

Realization

By: David Weaks

Some of us are “late to the party” where good sense is involved, while others figure things out pretty quickly in life. This should not surprise us because many times Bible characters were slow to “get the point” of things that the Lord was teaching. David, for example, was a little slow when Nathan told him about a rich man who mistreated a poor man and essentially stole from him ([2 Samuel 12:1-4](#)). When David heard the tale, he became incensed at the idea some citizen in his kingdom could behave so callously, and he decreed that whoever the man was, he would surely die, and before he did he would restore fourfold what he had stolen from the poor man (vv. 5-6). I have always imagined Nathan rubbing the bridge of his nose in frustration while letting out a heavy sigh at this point. How could David have been so dense? How could the king of all Israel not see the obvious point of the story? Finally, Nathan fired the truth at David: “You are the man!” (v. 7). Ah, now David got it, and he choked out the painful words: “I have sinned against the Lord” (v. 13).

Then there were the people in the days of Noah who heard Noah preach for one hundred and twenty years ([Genesis 6:3](#); [2 Peter 2:5](#)). None of them “got it” before it was too late to change their fate. God was destroying the world with water. A global flood was on its way, and Noah had been sent to the people as a prophet, to warn them of the impending doom. However, when the ark was sealed and the floods began, there would only be eight souls inside the ark of safety ([1 Peter 3:2](#)).

Surely the people must have realized what was

happening to them! Did they not recognize the sin all around and understand that Noah was telling them the truth? If they did, it was after the door of the ark was closed that they realized it.

I wonder what the sinners thought when the sky turned dark and gray? Before this time there had been no rain, only morning dew to water the land ([Genesis 2:6](#)). It is conceivable that the people had never seen a dark and threatening sky before. But now the skies turned darker and heavier as clouds hung heavy in the sky — an ominous sight. Then the first rain drops fell. What did these people think when the first rain drops splashed across their faces? Was it then that they beat on the door of the ark, begging for entrance at long last? What about when the water collected in puddles, and then began to flow in their streets? Was it then that the people wailed to God that they were sorry for their sins?

Do you suppose some people snorted derisively at all of the hoopla going on around them and said, “This too shall pass”? At what point did these indifferent people grow alarmed? Was it when the puddles and flowing rains rose up to their waists, or their chests, or their chins?

I will tell you this, with some degree of certainty, there were no skeptics who skittered to the tops of their rooftops fleeing from the rising floodwaters. As the long days and nights wore on, and the rains fell unabated in sheets, the conviction of the people about their own sins was solidly proven.

Finally, when people reached the highest elevation they could, and the rains kept on falling, and when the last nostrils strained to stay above the rising floods, one thing was certain in every last dying brain: "I have sinned."

Have you reached this realization yet? If you are not a New Testament Christian, you are a sinner. If you have not yet been baptized into Christ, you are lost in sin (Mark 16:16). Don't wait until it is

too late to reach this conclusion. Repent and obey the gospel now while there is time.

They Listened to Him Until This Word

By: Selected

As Paul gave his defense before the angry Jewish mob at the temple, he spoke of his zeal, conversion and mission to preach the gospel of Christ to the Gentiles. He explained that the Lord told him, "'I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.' And they listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, 'Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not worthy to live!'" (Acts 22:21-22).

Sometimes there are things that we just don't want to listen to. The Jews were listening to Paul until he said something that they could not bear to agree with. Once Paul mentioned the word "Gentiles", that was enough. They no longer listened to the truth because they believed error. Will you listen to all of God's word? Or will you, like the Jews, listen until some certain word. Do not stop your ears to the truth.

Some listen until they hear the word "Jesus." Stephen preached to the Jews about their past. They listened until he condemned them for murdering Jesus, the Son of God. "Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears; and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him" (Acts 7:57-58). Some are like the Jews. They will listen to you until you mention Jesus. Then they will stop their ears and listen no more.

Some listen until they hear the word "sin." Many claim to believe in God. But when they hear that they are guilty of sin they stop listening. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). They want to hear sermons on grace, but they don't want to hear sermons on sin. They want to continue living in sin. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8).

Some listen until they hear the word "repent." God calls us to repentance but many will not listen. "Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen'" (Jer. 6:17). Some will listen to sermon after sermon. They live good moral lives, but they will not humble themselves enough to be restored. They will listen to the sermon intently until they hear the preacher say the word "repent." "Unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). Do not delay your repentance.

Some listen until they hear the word "hell." Many expect to go to heaven when they die. At funerals people want to talk about God and heaven, but they will stop listening when you talk about hell. They think that hell is just not a possibility for the dead. Jesus will say to the unfaithful, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41). Some do not want to accept that the majority of the world will go to hell. "Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matt. 7:13-14).

Some listen until they hear the word "baptism." Many will listen to what the Bible says about faith, but when it comes to baptism they close their ears. "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins" (Acts 22:16). Baptism is clearly connected with salvation. "Baptism doth also now save us" (1 Pet. 3:21).

May we open our ears to all of God's word. "Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days" (Prov. 19:20).

Upcoming Events

Sun. May 7: Family and Friends Day. We will have a potluck luncheon after the morning service with a 12:45pm afternoon service. Please bring a dish/dessert to share.

Area Events: Please refer to the bulletin board in the hallway for more information.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Ashley Price who is recovering from knee surgery.

Angela Sneeringer’s grandmother who was in the hospital but is now at home recovering.

Candice Starling’s mother, Theresa Roach, who is down visiting. Pray that she has safe travels back home.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, and Clark Withers.

Evangelism Table

The third info-card we have on our evangelism table is called *The Gospel Enacted and Reenacted*. It is designed to be used with *Back to the Bible, Lesson 3*. This info-card beautifully portrays the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and how this event is reenacted in baptism. The card serves as an ideal visual aid when teaching the prospect the meaning of Romans 6:3-5.

Food Helpers for the month of Apr. - Team B.

Service Roster

Week of April 16, 2023

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Mike Atkinson
Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer.....Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Bryant Siegel
Cup..... Dan Fielder
Offering..... Clifton Rutherford
Assist..... Blake Jacobs
Assist..... Kanin Jacobs
Assist..... Jack Jobes

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Doug Jobes
Closing Prayer..... Bryant Siegel

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Clifton Rutherford/
Bill York

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Brandon Starling
Song Leader Ken Dorries
Devotional Lupe Escojido

Other

Prepare Communion.....Dolan

Congregational News

Birthdays

James Hicks.....Apr. 16
Jake Jacobs.....Apr. 16
Nia FitzSimmons.....Apr. 17
Sandra Marie.....Apr. 17
Joseph Sheeran.....Apr. 19
Nicolette Garcia.....Apr. 21

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you
seems to be wise in this age, let him become a
fool that he may become wise.”
1 Corinthians 3:18

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of April 9, 2023

A.M. Bible Class.....63
A.M. Worship.....92
P.M. Worship.....52
Wednesday Bible Class.....68

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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