

# The Bulletin

## Meeks Street Church of Christ

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**September 25, 2022**

### ***“The Good Samaritan”***

By Colby Junkin



During Jesus' ministry, He was often riddled with questions from His naysayers attempting to catch Him in either a spiritual dilemma or promoting a false doctrine. Once he was asked, *"Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"*

To which, He responded, *"Whose likeness and inscription is this? ...Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's"* (Matthew 22:15-22). Jesus was able to swiftly turn their attempts to catch Him in error into an opportunity to proclaim the truth.

It was on another occasion, *"a lawyer stood up to put Him to the test, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?'"* (Luke 10:25-37). There may have been various cultural or contextual backgrounds to the lawyer's question, but it still revolves around the attitude of trying to capture Jesus in a wrong.

Jesus' response was simple, *"What is written in the Law? How do you read it?"* The lawyer's answer was excellent in quoting from the Old Testament, he clarified the full duty of man was to love God with everything and to love your neighbor as yourself. While still trying to justify himself, he asked, *"and who is my neighbor?"* It was Jesus' response to this second question that lends to us a great lesson of love for our fellow man and true righteousness in the sight of God.

Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan to assist this lawyer's misunderstanding of who was his neighbor. There was a young man making a journey from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among robbers who proceeded to strip, rob, beat, and leave him lying on the roadside presumed to be dead. The first person who approached the scene of crime was a priest. The text is ambiguous to the reason(s) this priest would have passed on the other side of the road, but it seems his perceived righteousness was more important than its application. The second character introduced to the parable was a Levite. Again we find a person excusing his obligation to assist by passing by on the other side of the road. The picture Jesus paints with these first two characters is a composite of the religious identity of Judaism in the first century. As Jesus would later condemn their perceived righteousness by saying, *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness"* (Matthew 23:26). These two men wanted the recognition of being faithful to the Lord without having to actually put their faith to the test.

The final character that is introduced in the parable is the Samaritan. The very use of this nationality would have been scoffed at by many of the Jews. How could any Samaritan ever accomplish anything that is good? The Samaritans were considered dogs and treated as such by much of the Jewish population. When Jesus was sitting by Jacob's well and a Samaritan woman came to draw water, He said, *"Give me a drink"* (John 4:7). Her response solidifies the feelings between the Samaritans and Jews - *"How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?"* To which John gives us a parenthetical statement - *"For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans"* (John 4:9). Therefore, Jesus' use of a Samaritan in His parable was to give contrast to perceived self-righteousness of the priest and Levite with the true righteousness manifested by the Samaritan.

The good Samaritan serves as a great example of our accountability toward our neighbors. The young man was probably not the Samaritan's "literal" neighbor, but he was a man in desperate need and without the help of the Samaritan he would have certainly perished along the roadside. The Samaritan demonstrated true righteousness by cleaning and binding the man's wounds and then paying for his room and board during his recovery. If we were to put 21st century costs into the story, this may have been entire savings spent to save a complete stranger. Would we be willing to do the same in our lives?

The good Samaritan found this young man at the brink of death and by his help and time for recovery brought him back to life. The Samaritan did not excuse himself from doing the right thing as had the priest and Levite. What became more important to the Samaritan was not the appearance of perceived righteousness, but rather true righteousness being manifested through his actions. If we are not careful we may play the part of the priest and Levite far too often in our lives. We become more concerned about the appearance of being righteous than its true manifestation in our lives. The full duty of man is to *"love the Lord your God with all of your heart and with all of your soul and with all of your strength and with all of your mind, and your neighbor as yourself"* (Luke 10:27).

How are we doing in this respect of our lives today?

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## ***"Quit Murdering Your Savior"***

by Matt Adams

*"For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding Him up to contempt." Hebrews 6:4-6 (ESV)*

When we, who have been saved, return to a life of sinning and refuse to repent of our sins then we're putting our Savior back up on the cross. We're murdering Him again and again and again! Do we not see our sins for what they are?! Friends and brethren, wake up to the reality that no sin is too small to separate us from our God and our Savior for eternity. All sin is serious and we shall not escape the mighty hand of the Lord - we will be judged eternally for every sin we do not repent of and get right before God. How serious do we take our lives and our status before God? Does God see a murderous rebel, or a redeemed humble servant in you and me?

Let's all be mindful of what our sins caused, and what had to happen to redeem us from that evil, to give us life, hope, and redemption. Don't forget that our sin separates (Rom.3:23; 6:23).

Our sins put those nails back in His hands and feet; that crown of thorns back on His head; the mockery, the disdain, the cruelty spoken; the crying out of *"Crucify! Crucify!"* and *"His blood be upon us and our children!"*; the beating, the scourging, and the spitting upon the Savior - the blessed Son of God...those are our sins. Take some time now to go back and read Matthew 27, put yourself into the account given there and let it sink in that your sins and mine caused that. We nail His hands, we nail His feet, we beat Him, we deride Him, we rip His body into a bloody mess, we revel in His pain and delight in His death...we do that when we choose to sin. Your sins and mine, friend. That's what sin does. It's not so glamorous is it? Not so "fun" anymore, is it?

