

Don't forget about our radio program. The broadcast is every Sunday morning from 8:00-8:45 on the HUM. The station can be found at 98.5 in Columbus and 98.3 in Seymour.

The high school class agreed to read through the New Testament in 6 months. Please join them and hold them accountable to daily Bible reading.

Daily Bible Readings

May 18

Matt 22

May 19

Matt 23

May 20

Matt 24

May 21

Matt 25

May 22

Matt 26

May 23

Matt 27

May 24

Matt 28, Mark 1

Various Translations of Eph 5:19

There is something special when you take the power of story and combine it with the power of song. Both song and story are easily memorized. Both can be enjoyed numerous times without losing their appeal. You might even say that both get better with time. Both are contagious. Both lodge deep within the resources of our brains, making them difficult to get out of our heads.

The Song of Moses

Moses sang a song at the conclusion of THE story of the Old Testament. He both witnessed and participated in God's Old Testament redemption story. He was one of the main characters. Notice how Moses used the song to retell the story. Moses sings that "By the blast of your nostrils" the sea stopped flowing and stood up in a heap. God's people crossed the sea on dry land. Pharaoh's army said, "I will pursue. I will overtake." He completes his story by saying "You blew with Your wind, The sea covered them;

They sank like lead in the mighty waters." He then goes on to praise God for the story that he now realized would bring fear into the hearts of the Canaanites that they would drive out of the land God first promised to Abraham.

The Song of Deborah

Deborah became a judge over Israel while they were being oppressed by Jabin the king of Canaan. The commander of Jabin's army was Sisera. Deborah instructed Barak to gather Israel's army together and go and wage war against Sisera and his army. Barak said he would only go if Deborah accompanied him. She agreed but informed him that a woman would receive the glory for the battle. After God's people were victorious Deborah and Barak sang a song telling the story of the battle. The story is recorded

in Judges 5. I encourage you to read the entire song and see how they are coupling song with story to have a long lasting affect on God's people. Here is the climax of the song as recorded in Judges 5:24-27:

Most blessed among women is Jael,
The wife of Heber the Kenite;
Blessed is she among women in tents.
He asked for water, she gave milk;
She brought out cream in a lordly bowl.
She stretched her hand to the tent peg,
Her right hand to the workmen's hammer;
She pounded Sisera, she pierced his head,
She split and struck through his temple.
At her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still;
At her feet he sank, he fell;
Where he sank, there he fell dead.
Wow! What a

Authority Church Buildings

Points to Consider

1. The General Authority to Assemble
2. Where They Assembled in the New Testament
3. Should the Church Own a Building?

The General Authority to Assemble

1 Cor 11:17-21 *Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. 18 For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. 19 For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. 20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.*

The Christians living in Corinth "came _____ as a church."

One of the things they were supposed to be coming together to do was to take the Lord's Supper.

Their coming together was in _____ place and they were supposed to wait for everyone to get there before they partook of the Lord's Supper.

1 Cor 14:23-24 *Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?*

Paul was instructing the Corinthian Christians how they were to use their spiritual gifts when the _____ church came together in the same place.

Acts 20:7 *Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.*

In Troas the disciples came _____ on the first day of the week to remember the Lord by observing the Lord's Supper.

There is no doubt that Christians have general authority to meet on the Sunday to, among other things, take the Lord's Supper.

Where They Assembled in the New Testament

Acts 5:12-15 *And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. 13 Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. 14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.*

It appears that the original place the church assembled was in _____ Porch. Solomon's porch was _____ enough to accommodate large crowds. Some estimate the entire area that became known as Solomon's porch was 90,000 SF.

Solomon's porch was a _____ place for them to meet. They were accustomed to going to the temple with Jesus. Everyone knew where it was. The porch gave them access to many Jews who would eventually become Christians.

Acts 19:8-10 *And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. 10 And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.*

Paul spent three months meeting in the _____ in Ephesus. After people started speaking evil of "the Way" he took the disciples and met daily in the _____ of Tyrannus.

