



# LET'S VISIT

**A Publication of the Center Church of Christ  
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## HOW TIGHT IS YOUR HALO?

I remember telling a young preacher one time to always remember that a sermon does not have to be eternal to be immortal. I am not a fan of long sermons. Jesus didn't preach long sermons. He did however say what needed to be said.

Have you ever been around folks who do good things, and yet they want to make sure that others know about the good things that they did? You see, for some people it's all about image, about looking good. To the Jew there were three great cardinal works of religion. They were charity, prayer and fasting. Jesus did not have a problem with these things. However, in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapter 6 and verses 1 through 18 we find that He did have a problem with people performing those acts with the wrong motive.

A person may give to charity, not to really help the person in need, but to demonstrate their own generosity so they can receive praise for what they have done. An individual can pray in such a way that their prayer is not really addressed to God but to man. Someone may fast, not really for the good of their own soul but simply to show off their self disciplined character.

What do you say when someone has their religion or piety on display? We say they are wearing their halo too tight! When you halo is too tight all kinds of complications set in. Wear a hat too tight and you get a headache. Wear your halo too tight, and you give others a headache. You run them off and make Christianity distasteful.

Advertising is a good thing in the retail business. Yet, there are some things that advertising kills. One is humility. Advertise it and it becomes pride. Humility is a gift that at the moment you realize you have it, it's gone. Advertising also kills spirituality.

Advertise it and it becomes hypocrisy. In the passage we cited a moment ago, Jesus speaks out against wearing your halo too tight. He warns us we are to avoid any demonstration of superior piety.

When we do good deeds for attention, our halo is too tight. Did those folks Jesus referenced really go around blowing a trumpet? I think not. However, Jesus is telling us when we do something good, we are not to go around tooting our own horn. If we receive the applause of men we have our reward. When things are done with the wrong motive, it is like God turns his back and does not give notice to our good deed.

Jesus continues by telling his audience they are not to pray to impress others, not to pray like the hypocrites do. Our prayer is to be a sincere matter between us and God. For Jesus, prayer was personal, private communication with God. He told the disciples to pray in private. He said that God would see and reward their prayers. Jesus is not here condemning all public prayer. It is not wrong to pray in public. It is however wrong to pray in public if we are not in the habit of praying in private. Jesus also warns that the halo is too tight when we fast to appear spiritual. Like charity and prayer, fasting must come from the right motive. If it doesn't, it loses its value. The Jewish fasting customs were pretty simple. It was mandatory that you fasted once a year on the

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### 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



## *The Cure For A Troubled Heart*

**For The Pantry. . .  
March 30 – Rice**

**Offering – March 23, 2025 . . \$ 2,741.00**

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

**How Tight Is Your Halo? . . . - continued from page 1**

"Day of Atonement" from morning until dark. Other than that it was up to the individual when they fasted.

Many of the Pharisees fasted twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays. Those two days also happen to be the major Jewish market days. There would be farmers, merchants and shoppers everywhere. On those days they would have a bigger audience. There would be more folks to see and admire their piety.

The hypocrite would walk in the crowd calling attention to himself by not having his hair kept clean, wearing torn clothes, putting dirt and ashes on his face and some would even use makeup to look pale or sickly. The reward they wanted was recognition by men. That reward was the only reward they received in full according to Jesus.

Jesus said that when we fast, we are to comb our hair, wash our faces, and put on clean clothes. Our fasting is to be between us and God. We should do everything to make ourselves look normal and not attract attention to ourselves.

