

Light and Life

Those Who Are Sick

It is remarkable how the earthly ministry of Jesus was so often directed at social outsiders. One significant example of this is the calling of Levi (also called Matthew). “Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ So he left all, rose up, and followed Him” (Lu 5:27-28).

Levi was clearly appreciative of this calling. Not only did he immediately leave his station and work, but he invited a great many other tax collectors and social outcasts to join Jesus and His disciples for a great feast in his own home (29). The reaction of the religious leaders was one of disgust. How could these self-proclaiming religious people entertain the company of such lowly sinners?

Jesus’ reply must have mystified the Pharisees. “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (31-32).

The great irony of this statement is that even the Pharisees were in desperate need of the Great Physician! The difference between them and the tax collectors was that men like Levi were humble enough to recognize their need.

I wonder how Levi would have felt at these statements from the religious leaders. He had just walked away from his livelihood to become a religious person himself! He had even thrown this great feast in his own house to honor Jesus and His disciples. He had left all behind in order to follow the One who had called him.

Let us be careful in our treatment of all types of people, that we manifest the attitude of Christ and not of the Pharisees!

- Sam Bunyard

Just My Thoughts

Spread The Word!

“...whoever captures souls is wise” (Pr 11:30).

To the author of the Proverbs, this verse likely had a simple meaning. The one who captures souls (or as some translations put it, ‘wins souls’) is a wise man – meaning plainly that it is a wise man who brings people to the knowledge of Yahweh.

As Christians, living in the light of the New Testament, this passage gains even more depth. To the Jew, winning souls to God, though an admirable (and wise) thing, was not a command. However, the Christian has a higher calling and a greater expectation placed upon them. We are commanded over and over again in the New Testament to spread the Gospel, to seek and save the lost, to win souls to Christ.

Matthew 28 is the clearest and most concise command to spread the Gospel that Christ gives us, and we as Christians (each and every one of us!) must carry out this command in our lives.

Evangelism is wise. And not only that, but evangelism is a command given from the mouth of God Himself. We must take special care to devote ourselves to teaching others about Christ if we are to live out our calling as sons and daughters of the Most High.

We are blessed with a great purpose and calling, to bring others to Christ, to win souls. So, let us make every effort to do so today and every day. Whether it be at work, in the home, at restaurants, school, or anywhere else, let our hearts be driven to spread the sweetest Name on earth.

- Hayden Cathey

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

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**God feeds the sparrows,
but doesn't throw food
into their nests.**

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DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.
Sick: Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, Js Swim, Tricia Deen
Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis
Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

SINGING – Our first Sunday singing is scheduled for tonight. Let's be here to "teach and admonish one another" in these spiritual songs!

WELCOME – We are thrilled to add Missie Corder (Alex's mom) to our number! Make it a point to be an encouragement to our new members!

They Say, and Do Not

Jesus spoke of the hypocritical Pharisees when He warned, "whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not" (Mt 23:3).

It's easy to hurl rebukes – to see the flaws in everyone else (the "specks" of Matthew 7:3) while being blind to our own faults – as glaring as they may be (the "logs" of Mt 7:3).

It is especially challenging for Bible teachers and preachers to avoid such a trap. On the one hand we are commanded to "reprove, rebuke, and exhort" (2 Ti 4:2), but on the other hand we are (hopefully) pain-

fully aware of our own flaws (as we are reminded that "all have sinned", Ro 3:23).

The remedy for the problem is two-fold (whether we are preachers or pew-ters): first, recognize whether the 'flaw' is actually a soul-damning sin, or just a pet peeve that we have finely honed into a personal grievance. Perhaps we should simply learn to be more broad-shouldered.

And second, let's learn to be humble and loving in our rebuke. There is a soul at the tip of our lance; and the desired result is to save it, not to impale it – no matter how righteous the cause may be.

- *WKing*