That sin we hold on to, that sin we engage in, it cost the Son of God His life! And we, being called His followers, willingly engage in sin yet again after being redeemed?! Considering all He did for us, we then refuse to repent?! How will we answer to God if our life ends without our sins repented of? If we do not choose instead to have our lives truly transformed by His Son?

Today is a blessing from God, a chance to get it right - what shall we do (Acts 2:36-38; Acts 8:20-24)? Which will it be for us today, what shall we choose - sin or salvation? Consider this verse throughout the day:

*"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." ~Hebrews 10:26-31 (NKJV)*

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Nannette and Derek Chancellor, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Aaron Posey (Phil Campbell), Danny Cottrell, Bill Woodall, Wade Butler, and Melissa Combs (Brian's sister has Covid).

Jerry Trimble was in a bad accident and is still in the hospital.

LuAnne Parrish is at home now!

The family of Mack Johnson (passed away).

Our Gospel Meeting- October 9-12.

NorthEast Church of Christ in Tupelo Meeting- October 2-5 Different Speakers

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Danny Sheffield  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "Acceptance Or Rejection?"

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

**Workbook:** Fred Johnson  
Ephesians (Chris Reeves)  
**Starting Page & Question:** Page #55, Question #4 Digging Deeper

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Paul Busby  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Paul Johnson  
Psalm 48:1-3  
**Song Leader:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Lord's Supper:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** "God's Call To Higher Ground"  
**Closing Prayer:** Blake Briggs

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**September 28st:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Johnson  
**Workbook:** Jeremiah & Lamentations  
(John Humphries)  
**Starting Page & Question:** Page #71, Question #6  
**Invitation:** Dan Cottrell  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Closing Prayer:** Russell Briggs

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# ***“Acceptance Or Rejection?”***

Lesson Text: **Genesis 4:1-7.**

## **I. Many People Seek Acceptance From:**

- Their Friends & Peers- **1 Corinthians 15:33.**
- Their Family- **Matthew 10:37.**
- Their Culture- **John 1:11; Matthew 27:22.**
- Their Religious Peers- **John 12:42-43; Galatians 1:10.**
- The World- **James 4:4.**

## **II. Who Really Matters?**

- **God!** Why? Because We Must Give An Account To God- **2 Cor. 5:10.**

## **III. Who Will The Lord Reject?**

- Those Who Reject His Word And Disobeys- **1 Samuel 15:22-23.**
- Those Who Reject God’s Knowledge- **Hosea 4:6.**
- Those Who Leave Faithfulness To God- **Hebrews 6:4-8; Matt. 3:10-12.**
- Whoever Sells Their Birthright- **Heb. 12:16-17; Gen. 25:33-34; 27:30-38.**
- Whoever Offers The Wrong Sacrifice- **Genesis 4:3-7; Malachi 1:13; 7-10.**
- Whoever Fails To Be Ready- **Matthew 25:1-13.**

## **IV. Who Will God Accept?**

- Those Who Fear God & Works Righteousness- **Acts 10:33-35; vs. 48.**
- Those Who Serve Christ Properly- **Romans 14:18.**
- Those Who Make The Sacrifices To God- **1 Peter 2:5; Romans 12:1-2.**
- Those Who Are Diligent To Be Pure- **Psalms 19:12-14.**
- Those Who Suffer Wrong Patiently- **1 Peter 2:18-20.**
- Those Who Worship God Properly- **Amos 5:21-23; John 4:23-24.**
- Christians Who Pray For All Men- **1 Timothy 2:1-4.**

## ***“God’s Call To Higher Ground”***

Lesson Text: **Psalm 48:1-3.**

### **I. God’s Call To Higher Elevation.**

- **Isaiah 2:2-3.**
- **Hebrews 12:22-29.**
- Why God’s Way Is Higher Ground.

### **II. Higher Ground: In Obeying The Gospel.**

- **2 Thessalonians 2:14.**
- The Gospel Makes Changes In Our Lives— Repentance.
  - **Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19.**
- Examples Of Repentance To Higher Ground:
  - The Prodigal Son **Luke 15:12-17.**
  - The Athenians **Acts 17:30-31.**
  - The Thessalonians **1 Thessalonians 1:9-10.**

### **III. Higher Ground: From Darkness To Light.**

- **John 8:12; John 12:46.**
- **Acts 26:17-18.**

### **IV. Higher Ground: From Ignorance To Truth.**

- **1 Timothy 2:3-4.**
- **1 Timothy 1:12-13.**

### **V. Higher Ground: From Sin To Holiness.**

- **1 Peter 1:14-15.**
- **Romans 6:17-18.**

### **VI. Higher Ground: From Hurting To Helping Others.**

- **Luke 3:10-11; Ephesians 4:28.**

**Conclusion:** Seek The Things Above— Higher Ground!

- **Colossians 3:1-2; Philippians 3:14.**