



TRUE LIGHT

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE NOTICED?

Many who read this will probably be very familiar with the account of a miracle found in Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, and Luke 5:17-26. If so, you will remember that some friends of a man who was paralyzed carried him to a house where Jesus was. The obvious supposition is that this was done in the hopes that something could be done about the man's condition.

As you may remember, the hopes were realized much beyond their expectations. Not only did Jesus make it possible for this man to walk, He did something far greater. He told the man that his sins were forgiven. In fact he did this before healing the man.

If you are familiar with this account, you will remember that when the men carrying their friend got to where Jesus was, they discovered that the house was crowded with people who were listening to Him as He taught. Because of the size of the crowd, the paralyzed man and his friends could not enter the house (at least as people ordinarily enter a house). Their solution was to go to the top of the house, remove a portion of the roof, and let their friend down to where Jesus was.

As I've been thinking about that incident in the earthly ministry of Jesus, I've been asking myself what I would have focused on if I had been there. I wonder what I would have noticed.

If I had been the owner of the house, I wonder if my focus would have been on the damage done to the roof and maybe the mess on the floor caused by removing part of the roof. Could that have been more important to me than the physical condition of another person? Could the condition of the house have been more important than a **soul**?



If I was one of the friends trying to get the man to Jesus or the man himself, would I have only seen the other people as obstacles? Would I have resented them for being at least physically closer to Him than I was?

If I happened to be among the people in the house, I wonder if I might have only focused on the interruption. I might have traveled some distance to listen to what Jesus had to say. Whether I was really interested, merely curious, or trying to find fault, I might have resented the interruption.

But, what if I was the one doing the teaching? Would I have joined with those who might have been bothered by the interruption? Would I have scolded those in the crowd for making it difficult for somebody to get close to me?

Would it be possible that I could be so focused on the house, the crowd, the time, or any number of other things that I would not even notice one person who had a real need? What if I had a way to help, but didn't or couldn't because my focus was on the wrong thing(s)?

I suppose that we could go on and on for quite a while with various possibilities, but the text tells us what Jesus saw. The Bible informs us about what Jesus saw in two words: **their faith**.

I pray that I'm not adding too much to the text by adding the following suggestion. I believe that, even in the midst of a very busy schedule and while He was doing something important, our Lord saw one person who desperately needed Him and what only He could do to help. If I am right about that, I hope that I will do a much better job of trying to follow His example and the example of the unnamed men who brought a friend to Jesus.

There are things much more important than crowds, schedules, possessions, etc. There may be one person who is trying to get me (or our) attention because of the belief that I (or we) can help.

Have we noticed?

Jim Vaughn, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

March 24, 2024

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Sunday School :
9:30 a.m.
Worship:
10:15 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
573-820-0329
David Carson
573-276-5567
Stan Dauck
573-293-5594

DEACONS

Wayne Reams
Rodney Williams

OFFICE: 573-293-5620
Bernie Church of Christ
P.O. Box 366
Bernie, MO 63822

EMAIL:
berniechurchofchrist
@gmail.com

WEBSITE:
www.berniechurchofchrist.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
Bernie church of Christ

*"This is the day the Lord
has made. Let us rejoice
and be glad in it."*

Psalms 118:24

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

**BIRTHDAYS/
ANNIVERSARIES**

March 24 - Ashley Johnson



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Salsa/Picante Sauce * Coffee * Cereal *
Tissues * Velveeta Cheese *
Chocolate Chips
Pick up date: May 20

WILLING TO SERVE

March 24, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Song Leader.....Dylan Seabaugh
Prayer.....Ron Garner
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

March 31, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Derek Mays
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Derek Mays
Dismissal.....David Burleson

A BRAND NEW IDEA: YOU!

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God - you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration - what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, the days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day (Psalm 139:13-16 MESSAGE).

God made you and then broke the mold. Every single baby is a brand new idea from the mind of God. Scan history for your replica; you won't find it. God tailor-made you. You aren't one of many bricks in the mason's pile or one of a dozen bolts in the mechanic's drawer. You are it!

And if you aren't you, we won't ever get you. The world misses out. You offer a gift to society that no one else brings. When you and I do what we do the best, and do it for the glory of God, the Bible says that we are *marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body* (Romans 12:5 MESSAGE). You play no small part because there is no small part to be played when God crafts you. God *shaped each person in turn* (Psalm 33:15 MESSAGE). We need you to be you. And you need to be you.

Because when God made you, He broke the mold!

Max Lucado, via www.heartlight.org

Attendance for March 17: 83

Contribution for March 17: \$ 3340

***this bulletin was printed in advance. Please listen to announcements for any updates we may have**

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Helen McGowan had a scan Monday which showed cancer on the non-viable kidney * **Trish Baldwin** doing better after suffering a recent fall * **Becky Johnson** will be having additional surgery in a few months * **Roxanne Carson, Rodney Britt, and Joe Vincent** currently undergoing treatments for cancer * **Sue Flowers** continuing to decline but has had a few good days recently * **Maura Thomason** will be having a fluoroscopy and a steroid epidural on her spine April 11 *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Burleson * David Carson * Scott and Judy Flannery * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuin * Gloria Moore * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beaird * Cathy Bennett * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Patricia Greninger * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Kristin Meadows * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Mike Napier * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Bill Peck * Nikki Reif * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Alan Woodward

Other health issues (non-congregational):

We are updating our sick list. If you have someone you'd like added to the list, please let Amy know.

Our Shut Ins

Sue Flowers * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

TODAY - Children's Easter party/egg hunt at the building at 3 p.m. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer for those who would like to attend and/or help.

Today through March 27 - Gospel Meeting at Fisk with guest speaker Todd Clippard.

Wednesday Fellowship Meal: Breakfast for supper. Desserts will be needed.

March 31 - We will have an Easter dinner in the fellowship room following morning worship. A sign up sheet is on the table in the foyer. If you think you'd like to be a part of this meal, please please sign the sheet.

April 7-10 - Our Gospel Meeting with Brent Newton. The theme is "The Love of God." Fliers are available on the table in the foyer. Be praying now for a successful meeting.

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to the family of our brother Larry Summers, who passed away March 17. Larry had a graveside service March 20 in Bernie. Please continue to remember Kendra, Cassie and the entire family in your prayers as they face the difficult days ahead.

MISSING SOMETHING?



Our lost and found has grown to quite a collection. If you are missing glasses, Bibles, or any other smaller objects, please check our lost and found section over by the grocery cart in the foyer.

