



TRUE LIGHT

LET'S GO SOMEWHERE ELSE

*When they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"
Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else..." (Mark 1:37-38 TNIV).*

Following Jesus and ministering in his name fills life with hard choices. I faced some of those tough choices this past Friday. These hard choices led me to ask some hard questions:

- When does compassion become the opportunity for others to take advantage of God's community?
- Is there a time to ignore the professional "panhandler" who continues to live irresponsibly by taking advantage of well-intentioned people?
- Can you walk away from someone, even those who are trying to take advantage of your kindness, and move on to another pressing need you feel is more important?
- How do you know the difference between your own self-serving avoidance of a needy person and true mission-guided opportunity?

Jesus faced these challenges often. Many folks are startled to learn that Jesus actually did walk away from folks who were seeking him for a miracle (Mark 1:35-45) and he did "run off" folks who were trying to take advantage of his miracle-working ability for their own selfish interests (John 6:26-66). Yet, as the story about healing a man with leprosy makes clear (Mark 1:40-45), Jesus ministered out of his deep compassion for broken and wounded folks who needed his touch, his grace, and his power. So how can we know how to do what Jesus did and do it appropriately?

...many of us have simply given up spending time with God on a daily basis. We're often just living off the residue of a past relationship with God, but are no longer in directly daily communion with our Father.

Clearly, Jesus didn't walk away from folks in need out of selfishness or avoidance. When he left behind those who were looking for him, he did so to specifically live out his God-ordained mission (Mark 1:38). He was able to discern between the two because he had tuned his heart to that mission through his regular times with the Father early in the morning while it was still dark, in a time and place of intentional prayer (Mark 1:35). What's more, when presented with a need directly in his path, Jesus did more than just physically heal: he touched and validated the value of people even when it wasn't culturally acceptable to do so (Mark 1:41). When Jesus did "run off" folks with his strong teaching, he didn't do it for selfish reasons. He did it to avoid the misperceptions and wrong desires of those seeking to highjack (John 6:14-27) - in other words, people were wanting Jesus to abandon his God-ordained ministry to give them what they wanted.

So what are we to make of all this? For me, Jesus' example provides us some good principles to help us in this struggle to balance compassion and mission.

First, I'm called to be compassionate as a follower of Jesus and I will be judged based on how I respond to people's needs. Second, I must stick to the mission God has given me and not get side-tracked by doing what is good when God has called me to do what is best (Mark 1:38; Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:6-8). Third, when a person who has needs is in my path, I must act with compassion and care, even if it interferes with some things I have planned to do (Mark 1:40-45; Luke 10:25-37). Fourth, and the focus of my concern today, I've got to spend time with the Father tuning my heart to his will if I'm going to know how to stay on mission (Mark 1:35-38). While we can distill guidelines - like we're doing here - there's nothing that can replace living in the stories and events of Jesus' life to help us get a feel for how to live for him in these situations. When added to personal prayer where we offer ourselves to God and ask for his wisdom, this time with the Father in Scripture and prayer becomes a conduit of God's guidance and grace to help us (James 1:5-6; cf. James 4:17).

Those of us who claim to follow Jesus are so often involved with books about Jesus and Christian stuff, we are so into the personalities and events of our religious world, and we are so busy in our regular lives that many of us have simply given up spending time with God on a daily basis. We're often just living off the residue of a past relationship with God, but are no longer in direct daily communion with the Father.

Supplements to your daily walk with God can't replace regular daily Bible reading and prayer time. I strongly encourage you to commit yourself to daily time in the word using a method like Wayne Cordeiro outlines in his new book "The Divine Mentor" or by using one of many available daily Bible reading plans. Without opening our hearts to God, without his stories from Scripture in the hands of the Holy Spirit to shape us and form our values, we are left adrift on the sea of good intentions, caught in the winds of our own culture's biases, and left to decide based on our own selfish whims. Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

July 14, 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

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
Bernie church of Christ

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

Psalm 118:24

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

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

July 15 - Jason McGowan
 July 16 - Rick & Ginger Beard (A)
 July 17 - Kevin Mays
 July 19 - Walker Boyt
 July 20 - Cindy Williams



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Spaghetti Sauce * Pasta Noodles * Stick
 Deodorant * Sugar * Canned Drinks *
 Kitchen Tash Bags (13 Gallon)
 Pick up date: August 26



WILLING TO SERVE

July 14, 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.....Derek Mays
 Prayer.....Wayne Reams
 Scripture.....Sam Garner
 Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
 Prayer.....David Burleson
 Dismissal.....Mike Duley

July 21, 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.....Rodney Williams
 Prayer.....Derek Mays
 Scripture.....Ron Garner
 Dismissal.....David Burleson

FLEXING FAITH MUSCLES

During a trip to the zoo, I stopped to rest near the sloth exhibit. The creature hung upside down. He seemed content being completely still. I sighed. Because of my health issues, I struggled with stillness and desperately wanted to move forward, to do something - anything. Resenting my limitations, I longed to stop feeling so weak. But while staring at the sloth, I observed how he stretched one arm, gripped a nearby branch, and stopped again. Being still required strength. If I wanted to be content with moving slowly or being as still as the sloth, I needed more than incredible muscle power. To trust God with every dragging moment of my life, I needed *supernatural power*.

In Psalm 46, the writer proclaims that God doesn't just *give us* strength, He *is* our strength (v 1). No matter what's going on around us, the *Lord Almighty is with us* (v 7). The psalmist repeats this truth with conviction (v 11).

Like the sloth, our day-to-day adventures often require slow steps and extended periods of seemingly impossible stillness. When we rely on God's unchanging character, we can depend on His strength no matter what plan and pace He determines is right for us.

Though we may continue to battle afflictions or struggle with waiting, God remains faithfully present. Even when we don't *feel* strong, He'll help us flex our faith muscles.

Xochitl Dixon

One must maintain a little bit of summer, even in the middle of winter. Henry David Thoreau

Attendance for July 7: 107

Contribution for July 7 : \$4404

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Marty Howard struggling with back and other health issues * **Beverly Pruitt** at home and struggling with a lot of pain * **Janie Burleson** continuing to improve * **Pat Cooper** improving and hoping to be released from Cypress Point *

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 McKuim * Gloria Moore * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beard * Cathy Bennett * Rodney Britt * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Audrey Galloway * Emily Garner * Patricia Greninger * Stan Goodman * 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 * Joe Vincent * Alan Woodward

Our Shut Ins

Sue Flowers * Ida Roberts * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

July 16: Ladies Lunch Out at Mongolian Grill in Sikeston. Note this is a week later than usual due to camp. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

July 17: Our Summer Speaker this week is Mitchell Rogers, minister at the Green Forest church of Christ in Poplar Bluff. There is a list of speakers on the table in the foyer.

July 21-24: Vacation Bible School at Bernie. Our theme this year is "God's Team: Stories of God's Power." We will need lots of help and lots of cookies! A sign up sheet is on the table in the foyer.

July 29: Summer Youth Series hosted by the Bernie congregation. Don't put away your cookie recipes from VBS yet!

August 2-3: Youth Rally at Arnold. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

August 4: First Sunday potluck and early evening service. We will have a potluck meal following morning worship, and a 1 p.m. evening service. Everyone is invited to attend.

August 20: Ladies' "T" party at the home of Amy Thomason. Details to follow.

