

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

14 June 2015

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Addressing needs (John 4)

A.M. Lesson:

God's holy people (Ephesians 4:17f)

P.M. Lesson:

Rules for applying parables (Matthew 13)

Wednesday:

Love and unity in the church (Romans 14:1-15:13)

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	11:00 A.M.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:2
Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.

Reject sin because sin is wrong

M. W. Bassford

<http://hisexcellentsword.blogspot.com>

Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?"

--Genesis 50:19

When Jacob finally dies, at the exceedingly ripe old age of 147, that puts Joseph's brothers in a newly precarious position. After all, they are still the men who sold the second most powerful man in Egypt into slavery, they are still totally dependent on him for their sustenance, and it's totally possible that Joseph has only withheld vengeance because of his respect for his father. Now that Jacob's dead, though, the brothers fear that Joseph is about to blast him, so they come to him, begging his forgiveness and reminding him that Jacob really wanted them kept alive.

Joseph responds to this in characteristic fashion. He's so upset by their obvious fear of him that he himself weeps, and he assures them that he's going to care for them and their children. This is all based, though, on the rhetorical question that he asks in v. 19. Even though he was certainly wronged, he does not regard himself as having the right to avenge, simply because he isn't God. All this time, he hasn't

been constrained by the desire to please Jacob. He's been constrained by his own sense of what is right.

We need to apply Joseph's reasoning not only when we are tempted to take revenge, but in our dealings with sin generally. Sometimes, we resist temptation because we believe sin is unwise, not because we believe it is wrong. For example, we might resolve never to commit adultery because we have considered the consequences. We see that adulterers frequently slip up and get caught, and we know that if we get caught, it will ruin our marriage, our family life, our standing with brethren at church, and possibly even our employment future. The reward of sin is clearly not worth the risk, so we reject the sin.

That reasoning is fine, as far as it goes, but it is not complete. If our resolve to do right is based on our situation, what will happen if the situation changes? What will we do if the devil convinces us that we've got this new sneaky way to commit adultery so that we are certain never to be discovered? Of course, God always knows, and most sneaky adulterers aren't as sneaky as they think they are, but something doesn't have to be true for the devil to get us to believe it. If we aren't convinced that adultery is wrong regardless of consequences, that may well be a temptation to which we succumb.

The only sure protection against sin is the conviction that it is wrong, not because of its bad

results for us, but because of its very nature. Those bad results are always there. That's why God decreed certain thoughts and actions to be sinful in the first place. However, even if we can't see the bad results, we must be like Joseph and reject it.

The gospel's power should be evident in my life

*Let these false prophets tell their dreams,
but let my true messengers faithfully proclaim
my every word.*

There is a difference between straw and grain!
(Jeremiah 23:28, NLT)

True prophets and false prophets are as different as straw and wheat. Straw is useless for food and cannot compare to nourishing wheat. To share the gospel is a great responsibility because the way we present it and live it will encourage people either to accept it or reject it. Whether we speak from a pulpit, teach in a class, or share with friends, we must accurately communicate and live out God's Word. As you share God's Word with friends and neighbors, they will look for its effectiveness in your life. Unless it has changed you, why should they let it change them? If you preach it, make sure you live it! (Life Application Study Bible notes)

**THIS WORLD HAS
REDEFINED
THE WORD LOVE**

WARNING

IT NOW MEANS

- **ACCEPTANCE OF ALL FALSE RELIGIONS**
- **TOLERANCE OF ALL SINFUL BEHAVIOR**
- **TOLERANCE OF FALSE DOCTRINES**
- **REFUSAL TO REBUKE & EXPOSE ANYONE**
- **NEVER OFFEND ANYONE WITH TRUTH**

News:

Mike Cavassos' twin brother Mark is receiving treatment for a heart aneurysm.
Floyd Dodd is receiving treatments for cancer
P.J. Waller is expected to have spinal disk surgery in July.

Prayer List:

Hattie Hedrick—poor health
Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration
Ken Cocke—back and shoulder pains
Janet Radar—nursing home
H.L. Boling—general health and complications from leukemia
Mike Cavasos—constant pain, foot surgeries
Sandy Cavasos—degenerative disk disease
Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs

Neil Short, editor. neshort@yahoo.com.
<http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>

