



TRUE LIGHT

February 23, 2025

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

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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***

Loose Lug Nuts and the Rag Tag Band

Jesus turned the religious pecking order upside down. The last, the least, and the lost became the focus of his ministry. These people flocked to Jesus, and he changed their lives forever. Yes, there were a few important people who did follow Jesus from time to time. Yes, some of Jesus' key followers came from the very devout "pious poor" who were waiting for God to act. However, most of Jesus' followers could generally be classified as a collection of loose lug nuts - folks on the margins of religious and polite society. At best, the Lord's followers were a ragtag band of men and women from dysfunctional families, questionable pasts, and lives full of hard problems.

So, why are these types of people, these loose lug nuts, and the ragtag band that followed Jesus in his day, reluctant to be around Jesus' followers today? Aren't we supposed to be the bodily presence of Jesus in the world today?

When we take the Lord's Supper, we are made into Jesus' body, and we are called to continue Jesus' mission (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Luke 19:10). While this one body reality in the Supper is a call to holiness, it is also a call to mission. In the Supper, we pledge to be the ongoing presence of Jesus to the world that is just as broken as the one he came to serve. When we take the bread, we are accepting his mission in our world.

What then, do Jesus' actions with Levi and his friends teach us? What do they say about Jesus' desire to heal what is most broken in us? What do they tell us about our need to be in the world of sinners so that we can introduce the Friend of sinners to them? What do Jesus and Levi's actions teach us about the people with whom we should share the table? Who should be at our table of grace?

Let's remember Jesus' call of Levi (also called Matthew) and see what the Holy Spirit is calling us to hear in this important story of redemption, grace, and mission:

Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that were coming to him. As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him.

Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.) But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with such scum?"

When Jesus heard this, he told them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor - sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners" (Mark 2:13-17 NLT).

Jesus' actions challenge us to ask hard questions. These questions are not easily answered.

Mark's previous stories about Jesus' help us frame these questions. In Mark's previous story, we meet four dedicated friends who had a paralyzed friend they could not get to Jesus. They loved their immobilized friend so much that they dug a hole in the roof to get their sick friend to Jesus (Mark 2:1-12). Jesus surprised the four friends by first forgiving their buddy of his sins before he healed their friend of his paralysis.

Jesus' actions carried the not so subtle reminder that all of us need our sinful brokenness healed just as much as we need our physical brokenness healed. In the story Mark shared before the one about the four friends, Jesus touched a leprous man before he healed the man (Mark 1:40-45). Technically, what the Lord did was against the Law. Rather than Jesus being soiled, stained, and contaminated by touching the leper, the holiness of Jesus brought love and fellowship to the man before he was healed.

God's grace brings care for the body, soul, and spirit. Outcasts are welcomed, loved, and brought to healing. Sometimes that healing breaks the isolation of emotionally being abandoned and left alone. Sometimes that healing forgives the sin of the one being healed physically. That grace is always shared personally, intentionally, and specifically to bring the person in need to wholeness - *shalom*, the full Jewish sense of wholeness, blessing, and peace.

As Jesus' bodily presence in the world - his second incarnation - what do Jesus' actions mean for us? What do Levi's actions of bringing his "sinful" friends to a dinner party with Jesus mean about our fellowship with those "outside" our normal table fellowship?

While I believe there are some important principles for us to carry with us from these stories, I'm more concerned that we ask ourselves some hard questions. These questions focus on our own practices of table fellowship, friendship, and mission. I want us to wrestle with why the folks at Matthew's party are not generally the folks sharing the Lord's Supper table with Jesus' bodily presence today?

Could it be that we are more afraid of being contaminated by the world than motivated by Jesus to be salt and light?

Continued on back

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

February 24 - Linda LeCroy
Wayne Reams
February 25 - Kendra Summers
February 27 - Titus Dauck
Beverly Pruitt
March 2 - Mark Clayton



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Muffin Mixes * Instant Rice * Dish-
washing Detergent * Pasta (Bow Tie,
Penne, Rotini) * HE Laundry Detergent
* Stick Deodorant
Pick up date April 28, 2025

WILLING TO SERVE

February 23, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Ryan Young
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....Wayne Reams
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

March 2, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Aiden Owens
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Steve Jones
Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson
Prayer.....Justin Allen
Scripture.....Ron Garner
Dismissal.....David Burleson

Attendance for February 16: 94

Contribution for February 16: \$4391

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jett Brown has been sick with a stomach virus * **Judy Snyder** doing much better * **Darlene McGowan** remains in Winchester Place for rehab and is improving * **Chase Burch** recovering from ankle surgery * **Kendra Summers** recovering from a couple of falls resulting in fractured vertebrae and a fractured shoulder * **Janie Burleson** is continuing to slowly improve * **Ida Roberts** has been placed on palliative care * **Cathy Provance** will be having hip replacement surgery in the next six to eight weeks * **Jerry Collier** still having some issues with double vision and has begun therapy * **Brian Thomason's** ultrasound on his carotid artery was rescheduled due to weather.

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Cody Boyt * Janie Burleson * David Burleson * David Carson * Pat Cooper * Sue Flowers * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McQuin * Gloria Moore * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beaird * Cathy Bennett * Rodney Britt * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Tammy Clark * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Audrey Galloway * Emily Garner * Patricia Greninger * Stan Goodman * Renee Goodman * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Kristin Meadows * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Nikki Reif * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Joe Vincent * Alan Woodward

Our Shut Ins

Pat Cooper * Sue Flowers * Ida Roberts * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

TODAY: Johnny Hester will be our guest speaker.

February 26: Our Wednesday fellowship meal will be fried chicken and the fixins'. Desserts will be needed.

March 2: 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 encouraged to attend both the potluck and early service.

March 6: Ladies Retreat planning meeting at 6:30 in the fellowship room.

March 11: Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at Dexter Pizza Company in downtown Dexter. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

March 14 & 15: Inspiration 2025 at Dexter church of Christ. The theme is "Branded" with guest speaker Joe Wells. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

March 16-19: Gospel Meeting at Gideon with guest speaker Brent Newton.

April 6-9: Our Gospel Meeting with Bryan McAlister. Be praying for a successful meeting.

Continued from front:

Where do we take the opportunity to have table fellowship with people trapped in a world of decay and darkness? When do we invite to our table those alienated from grace by the seemingly impenetrable social and religious barriers erected by culture, prejudice, and wrong-headed religion? If we did invite them, would they want to come? How do we make friends who need this grace and might to come to the table of grace?

What could energize and convict us that as Jesus' bodily presence, we can reverse the contamination of sin in those broken by life and make them acceptable at the table of the Lord? What would happen if we realized that our friendship with those in the world were an opportunity to bring Jesus' grace to those who need it most? What if we realized that our friendship with those in the world is not *friendship with the world* (James 4:4), but actually our mission (Matthew 28:18-20) given to us by Jesus? Even more, what if we recognize that our world and its desires are fleeting and doomed to failure (1 John 2:15-17), so we must be friends with those in the world so that they can experience grace and God's eternal love for them?

I don't know about you, but Levi's example has touched me. The Lord's openness to share his meals with the least, last, and lost convicts me. So every time I sit at the Lord's Table, I want to hear Jesus' challenge to make our table into Levi's table! As I take the bread and the wine, I'm going to listen to the Lord's word's once again: *Healthy people don't need a doctor - sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.*

When I remember those words, I'm going to realize that I too was once one of the least, last, and the lost. I'm going to be thankful that someone who knew grace brought me to this table and to friendship with Jesus. Most of all, I'm going to remember that I have a lot of friends caught up in the world of decay and darkness who need to meet my Friend at Levi's table with me.

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

Bible Trivia: In what book of the Bible do we find mention of the stars singing? * How many times is the word suburbs mentioned in the Bible?

Answers: Job 38:7 * One hundred fifteen