

Family & Friends..... October 12, 2022
 “Sing And Be Happy”, what a great hymn to sing! Written by Emory S. Peck in 1940. He began writing songs at the age of fifteen. He learned the skills of piano tuning, a vocation that would serve him well throughout the years. He served in the U.S. Army, 116th Infantry as a musician and a band director, and earned a Master Degree in music. He married the love of his life in 1921 at the age of 28 to Lou Emma Whitmire. Tragedy struck in 1925, Lou Emma died of pneumonia, a worldwide epidemic at the time. After her death he turned his full attention to music for his comfort and to his faith in God. “Sing And Be Happy” is by far the most popular hymn that he wrote. This hymn has appeared in all major hymnals of the Churches of Christ since 1956. Still especially a favorite to all. You might say this hymn became the biography of Emory Peck’s life. With a song in his heart and a passion to be near God, he could face each new day refreshed, able to withstand any problem. To God Be the Glory!

Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord. Ephesians 5:19

We were blessed with our visitors: Kaptan & Ashley Kasischke (Rocky Comfort, MO), Kole Kasischke (Stella, MO), Bryan & Rachel McCool (Stark City, MO), Lee & Paige Moore (Marion), David Pierson (Webb City, MO), Mason & Lyndsay White (Lowell), and Alivia Bockholt, Steve & Lael Ellison, and Nathanael & Jessica Green. (Bella Vista)

Those on our prayer list: Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Amanda Cannon and the family in the loss of her mother. Please keep the family in your prayers. Continue to pray for Pat Musson in Circle of Life, and keep Bob also in your prayers. Susan Duffy and Sheila Reese both need our prayers. Doug & Monica Klingman need prayers, both have Covid. Continue to remember Mike Lacey, Mary Louise Harris, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

October Food Pantry: Canned chicken & canned vegetables, soup/soup mixes, breakfast muffin mixes, pasta-all types and cooking oil. Children’s Home: Juice, Pop Tarts, cereal, Spam, pears, and cleaning supplies.

Faithfulness to God inspires others. Love you, stay safe.

Karen

Bella Vista Church of Christ

Highway 71 and County Road 40
 989 NW McNelly Road
 Bentonville, AR 72712

Return Service Requested

LORD’S DAY	8:15 AM
Early Worship	9:30 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed)	
WEDNESDAY	9:45 AM
Ladies’ Class	7:00 PM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

- Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
- Don Butcher.....636-548-0458
- Dallas Dobbs.....479-640-49439
- Perry Johnson.....913-707-8379
- Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

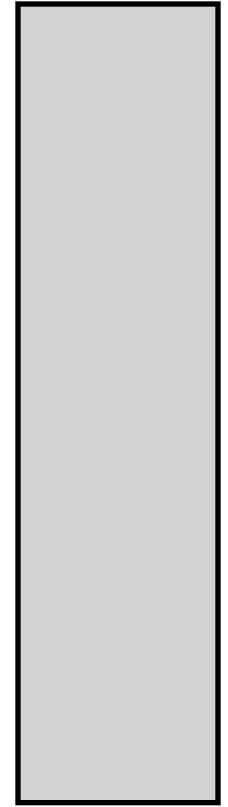
DEACONS

- Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott
- Randall Hunt Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Tyler White Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

- Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135
- Parker Willis.....615-587-3208
- Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525
- Javier & Helmer Rosero..... Bogota, Colombia

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Bella Vista

WITNESSES

What's Missing?

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. (Matthew 23:1-7)

As we follow the life and ministry of Jesus throughout the Gospels and listen in as he interacts with the people of his day, we hear words of hope, words of blessing, words of comfort, challenging words, and even some harsh criticism. Jesus did have some harsh criticism directed at some people. The harshest criticism we hear from him was directed at the most religious people of his day, the Pharisees.

It is a bit confusing when we stop and think about it. The Pharisees were not a bunch of hedonistic rebels; just the opposite in fact. They were outstanding students of Scripture. There were incredibly conscientious about obeying the law. They were serious about their giving. They were serious about being the people of God.

As we look at this list, we might wonder which of these characteristics would warrant such stinging rebukes from the lips of Jesus? Weren’t they supposed to be obedient, ethical, generous, and knowledgeable? The truth is that it wasn’t any of these characteristics in particular that earned them such pointed criticism. It was actually a characteristic that they lacked, namely humility. Jesus continues:

But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. And call no man your father on earth, for you



have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (Matthew 23:8-12)

Jesus was not critical of them because they were obedient, morally pure, generous, and hungry to learn. He was not pleased with these things because their service to God was a source of pride for them, and they had forgotten what had been done for them. They lacked humility and it is something that is desperately needed.

Humility is fertile ground for empathy and service. Jesus tells his followers that the Pharisees bind heavy burdens on others, but do nothing to help carry them. Humility allows us to recognize that without what God has done in Jesus, we were in a helpless condition. Remembering that should move us to love, serve, and be patient and kind with those who struggle. We are called to bear one another's burdens, love one another, serve one another, and forgive one another. We are called to do that because Jesus has borne our burdens, loved us, served as a sacrifice for our sins, and forgiven us. In short, humility was a defining characteristic of Jesus.

