

Family & Friends..... December 15, 2021

It's the time of the year when the Christmas Holidays are supposed to be a time of good cheer, but sometime things happen that throw us for a loop and upset the apple cart. The tornadoes tore through Arkansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, and Illinois creating great destruction and death leaving areas in shambles and shattering the lives of many. Monette is where my husband and I lived the early part of our marriage and went to church and years later we moved back to Arkansas from Kentucky. The people and these states are both very dear and near to my heart. Everyone from all states involved from those tornadoes need our prayers and help in their losses. They will need those prayers for a long time. Just imagine losing everything you have and starting over again with nothing but the clothes on your back, no home, no personal records, family photos, car, no job, many things we don't even think about. We can be thankful for the lives that were spared and mourn for the loss of those who did not make it. *"If we lived Christmas each day as we should, And made it our aim to always do good. We'd find the lost key to meaningful living that comes not from getting, but from unselfish giving."* (From the poetry of Helen Steiner Rice) To God Be the Glory! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2022!

*For You light my lamp; The Lord my God illumines my darkness.
Psalm 18:28*

We are blessed with our visitors: Dylan Bowman (Henderson, TN), David & Sarah Ellison (Fayetteville), Jane Weiser (Pea Ridge), Charles & Cindy Harvey, Kelli Homeyer, John & Karla Winslow (Bella Vista) and Khade and Maddie Sebree.

Those on our prayer list: Sue Gartrell is waiting on test results and will be having surgery as soon as it is scheduled. Please keep Sue in your prayers. Tim Short will have his surgery on December 15 for his kidney cancer and needs our prayers. Prayers still needed for Becky Donceel, Roger Arnold now at home and for Robbie. Gibsons have sickness in their family. David Reeves is facing major heart surgery. Roy Barnica's father, Lynn had surgery recently, Charlotte Akridge's nephew has kidney failure. Continue to remember and pray for Judith Carmical, Susan Duffy, Roy Fanning, Doug Klingman, Mike Lacey, Pat & Bob Musson, Mary Montgomery, Ken & Cheryl Rosenbaum, Jennifer Oxford, Loisell Tyler, Maggie Wicker, Donna Rowland, Marg Kahler, Bob Douthin, Ramin Salimi, Brody Wappier, Shirley Hale's daughter, Jackie, lost her father-in-law, Frank Morris, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for the Covid virus.

If you would like to give to the Tornado Relief fund, the Elders said make checks payable to the church and with Tornado Relief in the notes.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: egg noodles, canned tuna & chicken, pie filling, salsa & olives. For our Food Pantry: canned chicken & tuna and tuna pouches, peanut butter, jelly, honey, cereal, spaghetti/alfredo sauce, Ravioli/Beefaroni, apple sauce and fruit cups.

God is with us in all our struggles. 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)	
EWEDNESDAY	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
Pery Johnson.....913-707-8379
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

DEACONS

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

MINISTERS

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

Non-Profit Org.
Permit No. 206
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bentonville, AR
72712

Bella Vista

Wisdom In Humility

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 14:7-11 ESV)

This particular parable of Jesus doesn't get a lot of attention as compared with some of the others he uses. It is certainly not as well known as parables such as *The Good Samaritan*, or *The Prodigal Son*, or *The Parable of the Sower*, but it has a lot to say to us if we will listen.

On the surface it seems to be Jesus giving instruction on how to behave if one is invited to a banquet. The parable is, after all, directed at the guests who all seem to compete for positions of honor at this particular banquet. As we make our way through life in our current culture, we see more and more the need for lessons on etiquette. But, there is much more for us to reflect on than just a basic lesson in manners. This parable shows us that wisdom is found in humility.

Wisdom is defined as, *the quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; sagacity, discernment, or insight.* This definition reminds me of something I once heard about the difference between efficiency and effectiveness. Efficiency is how quickly we climb the ladder of success; effectiveness is making sure

MEMBER



the ladder is leaned against the correct wall.

We all have within us the desire to be noticed and appreciated. There seems to be a basic need that we have for others to think well of us and to admire us. We see this in our kids when they are small. As they learn to do more and more things, we hear them shout, "Hey, look at me!" "Watch what I can do!" They want to be noticed and to be noticed immediately.

As adults we struggle to grow out of that habit. We want to be noticed. We want to be appreciated. We also learn that there are more subtle ways to accomplish these goals than shouting to those around us. Like the guests of banquet choosing the seats of honor, we can position ourselves in places where we are more likely to be noticed. That is a very efficient way of achieving the goal. The problem is in its effectiveness. Are we being noticed by the right people, or in our case, the right One? Or are we simply pleasing ourselves?

