

Meditating on a Simple Kingdom Parable

By: Dan Jenkins

Jesus described the church by saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard...” (**Matt. 20:1**). We read these verses and easily understand what He was talking about. We know who that Man was who owned the vineyard, but have we spent enough time thinking about what the Owner said and how that applies to our lives?

Jesus used parables (simple stories about things which happen on the earth) to illustrate great truths from heaven. Think about this as you read the words of the Owner to those who became laborers. He went out five times in that one day to find people to work and offered them good wages to come to work in His vineyard. In this parable the day involved twelve hours. He needed all the workers He could find and at the eleventh hour He found more workers.

He said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” Their response showed that they would have worked more, but they had not been able to find an opportunity to work. They immediately responded to His invitation to come and work for Him.

You know the parable, but have you ever really applied His question to yourself as one who is part of the harvest He has for us to do? How ready are you to labor every day for the eternal

wages that await?

There are many songs which have been written, and the “life expectancy” for most of them is so short. Few secular songs remain in the top ten for any period of time. However, there are spiritual songs that have touched the hearts of men, and one has been sung since 1880. Consider the words of one which we almost all know. There is a reason why it is still part of the songs we sing.

“I want to be a worker for the Lord, I want to love and trust His holy word, I want to sing and pray and be busy every day in the vineyard of the Lord. I want to be a worker strong and brave, I want to trust in Jesus’ power to save; All who will truly come shall find a happy home in the vineyard of the Lord.” Think about it. Trusting His holy word leads us to seeking salvation for all those around us helping them find their happy home.

The song continues, “I want to be a worker every day; I want to lead the erring in the way, That leads to heaven above where all is peace and love, in the kingdom of the Lord.” The refrain says, “I will work, I will pray, I will labor every day, in the vineyard of the Lord.”

We do not sing this as often as we once did! Is the reason this is true because we are not seeing lost souls?

The Truth About Jesus (Part 2 of 7): The Great Incarnation

By: Selected

The transforming truth of Jesus Christ, we learn in the first part of **1 Timothy 3:16**, is certain, supreme, clear and relevant to our lives. Paul then outlines six pivotal elements of this truth, which are critical to understanding and appreciating the magnitude of Jesus Christ and His plan for us.

First, Paul emphasizes the great incarnation: “He was manifested in the flesh.”

We know this truth. We have read this truth. Yet, it is one of those truths that just blows the mind. Let’s consider what this means.

Jesus Christ is eternal! “In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God...” (**John 1:1**). The word “was” is the Greek imperfect tense, which emphasizes that Jesus “always was, always existed.” So, “in the beginning” of earthly time, Jesus was already there. He did not Himself have a beginning, as He was there before creation (before time). Jesus is eternal and unchanging.

Jesus Christ is God! “[T]he Word was God” (**John 1:1**). Again, the Greek imperfect tense (“was”) emphasizes the ongoing, perpetual reality that Jesus Himself has always possessed the very essence of deity. He has the same essence (i.e., deity) as the Father, for Jesus is His “equal” (**John 5:18; 10:30, 33, 36**). No wonder Paul emphasizes Jesus’ “equality with God” in **Philippians 2:6**. Jesus truly is God!

Jesus Christ took on human flesh! This is where the mind is especially overwhelmed. The eternal God (read this

slowly) “became flesh and dwelt among us” (**John 1:14**), for He “emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men” (**Phil. 2:6**). He came and lived fully in a human body, experiencing fully the human life, with all the good and the bad that it has to offer. Why? Why would He ever do that?

Jesus Christ was manifested in the flesh FOR US! The second chapter of Hebrews explains to us why the eternal God “was made a little lower than the angels” (**Heb. 2:9**). (1) He came to “taste death for everyone” (2:9). (2) He came to bring “many sons to glory” (2:10). (3) He came to be the “perfect” Savior through His “sufferings” (2:10). (4) He came to “sanctify” His people (2:11). (5) He came to “destroy... the devil” and his works (2:14). (6) He came to “deliver” us from the “bondage” of “death” (2:15). (7) He came, that He might identify fully with us, when we suffer and are “tempted,” as “a merciful and faithful High Priest” (2:17-18).

This indisputable truth ought to transform our lives toward godliness! As the Lord’s church, we are “the pillar and ground of the truth” (**1 Tim. 3:15**). We must know it! We must teach it! We must defend it! (more next week)



Upcoming Events

Wed. Aug 27: Special prayer and singing service for all ages in the auditorium.

Sun. Sept. 7: Monthly potluck luncheon. We will also have awards for the Youth Summer Series at this time.

Sun. Sept. 14: Monthly youth devo after evening worship.

Sat. Sept. 27: Save the date for a Men’s Lunch here at the building. More details to come.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Amy Sylva’s father Ruben. His health is declining.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

EVANGELISM TRAINING

Sundays at 4 PM* at the church building throughout August

August 3 – Pew Greeter Training *(12:15 PM)

August 10 – Bible Study Leader Training, part 1

August 17 – Bible Study Leader Training, part 2

August 24 – Compassion Card Follow-up Training

August 31 – Mentoring New Converts Training



Service Roster

Week of August 24, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Caleb Lehtinen
Song Leader Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer.....Barry Lehtinen
Closing Prayer.....Caleb Lehtinen

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Benny Horton
Cup.....Mike Atkinson
Offering..... Jake Jacobs
Assist.....Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening

Song LeaderLuke FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Steve Randle
Closing Prayer.....Caleb Lehtinen

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Bryce Dolan/
Benny Horton

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassSpecial prayer and song service
Song LeaderKirk FitzSimmons
Devotional Benny Horton

Other

Prepare Communion for Aug.....Rosales

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Jerry FitzSimmons.....Aug. 24
Christian Sneeringer.....Aug. 28
Yvonne Smith.....Aug. 29
Barry Lehtinen.....Aug. 30

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections 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
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the
devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking
whom he may devour.
1 Peter 5:8

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 August 17, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....68
A.M. Worship.....102
P.M. Worship.....51
Wednesday Worship.....54

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

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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