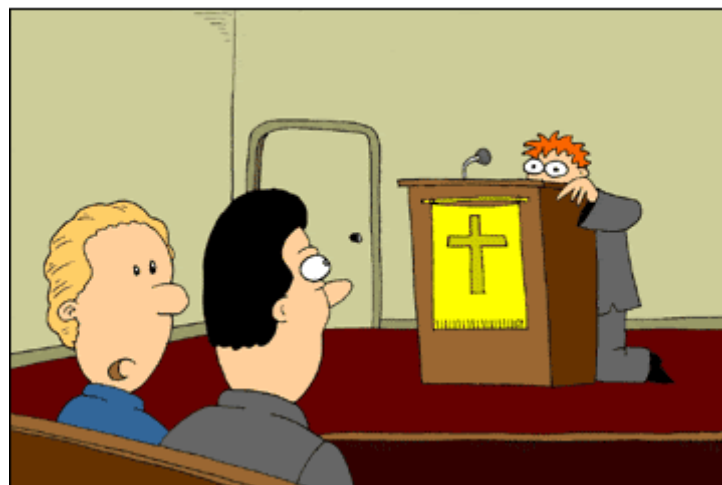
Obviously most of us are not accustomed to fasting. Jesus' point in this whole part of the sermon is that the good things we do are to be done for the

eyes of God and for his glory and not for our own glory and the "attaboys" of men.

No matter what it is that we do; preach, teach, sing, pray, fast, give to others or do good works. Jesus is telling us it must be done with a pure heart and the right motives for the glory of God.

tp

## *On The Lighter Side. . .*



***I heard this is our new preacher's  
first actual preaching gig***

***"Jest" for Fun. . . .***

***A true love for humanity will save us from  
becoming pessimists.***

***The size of your troubles usually depends on  
whether they are coming or going.***

***Did you hear about the man who worried so much  
and was so booked up on worries that he told a  
friend that if anything happened today, it would be  
two weeks before he could worry about it!***

***There are many individuals who throw their  
tongue into high gear and overdrive long before  
they get their brain started!***

***The world is looking for the man who can do  
something; not for the man who can "explain why  
he didn't do it.***



## Area-Wide Singing And Gospel Meeting

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

### PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR – NOW!

Area-wide Singing-Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 P.M.

Refreshments following the singing

Gospel Preaching –Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 P.M.

Covered Dish Luncheon following Sunday Morning Worship.

**Phil Sanders, Guest Speaker**

Norma Perkins, Sarah Fletcher, Jana O'Brien, Melonia Molloy and Marsha Bounds are in charge of the Hospitality for both the singing on Friday night and the Luncheon on Sunday.

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### Communion Preparation for April

Isaiah & Amanda Molloy



## Wednesday FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Our next Wednesday Fellowship meal will be on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Make your plans to be here and meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 for our meal together followed by our monthly singing.

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**GOSPEL MEETING** – San Augustine Church of Christ, April 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2025. Services at 7:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Dan Manuel from Palestine, Texas will be doing the preaching.

**MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING** – April 13, 2025 immediately following the morning worship in the church offices. 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

**Tami Abernathy** (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) **Richard Barbee** (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) **David Bissett** (Mike O'Brien's brother in law, cancer) **Dwayne Brister** (Cissy Amos' cousin) **Jane Adams Burkalter** (Diedra Hughes' cousin) **Debra Clifton** (friend of LaResa Livingston) **Coleen Dickerson** (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) **Leta Dozier** (Ryan Perkins' grandmother) **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) **Suzi Hogan** (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) **Wynell Lawson** (Diedra Hughes' aunt) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Norma Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) **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.**

**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!**



## **Across The Preacher's Desk**

One of the great inventions of the 20th century was the washing machine. It totally changed the back-breaking way that laundry had to be done. With the washing machine, you can put the clothes in, turn it on, come back in a few minutes and clean clothes are ready to be put in the dryer or hung on the clothesline (yes, some folks still do that!)

Yet, have you ever noticed how clothes sometimes come out of the washing machine? Often the shirts come out with the sleeves all twisted. Aprons come out with the strings tied in knots. This is caused by the outward pressure as the clothes are squeezed dry on the tub of the machine.

If you think about it, the spin of the washing machine often illustrates the way we live our lives. We spend our lives in a whirlwind of activity. Consequently, we often feel like we have been through the spin cycle and come out all tied in knots.

God never intended for us to live like that. Remember, Paul would write; "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6). Let's stop living our lives in the spin cycle.

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

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