

A Parable Jesus Never Told

Once upon a time there was a church looking toward the future. Some members were concerned for the spiritual welfare of the youth growing up in an immoral, decadent age. They created a plan to encourage a thirst for righteousness among their young (Matthew 5:6) and to fortify their faith so they could withstand the devil’s onslaught (Ephesian 6:13-18; 1 Peter 5:8).

First, the planners decided they needed a strong Bible teaching program. The Scriptures produce faith (Romans 10:17), cleanse a young man’s way (Psalm 119:9, 11), defeat the devil’s temptations (Matthew 4:11), and provide answers to life’s big questions (2 Peter 1:3). The church would need knowledgeable, capable, caring teachers for youth classes (Romans 10:14; 2 Timothy 2:2). So they tried to recruit good teachers. They were surprised by the resistance they met.

One person said, “I don’t want to leave the fellowship of my adult class to teach children.”

But the drug pusher said, “Not even the threat of jail will keep me from working with your children” (cf Romans 6:13).

Another responded, “I don’t know enough to teach children about God.”

But the evolutionists went to college to learn how to teach children that there is no God (Psalm 14:1).

Another replied, “Young people today are so different. I could never keep their attention.”

But the movie producers said, “we’ll study, survey, and spend millions to produce whatever turns kids on” (cf Psalm 101:3).

Second, the planners recognized that “teachers cannot educate if children vacate.” So they talked with parents about making a commitment to have their children in every Bible class. Surely, this would be easier. After all, a parent’s greatest responsibility is to a child’s spiritual welfare (Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:7; Proverbs 22:6; Genesis 18:19).

Some parents excused themselves saying, “We’re out of town too often on weekends, and everybody’s tired on Wednesday.”

But the porno book dealer said, “We’ll stay open late every night and especially weekends to accommodate your children” (Matthew 5:28; cf Philippians 4:8).

Another said, “Two classes a week is to big a commitment.” (The same parent committed to have the same children in public school five days a week.)

But fashion designers and cosmetics companies committed millions to teach children to emphasize the outward man and dress in worldly fashions (cf. 1 Timothy 2:9-10).

Third, the planners decided that it would help to have devotionals, youth meetings, Bible bowls, retreats, and other outings for the youth. This would require adults to volunteer their home, drive from place to place, fix snacks, and five of themselves. The planners thought, “It’s for a good cause, young people are important.”

Church leaders said, “It is expensive to pay for speakers, provide Bibles, literature, and food for so many. It cost to much.”

But beer and cigarette companies said, “We’ll advertise on every radio and TV station. We’ll entice from billboards and magazines. It pays to advertise.”

Some complained, “We’re too busy to fool with youth activities. Let them find their own things to do. We don’t want to be bothered.”

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But the school organized and promoted dances for the children (cf. Galatian 5:19-21).

Others said, “I don’t want to chaperone teens to youth meetings. Gas is expensive, plus I have to consider the wear on my vehicle. Besides, I try to go to bed early.”

But the casino operators promised to shuttle the youth from convenient locations all over the city so they can have the opportunity to gamble (1 Timothy 6:10; cf. Romans 12:17).

Another told them, “I couldn’t host a devotional at my house. Those little monsters might break something. Plus, it would be a lot of trouble to clean up when it is over.”

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PUZZLE FOR THE WEEK

This puzzle is taken from Hebrews 9:1-10

S F S R O R R E N M O B W S W
 O E L S V N S R O A R S K A T
 E R R E M Y D R I N K S T N C
 K R D V S I Y J T N K S A C V
 R C U I I M B U A A E N D T Q
 E S I G N C I U M I E U W U H
 S B T T I A E H R V N J T A O
 N V Q F S F N P O E R K S R L
 E L V J I E H C F Z H D O Y I
 C Q N B R G L C E T D C H K E
 S T S E I R P D R S A C G S S
 W A S H I N G S N J V B Y T T
 D A E R B W E H S A C Z L A C
 S A C R I F I C E S C Q O E U
 D O O L B U D D E D U E H M S

1. The first covenant had ordinances of divine what and a worldly what?
2. In the first tabernacle what three things where within what was called the sanctuary?
3. After the second veil is the what of all?
4. In this is the golden what? And the ark of the what?
5. In the ark is the golden pot which had what in it? And Aaron’s rock that what? And the what of the covenant?
6. Over the mercy seat were the what?
7. Who always went into the first tabernacle? To accomplish what?
8. Who went into the second tabernacle? He did not go without what?
9. Who did he offer for first? Then for what of the people?
10. Who signified this?
11. This was a what for the time then present?
12. What two things were offered?
13. These stood only in what and what and divers what and carnal what?
14. This would be until the time of what?

