

Playing Church

by Dan Jenkins

I will never forget that cottonwood tree just outside the back door of the house I lived in for my entire childhood. It was where we built our treehouse

and where the ropes for young “Tarzans” and swings for young children were anchored. But, the best memory I have of that tree was that several times every week we “played church” in its shade.

We were serious about “playing church”—I preached hundreds of sermons and lead hundreds of songs under its huge branches. However, just to be entirely truthful, if my mother offered us treats or suggested we go get a special toy at the “five and dime” store—talk about inflation, they are now called the dollar store—church ended!

Sometimes as I worship, I wonder if even now I fully comprehend the seriousness of worship. How far have I come from those days when I “played church”? The words God gave to two of His messengers come to my soul and create a longing for Him to help me to do more than “play church”—they help me to worship. “The Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him... Guard your steps as you go into the house of God and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools...for God is in heaven and you are on the earth” (Hab. 2:20; Ecc. 5:1-2).

It sometimes is far easier to “play church” and to just sing rather than to worship and praise Him. I know the words and melody of many songs but at those times when I sing, they come from my body and not my soul. Do you ever do this?

As I listen to godly men proclaim His message, I sometimes lose the attitude expressed by Cornelius, “We are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God” (Acts 10:33). God, at these times, help me. Mold me and make me... thou are the potter I am the clay.

We prayed under that cottonwood tree, but sometimes we missed the seriousness of prayer. Paul was in prayer, and when in prison, he asked others to pray for him because he truly believed he would be released from prison because of these very prayers (Phil. 1:19). Do you ever do this?

We used to pretend to give as we “played church.” Sometimes, I lose sight of how my giving is designed to help minister to the needy, to proclaim the gospel to the lost, to enable the church to be edified especially in our building and to “help” God accomplish His work.

The same is true of the Lord’s Supper. When I forget the cross, I close the door to spiritual maturity (2 Pet. 1:8-9). Do you ever do this? God help me to be changed by worshiping you. Forgive me when I just “play church.”

Resolution & Forgiveness

by Doug Dingley

We all have been there. It's a great day, everything is going fine, and then someone does something to hurt or offend us. Maybe, it's a co-worker,

our boss, a fellow student, a teacher, a clerk in the store, or even a member of our own family who says or does something that injures us physically, mentally, and/or emotionally. Our first instinct, usually, is to feel a bit surprised and angry. We are now at an important crossroads, a significant point of decision. We must now choose what our next response will be.

At this "fork in the road," we can choose the path that many take in this situation that leads to further anger. We may decide to remain angry and nurture this anger until it becomes expressed as malicious thoughts and hatred toward the person or persons who initially injured us. We may even use our time to formulate ways to "settle the score" with that person – to extract our "pound of flesh" as repayment for what they did to us. Holding closely to that "grudge" that gives meaning to our anger, we may now strike back by saying things intended to hurt their feelings and/or damage their reputation or even try to attack them physically. That same person may then be encouraged to respond in kind and so begins and is perpetuated the "cycle of hatred." Is this resolution? Does this solve the problem? Hardly!

Anger is a God-given emotion. Even our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at times, became angry (Matthew 21:12 – 13; Mark 3:5) yet He knew how to control it. We, too, are expected by our Creator to control our anger and not allow it to be transformed into sinful, malicious thoughts and outright hatred (Ephesians 4:26 – 27, 31; Colossians 3: 8). We cannot, must not hold onto our anger – that's the easy way out, the "path of least resistance." That sort of attitude leads only to further sin and even more frustration, guilt, anger, malice, and hatred.