Humility calls for us to see our complete dependence on God. The Pharisees seemed to believe diligently keeping the Law was what made them God's people. In other words, they were obedient so that they could be God's people. What they were actually called to do was to be obedient because God had rescued them and called them to be his people. It may sound like there's little or no difference in those two views, but the difference is actually huge. Over and over the Israelites were reminded that it was God who delivered them from Egypt and made them a nation. Their obedience to his commands was to be in response to his grace.

It is the same with the people of God today. We are certainly called to be obedient. God is holy and calls us to be holy as well. That obedience is to be our response, and the way in which we show our love for and trust in him. We don't do the things that Jesus commands so that he will save us; we do the things he commands because of what he has done to save us.

Jesus still calls his followers to be obedient, morally pure, generous, and hungry to learn. Those are still desperately needed. But, those things are to be done in a spirit of humility which enables us to be people who love and serve the way he did.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Compassion

God is a God of compassion: *"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."* Over a dozen times in the New Testament, we find the phrase *"He had compassion"* referring to Jesus: compassion on the sick, the hungry, compassion on lepers, the multitudes as sheep without a shepherd, compassion on those who had lost loved ones, compassion on those caught in the grip of sin. It was Paul who admonished us to "put on a heart of compassion." Peter says "do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult" but instead "be compassionate." It was John who told us, "Whoever has this world's goods and sees his brother in need, and does not have compassion on him, does not have the love of God." Who can deny that we, as children of God, are to have His love, be compassionate? What keeps us from being so? What are some things that squelch compassion?

Pride and selfishness. There's no doubt that we live in a self-centered culture, a me-first, it's all about me, economy. This is not new. Selfishness ruled in the first century! Listen to Paul as He tells us how to properly deal with this sin: *"Make my joy complete by being a people of tenderness and compassion. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Look not about your own interests, but place the affairs of others before your own."* Perhaps the best thing we can do here is ask God to help us put away our own selfishness by giving us a heart of humility and compassion.

Prejudice and judging. Prejudice is a difficult barrier to overcome, it may have been instilled in our upbringing; but a sin that must be handled before we will reach out in compassion. Sometimes we see black or white or yellow, Israeli or Arab, the rings in their noses, belly buttons, eyebrows, tattoos, and we think, "These people are not good enough for me or my help." Wrong! At the well, Jesus saved a Samaritan; he went home with Zacchaeus; He forgave a woman caught in adultery; He brought salvation to Gentiles. There is a reason Jesus commanded "judge not," because seldom, if ever, will we show compassion upon, or take the gospel to, those we have judged negatively.

Fear and peer pressure. I wonder how many good works, compassionate moments, have slipped into eternity because of our own fear, or a concern for what others think? The priest and the Levite left the wounded man to die on the road because of fear. Peter shrunk back from taking the Gospel to the

Gentiles out of peer pressure. What works of compassion are we leaving undone today because of fear or because we are concerned what another might think? Life is an unsafe road; but family, friends, neighbors, the lost, deserve our compassion.

Apathy and complacency. We've all made excuses: "I really don't have time for this; Why should I help them? Who is my neighbor?" We take better care of our pets than family and friends. It takes time, energy and a "want-to mentality" to be compassionate! People are worth it; children are worth it, parents and family are worth it. Yes, someone else might do it, but then someone else will receive the reward promised by God! "I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in, naked and you clothed me, sick and in jail and you visited me.. As often as you did it for the least of these, you did it for me.. Come you blessed of the Father. Take your inheritance prepared for you... Enter into the joys of thy Lord."

"Fixing our eyes on Jesus" includes more than just visually seeing Him, it includes having His heart of compassion. It's one thing to be a believer and come to worship each Lord's Day; it's another to have His heart, attitude, disposition, and behavior. May God help us to overcome these "compassion squelches" and become more and more and more like Jesus. And may He forgive us of yesterday's failures. Amen?

-RANDALL CASELMAN

From *Lifelines* May 16, 2018

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 10/16/22			
First Service			
Welcome, Prayer & Scripture	Randall Hunt	Song Leader	Anthony Christiano
Greeters	Chris Johnson, David Saunders	Communion Scripture & Prayer	Mark Tucker
Closing Prayer.....		Dallas Dobbs	
Nursery Workers		Brenda Tucker, Alana Tucker	
Second Service			
Welcome, Prayer & Scripture	John Caylor	Song Leader	Lee McCain
Greeters	Chris Johnson, Jack Johnson	Communion Scripture & Prayer	Bryan Busbee
Closing Prayer.....		Mike Spencer	
Nursery Workers	Jennifer Royer, Mary Jane Butcher	Van Driver	Mark/Wilma Bagwell
October Worship Coordinators			
Worship Coordinator	Mike Lunsford	Streaming Coordinator	Elijah Johnson
Audio Coordinator	Homer Makinson	Video Coordinator	Aaron Bagwell