

Upcoming Events...

Galatians Class: Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class: Today at 4:00 p.m.

Last Saturday in February Meeting: February 24

Barnabas Group Meeting: February 27

Caring for Others

“Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.” - Attributed to Theodore Roosevelt

“You really can change the world if you care enough.”

Marian Wright Edelman

“Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.” - H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

February Birthdays

8 Zoie Perales

25 Mike McKnight

February Anniversaries

5 Mike & Morgie McKnight

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:

Mike McKnight

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What Can I Do For You?

By David A. Sargent

During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln frequently visited the hospitals and addressed cheering words to the wounded warriors. On one occasion he found a young soldier whose legs had been amputated, and who was evidently sinking rapidly. “Is there anything I can do for you?” asked Lincoln. “You might write a letter to my mother,” was the faint reply.

The President wrote at the youth's dictation: “My dearest mother: I have been shot bad, but am bearing up. I tried to do my duty. They tell me I cannot recover. God bless you and Father; kiss Mary and John for me.” At the end were these words as postscript: “Written by Abraham Lincoln.”

When the boy perused the epistle and saw these added words, he looked with astonishment at the visitor and asked, “Are you our President?” “Yes,” was the quiet answer, “and now that you know that, is there anything else I can do for you?” Feebly the lad said, “I guess you might hold my hand, and see me through.” So, sitting down at the bedside, the tall, gaunt man with a kind heart held the soldier's hand through the livelong night till it grew cold and lifeless.

Is it not a precious truth that Christ, the greatest of all kings, in our affliction is afflicted, and that He can be “touched with the feeling of our infirmities”? “For this reason He had to be made like His brothers in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.” – Hebrews 2:17-18

In the words of a familiar song by Johnson Oatman, Jr.:

*No friend like Him is so high and holy,
No, not one! no, not one!
And yet no friend is so meek and lowly,
No, not one! No, not one!*

*Jesus knows all about our struggles;
He will guide 'til the day is done:
There's not a Friend like the lowly Jesus:
No, not one! No, not one!*

Jesus knows all about our struggles, and He cares. He cares so much that He gave His life so that we might be released from our greatest malady: sin. *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”* (Ephesians 1:7).

God will save and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sins those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7).

What can He do for us? He can identify with us and He can save our souls. And He will, if we will only trust and obey Him. Will we?

Message, Not Messenger

By Joe Chesser

From time to time we need to be reminded that the power of the word of God is in the message, not the messenger. A simple illustration was when Jesus was heading into Jerusalem for His final week on earth. He sent two of His disciples ahead of Him to go and get a colt that was tied up just inside the city. Why would someone let strangers untie their colt and lead it off? So, Jesus told the disciples that if they were questioned why they were taking the colt, their reply was to be, “The Lord needs it.” Sure enough, the owners of the colt questioned them, but when they heard that the Lord needed it, they let the disciples take it away (Luke 19.29-34). The power was in the message, not the messengers.

Amazingly, even Jesus, the Son of God, was rejected as a messenger. He gave up equality with God to become flesh and to bring the message of salvation face to face (Philippians 2.6-7; John 1.1). For a short time, people flocked from the villages to hear Him. But even His preaching and miracles were not enough for them to follow Him and accept His message. The greatest message ever was rejected because of the messenger (John 1.11).

Human nature being what it is, we have an understandable tendency to be drawn to great messengers over great messages. We love to listen to gifted and polished speakers. We love stories and captivating illustrations, and that's natural. Nothing wrong with that in and of itself. The danger is when we fall in love with charm, personality and wit to the neglect of truth and spiritual nourishment. But the food is more important than the packaging.

I thank God for gifted preachers who can communicate God's powerful word with humility, persuasiveness and love. May their number increase. But I'm just as thankful for those men who, though less gifted, are proclaiming God's message to the best of their abilities to people who love the Lord and are anxious to hear a word from God. I'm also thankful for these patient and faithful brethren who assemble every week to hear the word of God preached, regardless of the abilities of those who are standing before them. Men should always do their best when it comes to proclaiming the gospel, but with a constant awareness that the power is in God and His word, not in their ability to preach it.

If we are not reminded of this occasionally we will naturally drift toward elevating the messenger over the message. It has always been this way, and always will. People have always had their favorite preachers. This problem quickly arose in the 1st century. Paul heard about “preacheritus” in Corinth and needed to correct it ASAP (1 Corinthians 1.10-13). Believe it or not, not everyone in the church at Corinth was a fan of Paul ... or of Peter ... or even of Apollos (a gifted and powerful speaker; cf Acts 18.24). Quarreling over preachers has been around a long, long time. That kind of division may be human nature, but it's not God's nature. God chose the *“foolishness of preaching”* the message of the cross so that our faith might not rest in the messenger, but in the message (1 Cor. 1.20-2.5).