There is another, better path to take when someone hurts or injures us. In Luke 17: 3–4, Jesus offers us all a way to achieve a positive, righteous, godly solution to just such a situation. He tells His disciples (and us today):

"Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a

day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." [NKJV]

Jesus clearly lays out a step-by-step process to resolving the issue. We must, first, make the effort to approach the person(s) who sinned against us and "rebuke" them. The word "rebuke" is translated from the Greek term EPITIMAO which means: "to tax upon, i.e. censure or admonish;... charge, rebuke." (1) We have to confront them and let them know, in no uncertain terms, that their actions were hurtful and wrong. They need to know! There is no doubt that people will do things intentionally, at times, to hurt and offend us. But there also circumstances where people can "sin against us" unintentionally, without knowing that they have done anything wrong. (We all have been guilty of this at one time or another.) Thus, we need to take the time to communicate with them about the matter. Then, once they have been informed, it is up to them to repent and make things right.

We must remember that forgiveness is not unconditional. It is always dependant on an attitude of repentance. Some may say: "I forgive everyone, even if they continue to sin against me!" How can that be? God only forgives us if we repent of our past sinful actions (Acts 2:38; 3:19; II Peter 3:9). We can do no more than what God does for us – He is our Creator (Isaiah 45:9 – 12; 64:8).

When the person who wronged us realizes that have they have sinned and approaches us with a spirit of true repentance then we should and must be ready to forgive them. This is to be forgiveness with a kind, loving attitude without any lingering resentment or ill-will on our part. Moreover, as our Lord and Master tells us in Luke 17, we should always maintain a spirit of forgiveness even toward those who frequently wrong us, even "...if he sins against you seven times in a day." We can do no less for we should always remember how much God has forgiven us! Let us be reminded what Paul wrote to the brethren at Ephesus: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

Correspondence/Encouragement

Inmate Correspondence:

Zachory Cabano #01886823

Beto Unit
1391 FM 3328
Tennessee Colony, TX 75880

Caleb Ivie #01946171

Segouia Unit
1201 E Cibolo Rd.
Edinburg, TX 78542

Paul Jones #01934698

Roach Unit
15845 FM 164
Childress, TX 79201

Missions Correspondence:

Cherokee Home for Children

Director: Delton McGuire
PO Box 295
Cherokee, TX 76832
Email: chc@centex.net

New Zealand Harvest Missions

James & Emily Cammock
PO Box 412
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand
Email: church-of-christ-cammock@hotmail.com

La Poynor Prison Ministry

Steve & Carrie Handley
11353 CR 4345
La Rue, TX 75770
Email: shandley56@gmail.com

WVBS Online School

Director: Russell Haffner
25 Lantana Ln.
Maxwell, TX 78656
Website: school.wvbs.org

Southwest School of Bible Studies:

Corey Tackett (2nd Year Student)

1215 W. Slaughter Ln. #1424
Austin, TX 78748

Encouragement:

Carolyn Bennett

917 Madison Square
Corsicana, TX 75110

Wanda Brown

3002 W 2nd Ave. #206
Corsicana, TX 75110

Don Bowen

3002 W 2nd Ave. #209
Corsicana, TX 75110

JoAnn Chambers

3002 W 2nd Ave. #400
Corsicana, TX 75110

Mary Crews

3002 W. 2nd Ave. #514
Corsicana, TX 75110

Ellene French

3329 W. 7th Ave. #132
Corsicana, TX 75110

Gayle & Christine Garner

400 Wesley Dr.
Corsicana, TX 75110

Meagan Gould

800 Medinah
Corsicana, TX 75110

Jewel Rutherford

3210 W Hwy 22 #301
Corsicana, TX 75110

Wanda Horner

PO Box 517/208 College St
Blooming Grove, TX 76626

Velma McDougald

1601 Crestmont
Corsicana, TX 75110

Bud and Barbara Moore

441 NWCR 2160
Barry, TX 75102

Ruth Moore

213 W Grady St.
Blooming Grove, TX 75110

Billie Murphy

1900 Cambridge #323
Corsicana, TX 75110

Dickie and Garnett Russell

3012 W 4th Ave.
Corsicana, TX 75110

James and Sue Welch

204 N 2nd St.
Mabank, TX 75147

Pat Wheat

328 Wesley
Corsicana, TX 75110

Helen Strange

521 Stanford
Corsicana, TX 75110

Cooper Webster

2909 W. 4th Ave.
Corsicana, TX 75110

Patty Williams

1201 Ficklin Cr.
Corsicana, TX 75110

Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org

House to House, Heart to Heart

In Search of the Lord's Way

Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies

The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv

WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

Four Seas Bible College, Singapore - Peter & Pooi Fun Chin

New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

Leadership

Elders

Percell Milton - 903.673.1819

Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228

Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464

Darwin Thomas - 903.695.0176

Deacons

James Ainsworth - 903.872.1390

Scott Barham - 903.641.0133

David Baumgartner - 903.654.4057

Zach Drain - 903.521.6055

Dan Gibson - 903.641.9587

Joshua Haden - 903.602.9645

Micah Haden - 903.673.1177

James Horn - 903.599.9114

Michael Jones - 214.803.5984

Roy McCullough - 903.872.2069

Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406

James Olsen - 903.874.8918

Rusty Owens - 903.695.0095

Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032

Dickie Russell - 903.874.4457

David Shastid - 903.257.6464

Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052

Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

Ministers

Sam Dilbeck - 903.229.8415 (Pulpit)

Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)

Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Helen Strange's nephew, Buck Brannon, died on Thursday in Abilene, Tx. Arrangements are pending.

Wanda Horner was taken to the ER on Thursday in need of a blood transfusion due to anemia.

Jimmy Pitchford, a preacher from Ennis, was injured in a car accident last Wednesday. He was taken to Baylor Hospital and has broken several ribs.

Mary Johnson has now been moved to TriSun room #300 to begin rehab after a fall she had which broke her hip.

Cooper Webster's dental surgery has been rescheduled for Dec. 22.

Billie Murphy has been at home recovering from pneumonia.

Gayle Garner was moved from the hospital to Heritage Oaks, area 1 on Friday.

Continue to Remember: Julie Dilbeck, Meagan Gould, Garnette Russell, Ellene French, Patty Williams, Bobbie Roberts, Carolyn Bennett, Bud & Barbara Moore

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart

Announcements

Special Contribution for the end of the year is TODAY. This is the perfect time to give a little extra to help sustain our work in the community and abroad.

Jason and Susan Hervery, who have been attending here, are expecting a baby girl! **"The Bountiful Baby Baskets"** are set up at the back of the auditorium. Let's help prepare for baby Sophia's arrival by filling them with diapers, wipes, and gift cards.

Youth Group, please mark your calendars for a **Christmas Party** Dec. 18th at the Roughton's.

Young at Heart Seniors Group meets every Tuesday morning at 10:30am for Bible Study. Everyone is welcome!

Birthdays This Week

December 4 - Grant Ecord

December 7 - Michelle Chennault & Brenda Sosa

December 8 - Keller Kinkade & Bud Moore

December 10 - Jim Haden

Next Week's Adult Class

"The Life of the Apostle Paul"

Records for November 27, 2016

Bible Class	199
AM Worship.....	249
PM Worship.....	126
Wednesday	143
Contribution	\$9,221.15

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	David Baumgartner
Opening Prayer	Don Ivy
Communion Leader	Joe Glass
Communion Servers	
Jim Haden	Bronny Watson
Bryan Bearden	Wade Braly
Millard Dowdle	Jose, Jr. Sosa
Larry Rowden	David Shastid
Dalton Shastid	Austin Roughton
Eric Olsen	James Horn
Percell Milton	
Closing Prayer	Zach Drain
Nursery	Jennifer Sosa & Ann Wylie
PM Song Leader	Tyler Baumgartner
PM Opening Prayer	Wade Hall
PM Closing Prayer	Joshua Haden
Wed. Song Leader	Jimmy Horn
Wed. Devotional	Wade Hall
December Contact Elder	Paul Stewart