Our desire should be to be noticed and honored by God alone. In other words what God thinks of us, being honored enough to be used in his service as his instruments, should be our aim. To that end, Jesus again gives us great direction. He tells the guests to take the lower position and then let the host arrange them as he sees fit.

We need to be willing to let God make the seating arrangements. What if we were to let God use us where he wants us? We are all gifted and equipped in different ways. Paul points out this fact as he addresses the church in Rome in Romans 12:3-8 when he gives us the picture as the church as a body with many members. Each member has a role to play if the body is to be healthy and sound. We all have strengths and we all have weaknesses, and thank God those are not the same for each member. The challenge for each of us is to soberly examine ourselves and identify our gifts, and then offer those gifts to God for his use in conjunction with the gifts of other members.

Living this way calls for humility. This will push us out of our comfort zones. Letting God use us according to what he wants to accomplish rather than our own preferences may not give us the immediate result that we think we should achieve. It demonstrates our trust in the One who knows what is best and consistently works for our good and his glory. It allows God to exalt us rather than trying to promote ourselves. It will have our focus in the right direction. It will confirm that our ladder is against the correct wall. In the end, the goal is for all to have a place at God's table. May we be humble enough to submit to his wisdom as to the best way to achieve the goal.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Impossibility

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.

*All the king's horses and all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again.*

Doesn't this describe our generation? Our world is falling apart. Our nation is in serious trouble, families are hurting, relationships are rupturing, churches are dividing. Our problems appear unsolvable. What can we do? Where is the glue to reassemble the disintegration and disarray we are seeing?

Paul gives us the answer. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ. The answer to our problems today is our developing the mind of Christ. The Greek is phrono, and refers to our attitude, disposition of the mind, to have the same understanding. Our King James translators render this word:

- * To think,
- * To regard,
- * Be of the same mind,
- * Be like minded.

The glue to fix our broken world is found in thinking like Jesus. We must think as he thought, talk as he talked, act as he acted, react to people and life's circumstances as he reacted. Having the mind of Christ means we will live as he lived. Isn't that exciting? Do you want your religion, your faith, to come alive in an exciting life-style? Then live like Jesus.

We must have a heart of humility. Who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, hoarded, held onto, but made himself nothing. Humility is a willingness to submit to God's will. Humility is our willingness to say, "Thy will be done." Humility is a willingness to become nothing for the sake of others, a willingness to place the interests of others before our own. Humility is treating others, regardless of skin color, social status or religious preference as God treats us.

Taking the very nature of a servant. The heart of Jesus was that of a servant. In His ministry, we see Him; healing the sick, casting out devils, calming the storms in people's lives, forgiving the woman caught in adultery,

teaching the woman at the well, restoring Zaccheaus.

Genuine servanthood is serving others when we don't have the time, when it's not convenient, or when we would rather be doing something else. Servanthood is doing things for others when it's really someone else's responsibility.

- * Husbands, have the mind of Christ, serve your wife and children.
- * Wives, have the mind of Jesus, submit to your husband.
- * Children, have the heart of Jesus, care for your parents.
- * Preachers, teachers, deacons, elders, have the attitude of Jesus, serve the church.
- * Christian friend, have the values of Christ, serve others, even your enemies.

Think about it, wouldn't this attitude of Christ cure the ills of our nation, families, and churches? Of course! Wouldn't this attitude fix our Humpty Dumpty world?

Jesus had a mind of love and obedience. And He being found in appearance of a man, humbled Himself and becoming obedient to death, even death on the cross. Jesus struggled in the garden with the will of God, but in the final analysis it was what? Not My will, but thine be done. Aren't we glad Jesus became obedient? If Jesus had not been obedient, our world would be in terrible trouble, and we would be eternally lost.

Now God calls us to love and obedience.

Be HUMBLE enough to be OBEDIENT to the Gospel message, become a child of God, and then enjoy the promised blessings of a life of LOVE AND SERVICE TO OTHERS.

-RANDALL CASELMAN
From *Lifelines*, May 28,1997

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 12/12/21

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Roger Arnold Song Leader Lee McCain
Greeters David Saunders, Mark Tucker Communion Scripture & Prayer Joe Hott
Closing Prayer Chad Dobbs
Nursery Workers Bobette York, Angie Christiano

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Jerry Orr Song Leader Chris McSweeney
Greeters Howard Hurst, Eric Gibson Communion Scripture & Prayer Tom Verkler
Closing Prayer Ray Reiss
Nursery Workers Deb Reiss, Robin Spencer Van Driver Mark and Wilma Bagwell

October Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Harold Phillips Streaming Coordinator Elijah Johnson
Audio Coordinator Homer Makinson Video Coordinator Chris Johnson