Acts 17:1-2 *Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures.*

It was Paul's custom to teach in the synagogue whenever he came to a town that had one.

Acts 20:8-10 *There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. 9 And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.*

The church in Troas met in a _____ story room on Sunday to take the Lord's Supper.

Rom 16:3-5 *Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. 5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house.*

1 Cor 16:19-20 *The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. 20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.*

Col 4:12-15 *Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. 14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. 15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.*

In the New Testament Christians assembled in _____.

*** None of these passages are intended to teach where the church meets. That was not the intent of the original author to the original audience!

Acts 2	In the temple and from house to house
Acts 3	In the temple (Solomon's Porch)
Acts 4:31	Place not specified (Acts 6:1-7; 13:44; 14:27; 15:30; 20:1, 20)
Acts 5:12-16	Solomon's Porch

Acts 5:20-21	In the temple
Acts 5:25	In the temple
Acts 5:42	In the temple and in every house
Acts 9:20	Synagogue (13:4; 13:14; 14:1; 17:1,10; 18:19; 19:8;
Acts 16:13	Riverside in Philippi
Acts 16: 40	Lydia's house
Acts 19:9	School of Tyrannus after opposition in the synagogue.
Acts 20:7-10	Upper room (third floor)
Acts 20:20	Publically (not specified) and house to house.
Acts 21:5-6	The shore

Should the Church Own a Building?

Objections

1. There is no authority for a church building. The pattern in the New Testament is that the early church met in houses.

It is true that we have record of Christians meeting in houses. However, we _____ have record of Christians meeting in the temple, in synagogues, in a school, on the shore, etc.

You can't say there is a pattern when you don't include every place Christians assembled. The only pattern I see is that Christians met wherever it was _____ for Christians living in *that* area to fulfill the _____ of *that* meeting.

Possible reasons for the objection:

- They are convinced based on their study of scripture.
- They are reacting to an improper teaching or an improper practice regarding the importance of and/or use of a church building.
- To stick it to all the traditionalist. They are going to use your own hermeneutic to prove you wrong (command, example, necessary inference).
- They don't have enough "power" within their local fellowship.

The possible consequences:

- You become what you hate. You _____ teach that there is a pattern when there isn't one.
- You reap what you sow. When your children see your misapplication of scripture, they "rebel" against your way of viewing scripture and swing the pendulum too far in the other direction.

2. It is a misuse of the Lord's money.

- God wants us to meet! He is not trying to make it difficult to meet.
- Each local church has to determine what is the best (most expedient) place to meet given the circumstances and the purpose for that meeting.
- It might just be the _____ use of the Lord's money. Most of us want to own and not rent houses.

powerful song.

The Song of Witness

At Joshua's inauguration God instructed Moses to write a song that would become a witness against them in future generations when they rebelled against the Lord.

"Now therefore, write down this song for yourselves, and teach it to the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel. When I have brought them to the land flowing with milk and honey, of which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and filled themselves and grown fat, then they will turn to other gods and serve them; and they will provoke Me and break My covenant. Then it shall be, when many evils and troubles have come upon them, that this song will testify against them as a witness; for it will not be forgotten in the mouths of their descendants, for I know the inclination of their behavior today, even before I have brought them to the

land of which I swore to give them."

Deut 31:19-21

The song is recorded in Deuteronomy 32 and highlights God's past and future relationship with Israel. The song starts out by reminding them to listen to the words of the song. Next comes a statement of praise. *For I proclaim the name of the Lord: Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.* The song goes on to tell the story of the rocky relationship God has had with Israel. He also tells them what awaits them in the future for their idol worship. He would bring them low and prove to them that their idol worship is in vain. However, after they learn their lesson, God will deliver them from the hand of their enemies. He will demonstrate His unending love for them by destroying their enemies.

God wanted this story told in a song so everyone would remember it when they were suffering due to their disobedience. Song and story are a powerful duo.