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But the city let a popular rock band come to the civic center to entertain the youth and even provided city cleanup crews when it was over (cf. Proverbs 4:23, 26).

So the adults stayed in their adult classes, young people slept in, parents stayed busy until their children grew up, families went out of town on weekends, and the youth group was inactive. But the drug dealers, porn salesmen, movie producers, gamblers, schools, and tobacco and liquor manufacturers worked hard, spent money, and did what was necessary to win the impressionable minds of the kids. They all claimed great success.

The planners were reminded to Jesus’ Parable of the Unjust Steward. In it He said, “The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light” (Luke 16:8).

One Sunday came when the adults wondered why the youth classes were empty. Somme complained, “This church sure is dead. Nothing but gray heads around here.” Parents wondered why could not get their children to go to worship. Others asked, “What has happened to this younger generation?”

“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear” (Matthew 11:15).

While researching study materials for our junior high student, I came across the preceding article. If we as parents, grandparents, Christians do not become engaged in the teaching and education of our young ones or in reaching out to our neighbors and friends, co-workers, the world will win the battle for their soul.

Just a thought!

NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

IN OTHER NEWS:

THE FRIEND OF TRUTH

Greensboro Road church of Christ

2008 Old Greensboro Road

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870-932-3920)

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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January 5, 2020

KeeNotes

Well, it's here. Like it or not, happy about it or not, it's here. The New Year has arrived. It is now 2020. Have you made your resolutions? Are they the same ones you made last year? How did last year turn out? How many of our new year's resolutions do we make about our spiritual well-being? How many of these are nothing more than doing the things we already know we should be doing as Christians? May we all do better in our daily service to God and work more diligently every day.

Our shepherds gave to us a “state of the church” address last night during our soup and chili supper. I hope you were there and took in all that was said. If you missed anything, please let me give you a couple of the highlights.

First, the theme for our year will be “The Need For 2020 Vision.” The shepherds gave us some of the ways we intend to work to reach new souls. First, we will be enhancing our Website, so that visitors and newcomers to the community can find us and know something about the church and who we are and what we believe before coming to visit. With this new website there will be a “members only” section. In this you will have access to the directory for the church which will be password protected. That password will change from time to time to help keep our information secure. In this section there will also be a calendar for the members to check and see birthdays and anniversaries as well as giving the dates for events such as gospel meetings, vacation Bible school, ladies night out, men's breakfast and sundry other congregational news to pass along.

To also help in our evangelism efforts we will be working to find new ways to reach our neighbors and friends. A new tract rack with helpful teaching on various subjects which are currently relevant to our friends, neighbors and relatives will be made available as well as materials written by some of our own, i.e. Mark Brewer, J. L. May, and Noah Flanrey and perhaps even by me which may address current topics and thoughts which may be of interest to us and to others.

Bible Correspondence Courses were a wonderful way of teaching another in years past. We hope to encourage a resurgence of their use by using Revis Casper's BBC and other such courses which we have and some we will be developing. These will be ways to teach others even when we do not feel comfortable talking to someone face to face. Much more to come. We are so glad you are here today!

Visit Our Website: greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com

SHEPHERDS

*Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens*

DEACONS

*Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten*

EVANGELISTS

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

*Michael Hughes
Arnold Kelley
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA*

SERVICES

SUNDAY

*Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.*

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God

Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God

John 8:24

Repent of your sins

Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus

as the Son of God

Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the

remission of your sins

Acts 2:38

Live faithfully

Revelation 2:10

***The Need For
2020 Vision***

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

December 29, 2019

Sunday Bible Study	103
Sunday AM Worship	128
Sunday PM Worship	119
Wednesday Bible Study	
Contribution	\$7833

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

***"Hast thou entered into the
treasures of the snow? or hast
thou seen the treasures of the
hail?"***

Job 38:22

Those Privileged To Serve

January 5, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Noah Flanrey
Opening Prayer: Jerry Dodson
Closing Prayer: Jeff Presley
Bible Reading: Marshall Lands
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Stan Honeycutt
Reginald Read Mark Wooten
Tom Carner Steve Stoker
Jacob Eddleman Logan Snyder

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Noah Flanrey
Opening Prayer: Hillard Holcomb
Closing Prayer: David Loggins
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Song Leader: Ben Johns
Opening Prayer: Jason Garland
Closing Prayer: Samuel Light

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

Mark Brewer