

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

20 July 2014

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:2

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Learning to Rely on God (2 Corinthians 1:8-11)

A.M. Lesson:

Double Standards (Matthew 7:1-6)

P.M. Lesson:

To the Elders (1 Peter 5:1-4)

Wednesday:

Hoshea, Last King of Israel
(2 Kings 17)

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

Charity Begins at Home

John Proctor

We are often ready to form opinions on the people we deal with. 'Be careful' is the warning here. Of course Jesus expected people to use their common sense: there is a place for discernment, for dealing wisely and appropriately with the different people we meet (7:6, 15-20). But we need to deal humbly and patiently too. Critical gossip, comment that demeans and destroys, interference without love, and opinion without knowledge—all of this is ruled out.

Jesus' story about specks and logs sounds like a memory of the carpenter's shop: eyes sting and stream as the dust flies around. The story applies, of course, to judging: we have to deal with our own failings first. Clarity begins at home: the one person whose faults we can tackle is ourselves. Maybe later, our experience will leave us in a position to offer help to others (v. 5). But the main point is to avoid judgments we are not in a position to make. In particular we should avoid trying to do God's job for him. True assessment of a person's faith and worth is a judgment only God can make.

Matthew. (Peabody: Hendrickson, 2001), 58.

Further Editorial: The notion that Christians are NEVER to judge (a claim usually incorrectly supported by Matthew 7:1) is contradicted by Matthew 7:6. *Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you* (NRSV). This verse tells Christians to be discerning about people—a kind of judgment. -Neil Short

The Compassion-led Christian

Jack Dodgen

How can we as Christians model the compassion of Christ in our lives? The comments of Jesus in Matthew 25:31-46, are a great starting point. At the end of the chapter Jesus tells a story of what will happen when He comes back in Judgment. The people will be gathered before Him and on one side he will place the sheep (the faithful) and on the other side He will place the goats (unfaithful). The sheep are encouraged to take their rightful place in the kingdom of Heaven. The goats are not allowed entrance in and inquire as to why. Jesus simply responds by saying:

I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was

thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me (Matthew 25:42-43).

The difference between the two groups was compassion. One gave and loved and served their fellow man; the other extended no such compassion and comfort. Followers of Christ are supposed to be people who care and extend compassion to all those they interact with.

In the society we live in there is no excuse not to be compassionate. If you are an American, you are richer than nearly the entire world. We have money to spare. We spend millions on the latest technology, next to nothing on the hurting of society. We must do better. Christ calls us to better compassion, not by a whisper in our ears but by the breath of Scripture. Charities, soup kitchens, benevolence ministries and clothing drives abound. There is no excuse to not be compassionate. Give some spare change, buy a hungry family a meal, take clothes to those without any, listen to someone whose heart is crying out. Show people the compassion of Christ. Jesus reached out in compassion before He reached out with salvation's message. That method worked for Jesus, and it will work for us as well. Let us end the preaching of the compassionless gospel and instead extend the full message of Christ—His compassion and His salvation.

Think. June 2014.

Does God Wait?

Is God really “outside” of time? Does God ever wait patiently and endure to a breaking point?

Isaiah 42:14-15

"I have been inactive for a long time; I kept quiet and held back. Like a woman in labor I groan; I pant and gasp. I will make the trees on the mountains and hills wither up; I will dry up all their vegetation. I will turn streams into islands, and dry up pools of water (New English Translation).

Genuine Righteousness

Let's face it: We constantly measure ourselves against other people. We think, *I'm not that bad. At least I don't swear like Haley. Or, I'm better than*

Ashley because I read my Bible. But Jesus says not to get caught up in “comparative righteousness.” Your righteousness before God isn't based on how good you are compared to someone else—it's based on whether or not you've placed your faith in Christ's perfect righteousness and his forgiveness. For every speck in someone else's eye, there's likely a log in your own. So quit pointing the finger, and deal with your own issues instead.

True Images Bible for Teen Girls (Zondervan).



News

Tatyana Knowlton is visiting family in Russia and Ukraine.

Potluck is today after worship.

Prayer List:

Bill and Barbara Eisenberg, H.L. Boling, Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Nicolas and Annie Self, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.

