

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor /Opening Prayer by: Daniel Balch

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#587 Sing and Be Happy

#517 Heaven Came Down

Scripture Reading by: Rock Cary

#313 The Old Rugged Cross

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#560 Living By Faith

Sermon: "He Could Have Saved Himself"

Mark 15:25-32

Let Him Have His Way with Thee

#712 Jesus Is coming Soon

Closing Prayer by: Bob Parker

Welcome by: Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#528 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

#742 When Upon Life's Billows

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen

Prayer by: Wayne Noonkester

#610 I Love My Savior, Too

Sermon: "One Word: Judgment"

Psalms 96:11-13

#948 I Am Resolved

#622 Ring Out the Message

Closing Prayer by: Kelly McCain

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship

Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

April 14, 2019

“Stand Firm in...Liberty”

Galatians 5:1

Work in the Vineyard Today

On the first day of the week before the Passover, Jesus arrived in Jerusalem in what has come to be known as the Triumphal Entry. He was greeted by crowds of people shouting *Hosanna to the son of David* – essentially, “God save the King” – and waving palm branches (**Matt 21:8-9**). In other words, he was greeted as a ruler. That did not sit well with the Jewish elites.

The situation intensified when Jesus entered the Temple and drove out the merchants, rebuking them for turning a house of prayer into a den of robbers. So the leaders challenged him, *By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?* (**Matt 21:23**). Jesus responded by asking a question about John the Baptist: was his baptism from God or from men? That caught the rulers on the horns of a dilemma: they could not deny John was a prophet without losing favor with the people, but they could not admit he was God’s man without being faulted for not following him. All they could muster was a copout. *We do not know* (**v. 27**). Jesus responded that he wouldn’t answer them either.

And then he told them a story. *A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” And he answered, “I will not” but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, “I go sir,” but did not go.* (**v. 28-30**) He applied that to his audience, without mincing words: the respectable religious leaders were the disobedient sons; the tax collectors and prostitutes were the obedient ones, and even those despised outcasts would enter the kingdom of God before them!

There is a lesson here for us. Consider the question Jesus asks to drive his point home: *Which of the two did the will of his Father?* (**v. 31**) This is the only question that really matters; all Scripture is saturated with that conviction. But it is best exemplified in the life of Jesus. As he put it, *I have come not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me* (**Jn 6:38**). So what is at stake here is doing or failing to do the will of God – and, when we consider the perfectly obedient example of Jesus, it is following or failing to follow him. The Father is God, and the vineyard is his Kingdom. The two sons are classes of people commanded to labor in it: those open sinners who refuse but then repent and earnestly labor, and those hypocrites who make promises they don’t keep.

Our Sick

Mark Wilcox had surgery this past week.

Pauline Taylor is back in the nursing home and under hospice care.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold & Geri Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Eric Davis, Dayla Hale, Minny Owen, J. P. Williams, Doris Trahan, Willo Dean Ellis, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Tem Meigs, Phillip Cottle, Gloria McKelroy

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Dr. Ronald Davis, Larry Hicks

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday at 7:00pm.

Singing at Magnolia Place Health Care today at 4:00 pm.

Family Egg Hunt for all ages, Saturday, April 20th at 11:00 am on the grounds. We will have hot dogs, chips and drinks. For more information see Susan McCain.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Joe Leonard. His funeral was Saturday.

"Singing with the Spirit" May 3rd-5th.

A workshop to enhance our appreciation and practice of singing for both the church and song leaders. There are Friday and Saturday sessions as well as a congregational singing Saturday evening. A detailed schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

New Phone Directory

We are in the process of updating our directory. Please check the list on the bulletin board to make sure your address, phone number and email are correct.

Communion Preparation: Virginia Pickard
Nursery Attendants: Tania Balch, Pat Hobbs

Communion Preparation for Sunday, April 21st: Barbara Pringle
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, April 21st: Jane Tinkle, Rita Upton

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That's the gist of the parable. But what does it mean for us? Think particularly about the command, *go and work in the vineyard today*. Let's note 3 things about that command:

1. **There is work to be done.** That should be obvious, and yet sometimes we seem blind to it. There is work to be done in meeting the physical needs of others, as we detailed in our sermon last week. But as great as that need is, there is a greater need in spiritual matters. There are areas of the world with a famine of the Word as great as any dearth of food we might imagine. And we are not just talking about far-flung parts of the globe. Did you know that the average attendance at churches of Christ across the country on Sunday morning is only 94? That's alarming when you consider that there are numerous 1,000+ member congregations that bolster that number. 54% of congregations average just 34 people on Sunday. That means we are above average here – that's good! – but there is still so much to do. And we should note for those who fail to do, 58 churches a year closed their doors forever in the last decade.

2. **Go work in the vineyard.** There is not merely work to be done, but it's God's work. Many people are eager to work, but not in the Father's vineyard. We are pretty good about working in our own vineyard for our own benefit. But how many of us work consistently for God? How many of us are willing to teach Bible classes? How many of us bring friends or neighbors to church? How many of us even pray or read our Bibles much? Sometimes we think about work in the church and imagine we aren't capable of much – but many of these are simple things. Jesus seemed to think he was working in the vineyard even on his knees; after all, the only work we know of that made him sweat was prayer! We are not all skilled to do the same kind of work. But God does call us to work.

3. **Go work today.** The need is now. We aren't needed in some indefinite future. God calls us to work today. Like the case of the two sons, this is the only day that exists. All that is necessary to waste our lives is to waste today.

God will not force us to obey him. He entreats us as a Father. We are his children. Will we do his will? Or will we profess to and then fail to act?

Bryant Perkins

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

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