? It must be of genuine concern. It's a question those contemplating obedience ask, and even after obedience, the question is still asked. We recognize that the decision to become a Christian is the single most important decision a person can make. But obeying the gospel is only the beginning of a lifelong commitment to God; a launching pad, not a landing pad. When we put God first in our lives, every aspect of our lives will fit in with the goal of obtaining a crown of life when this life is over.

Here are five questions to consider:

- **What is the most important thing in your life?** If you say God, that's the right answer. But do your actions confirm what you say? Do the two match (Matthew 7:20)?
- **What do you think about?** What occupies your mind most (Colossians 3:2)? When activities and obligations are not pressing in your life, where do your thoughts gravitate to easily? Spiritual things, or do you have to force yourself to think about God's Word?
- **What gives when you face conflicting priorities?**

Conflicts are going to happen. What makes the cut when there's a conflict in scheduling? Life is a series of decisions and trade-offs. We want to believe we can do it all, but we can't. We make time for things that are really important to us (Ephesians 5:15-16).

- **Where would others say your priorities lie?** We don't live life in a vacuum or in a bubble. We all have a circle of influence (Matthew 5:13-16). Other people give us real insight as to where our priorities lie.
- **Is there something in your life that keeps you from following Jesus completely?** Don't walk away sorrowful like the rich young ruler did (Matthew 19:22). Heaven will be worth any sacrifice we make along the way, I guarantee it.. Trust me, you will never be at peace with God, or yourself, until you do.

~via *Tidewater Bulletin*; Chesapeake, Virginia.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Marion Mitchell
Sherry Davis
Bobbie Adcock
Doris Lovell
Tessa Bacci

Mitzi Carruth
JoAnn Gilbert
Loretta Warner
Ann Bush
Para Stewart

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright
Nikki Ogles
Lona Jackson
Judy Vaughn
Jeanette Weir
Wayne Wooldridge
Kenneth Fisher
Charles Burns
Phillip Harwell
Matt Poff
Carrie Warner
Joan Carpenter

Freddie Mae Elmore
Anita Wheeler
Janice Cagle
Ella Melvin
Cornelia Pepper
Cindy Walker
Al Pollard
David Collier
Una King Currier
Gene Carpenter
Lloyd Adams

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15
Dan Lovell, rm.
Connie Brock, rm. 62

Elease Barksdale, rm. 22A
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36

Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Limestone Health Facility:
 Virginia Meyer, rm. 69 Bettye Harrison, rm. 59
 Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:
 Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
 Marci Bassett, Limestone Manor
 Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
 Irene Inman, at home
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

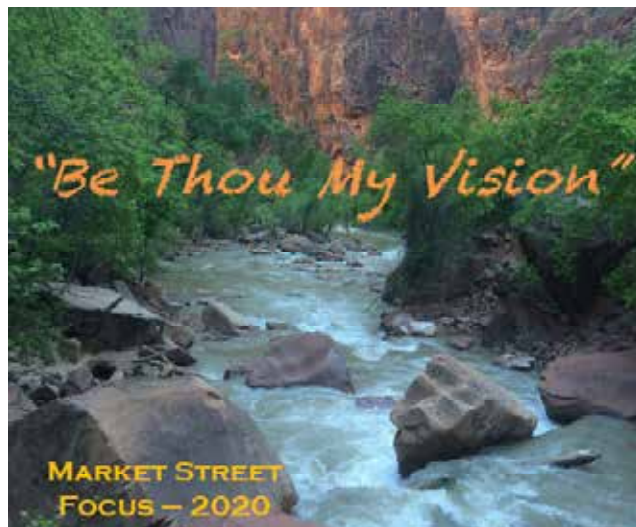
Updates:
Mitzi Carruth had surgery this week on her hand...
Dan Lovell had knee replacement surgery in Athens this week. He is now at Athens Restore Rehab...
Steve Usery had a tooth extraction this past Wednesday and is scheduled for oral surgery on Wednesday, July 1st...
Ross Melvin had a test done last Thursday. He is to go to his doctor on Monday...
Joe Hinkle has had a change in his medication to correct his sodium levels and help the issues with his blood pressure...
Betty Lovell has received a good report from her recent test.

OUT OF TOWN: The Haraways: *Albert & Brenda* on a trip out west to Wyoming this week.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class* next meeting will be Monday, July 20th at 7:00 p.m.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for week of June 21st:*

Sunday: Bible Classes
 Morning Worship..... 148
 Evening Worship..... 107
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 90



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, June 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Holt
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Marcus Morris
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Larry Mitchell
 Assisting Joel Hamm
 Serving Harold Davis Clayton Hamm
 Matthew Usery..... Marty Adams
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Holt
 Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Preaching..... Song Service
 Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
 Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Other Assignments for the week of June 28th:

Ushers..... Steve Bradley/Danny Johnson
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, July 1st:

Song Leader Griffin Holt
 Bible Reading Larry Holt
 Hebrews 13:1-6
 Prayer..... Frank Melton
 Invitation Larry Tucker
 Closing Prayer Clayton Hamm

Sunday, July 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Bob Broadus
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Bill Eden
 Assisting Christian Usery
 Serving Griffin Holt Harold Ash
 Tim Griswold..... Larry Tucker
 Closing Prayer David Barnett

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Prayer..... Keith Hinkle
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Bill Eden
 Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Other Assignments for the week of July 5th:

Ushers..... Tommy Coblentz/Hunter Cox
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt