



LET'S VISIT

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OUR SENSE OF VALUES

One of the things that Jesus always insisted on was having first place in the hearts of his followers. In fact, he claimed that a man's relationship to God must have a priority over all other relationships.

Hear what he said in Luke 14:26, "*If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*" You see, there were some who wanted to be followers of Jesus who wanted to do something else before they were ready to join his company. Yet, Jesus plainly told them he could not use them if they gave first place in their hearts to other duties.

In another place in the gospel according to Luke (chapter 9 verses 57-63) we find this reading; "*And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*" The question of whether or not these other duties were legitimate and good in themselves is unimportant. The important fact is that Jesus demanded that he be first.

Why would Jesus demand that the relationship of every man and every woman to him give him first place? Jesus was never given to petty jealousy as we mere mortals often are. Certainly he did not mean for

a man or woman to literally hate their father and mother and their other loved ones. However, if love for any person on earth would interfere or compete with the place that Jesus Christ should have in the life of a Christian, then we must give the "right of way" to our love for Christ or else we will not truly be disciples.

Jesus knew that a man or woman's sense of values would determine their choice and no one who would deem their relationship to Christ to be of secondary importance can understand the meaning of the abundant life that Jesus came to bestow on them that love him.

Jesus found among the people of his day the same frantic worry and concern about material things that is so ingrained in our society today. He found their tiniest energies were consumed in storing up treasures on the earth while everything on this earth is insecure at best. He found them attempting to serve two masters, to be the slaves of God and gold at the same time.

To be sure, people were not different when Jesus walked the dusty roads of Palestine than they are today. They asked the same questions then that trouble the world today. What shall we eat? What shall we drink? What shall we wear? The answer Jesus gave then is recorded in Matthew 6:33, "*Seek*

(Continued on page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There

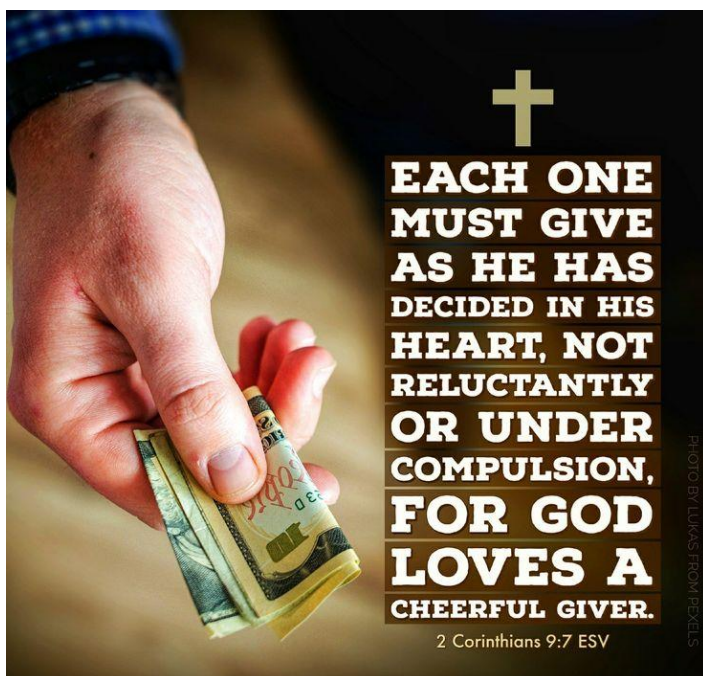


As Ye Have Prospered

**For The Pantry. . .
February 2 – Tuna**

Offering – January 26, 2025 . . \$ 2,435.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"



Our Sense Of Values – continued from page 1

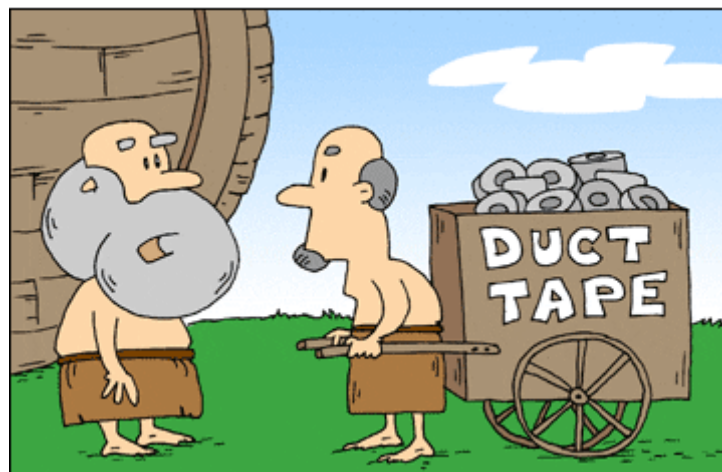
ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

In spite of Jesus' beautiful illustration of God's care for the birds and flowers, people hesitate to trust God by seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Many depend on their own ability to get along, their own mastery of all situations, instead of depending on God and his promises.

We can test our loyalty to the kingdom by counting up our choices. What are the considerations behind our choices day by day? By what standard of values do we live? Do we count the kingdom of great value? Our first choice will reveal by what standard of values we live.

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



**GOOD EFFORT, BUT GOD SAID TO USE
PITCH**

The Grumbler

In every town and city,
Some people can be found,
Who spend their
time in grumbling,
At everything around.
They grumble if we
speak to them,
They grumble if we won't.
They grumble if we visit them,
They grumble if we don't
They grumble at the preaching,
They grumble at the prayer,
They grumble at the singing,
They grumble everywhere.
But if we live for Jesus,
And persecutions bear,
When we get to heaven
There will be no grumblers there.

-copied



Sunday March 2nd

Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 2, 2025.
That's the day for our annual

“Pack-a-Pew Sunday”

Make your plans to be here, bring a guest and let's
have a great day to the glory of God!

Hospitality Group 1 will be in charge of the
luncheon that day. The members of that group
are: Marsha Bounds, LaResa Livingston, Betty
Miller, Lisa Miller and Melonie Molloy.

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Wednesday FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Our next Wednesday night Fellowship Meal will be on
Wednesday, February 26, 2025. Make your plans to be
here and meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 for our
meal together followed by our monthly singing
together.

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REMEMBER Next Sunday February 9, 2025

There will be a men's business
meeting in the church offices
immediately following the morning
worship. All men of the
congregation are encouraged to
attend.



OUR “CHURCH FAMILY”

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden,
Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout,
Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

“EXTENDED FAMILY” AND FRIENDS

Tony Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy
hospitalized) Coleen Dickerson (friend of Cissy Amos with
leukemia) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother
and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues)
Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Emily Heflin (Mike
Bostick's niece recovering from surgery) Debbie Lynn
(Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Lamar
McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues)
Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons
Stewart (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer;
J. C. Tate (Jana O'Brien's father)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw,
Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

Make a note of the dates of these activities on the
Calendar for 2025.

March 2, 2025 – “Pack-A-Pew Sunday”

April 25-27, 2025 – Area-Wide Singing and
Gospel meeting with Phil Sanders.

June 1, 2025 – Covered Dish Luncheon

September 7, 2025 – Friends & Family Day

December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday

December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

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*A warning sign cannot talk, but it is not as dumb as
the guy that pays no attention to it.*

*The “courage of my convictions” is a fancy title
many bigots give to their prejudices.*

*Many a person fails in life because when
opportunity knocks he is out in the back yard
looking for four-leaf clovers.*



Across The Preacher's Desk

There are two passages of scripture that tell us in plain language who we belong to and the price that was paid for us. In I Corinthians 6:19-20, Paul tells us that we are not our own but that we were bought with a price. Then, Peter declares in I Peter 1:18-20 that the price was the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

We belong to God. Not only did God create us, he redeemed us with the precious blood of his only begotten son. The essential fact of Christianity is that God thought that all men and women were worth the sacrifice of his son. God thought it was worth the life and death of Jesus to bring men and women home to him.

Not only has God redeemed us, he also has preserved us. Whoever we are and wherever we go, God has brought us through the changes and chances of life to the point where we are right now. God has preserved us in danger, upheld us in sorrow, healed us in sickness and cared for us. This life of ours does not belong to us. This life belongs to God. He created us, he preserves and cares for us and he redeemed us. That is why we should use it with reverence and care. You see, this life cost God so much, we dare not waste it. We should declare with every action of our life that we belong to God.

it's something to think about.....tlp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**