



Today's Sermons

Morning: Two Meals with the Master
Evening: Song Service

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	19
Sunday AM Worship	42
Sunday PM Worship	15
Wed. Bible Study	17
Offering	\$2283



Hear

• Romans 10:17



Believe

• Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16



Repent

• Acts 17:30



Confess

• Matthew 16:16



Be Baptized

• Acts 2:38



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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:.... 10:00am
AM Worship:..11:00am
PM Worship:....6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

Humility

Clarence L. Lavender

Paul said, "Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits" (Romans 12:16). Humility is enjoined on God's people: (1) Israel, Micah 6:8; (2) At social gatherings, Luke 14:10; (3) To those who would be great, Luke 22:26; (4) To those who would think soberly, Romans 12:3; (5) To be lifted up, James 4:10; (6) To be clothed with it, 1 Peter 5:5.

Let us first note what humility is not. It is not a certain tone of the voice. It is not merely acting sympathetically. Some would lead us to believe they are deeply touched when really they have little or no concern (John 12:1-6). Others believe that when they give "big gifts" to brotherhood projects, they manifest their humility. There are some in the church so "humble" they are proud of it (Matthew 6:16)! Many of the quarrels and brotherhood problems over the years have been caused by the "humble" among us. Note the spirit of false teachers. To hear them tell it, they are the humblest fellows on earth.

Second, what is it to be humble? Vine says, "It primarily signifies low-lying. It is used always in a good sense in the New Testament, metaphorically, to denote: (a) of low degree, brought low, Lk. 1:52; Rom 12:16; (b) humble in

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spirit, Matt. 11:29; 2 Cor. 10:1.” The word “abase” in the New Testament is akin to humility. Webster says, “A state or quality of being humble in spirit; freedom from pride and arrogance.” Humility is the sincere acknowledgment in thought, in language, in action, of the first and most commanding of all facts—the acknowledgment of God and our attitude and treatment of each other.

I remember as a student at Freed-Hardeman College, brother Olan Hicks (now deceased) used to say, “Young men, always remember, the way up is down.” We would all agree theoretically, but often in our lives, performance is lacking.

Third, looking to Jesus will help us in practice. (1) He is meek and lowly in heart. (2) He washed His disciples’ feet, John 13:5. (3) He was obedient unto death, Philippians 2:8. (4) His life was absent of worldly pride in: (a) Appearance, Isaiah 53:2; (b) World success, Isaiah 53:3; (c) Reputation, Matthew 2:23; (d) Riches, Matthew 8:20 and (e) Rank, Matthew 13:55.

Fourth, the example of the early church is a source of strength and encouragement to all of God’s people to live humble lives. Pliny, a historian (117-138 AD), wrote to the Roman Emperor, Hadrian, shortly after the death of the apostle John, concerning the early church. He said:

They walk in all humility and kindness, and falsehood is not found among them. They love one another. They rescue the orphan from violence...they do not refuse to help widows. He who has, gives ungrudgingly, to him that lacks. If they see a stranger, they take him home and entertain him as a brother. When one of their poor passes from this world, anyone of them who sees it provides for his burial according to his ability. And if they hear about one of their members being in prison or being oppressed for the name of their Messiah, all of them provide for his needs. Thus they labor to become righteous as those who expect to see their Messiah and to receive from him the glorious fulfillment of the promise made to them. Truly, this is a new people and there is something divine in them.

Humility was the trademark of the first century church. God help us to be like they were.

Hospitality

Tracy Drugger

I recall very vividly, growing up in my grandmother's home, how she would often open up that home for anyone who would come calling. There was always an open door and everyone felt welcome. It was always a "warm" place to be. I know that many were spiritually encouraged as a result.

No one can deny that parts of our culture have changed. For instance, think of the godly influence we can wield upon the lost by inviting them into our homes. We can build a relationship with them, gain their trust, and begin to discuss spiritual matters. Not only can the lost be encouraged by our hospitality, but our brethren can likewise find solace, comfort, and help in our homes. It is important to the success of God's Cause that brethren dwell in

unity. How can brethren learn how to work together for a single purpose when they see one another for only a couple hours a week? How can we encourage faithfulness on a continuous and meaningful basis when we have little fellowship? Hospitality can be used as a tool in this area. Also, consider how much more effective we will be in restoring the erring when a strong bond already exists because of hospitality.

The Bible has much to say on the subject of hospitality. The Hebrews writer stated, "Let brotherly love continue, Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:1-2). Who did the inspired writer have in mind when he stated, "for thereby some have entertained angels unawares?" Perhaps he was referring to Abraham in Genesis 18. It would benefit us to turn to those pages and ponder the lessons of hospitality. Hospitality was very important during those times.

One of the characteristics of the early Christian was hospitality. Paul encouraged the saints at Rome to be "given to hospitality" (Romans 12:13). He explained that one of the qualifications of an elder was not only to be hospitable, but to be "a lover of hospitality" (I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1: 8). In Luke 5, Matthew opened up his residence for a feast prepared for Jesus. Matthew used his home to create an opportunity for his friends to meet Jesus. A little later in the ninth chapter of Luke, James and John observed the lack of hospitality of a Samaritan village. These brothers were so outraged that they wished to call down fire from heaven, even as Elijah did, on the inhospitable Samaritan village (Luke 9:51-56).

To be hospitable in our fast paced society will require diligence on our part. However, its importance is seen not only in the fact of it being commanded by God, but also in the benefits that can be reaped in the area of evangelism and edification. As representatives for Christ, let us strive to be more hospitable. "And above all things, have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God, if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever Amen" (I Peter 4:8-11).

While man places great value on things that reflect his material status, God desires that we seek inward purity, and honorable character and spiritual nobility.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NOTE: Preach-N-Eat for March and April have been canceled, we will resume May 2
- Mar 7 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- Mar 14 – 6:00 pm Worship and Song Service
- Mar 28 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell