

Family & Friends..... September 20, 2023

It is an exciting time to be a part of the church here in Bella Vista. We continue to grow as more people want to be a part of this church family, and that is a testament to you all and your continued love and welcoming spirit.

Please make sure and meet our new members: Anna England, Grant Dodson, and Ed & Janice Courtney.

Our elders are wrestling with how we accommodate our continued growth as God continues to bring people to us. We know we will need more seating in the auditorium, more classroom space, more room to fellowship (including in the foyer). There have been several options mentioned, discussed, and prayed over. Those options range from a serious remodel of this building, moving to a new location where we can continue to expand, or planting a church here in Northwest Arkansas. The elders ask that we continue to pray about this, thanking God for continuing to use us in bringing others to Christ, and seeking his guidance in next steps. The elders would like your thoughts on the future here. There is a suggestion box in the foyer if you would like to contribute in that way, or just speak to one of our elders.

We are always thankful for our visitors: Janet Mann, Alan Smith, Annah Smith, Sandi Smith (Mt. Juliet, TN), Myrna McKinley (McMinnville, TN), Parker Spaw (Harrison), Corbin Mabry (Pea Ridge), Alyce Johanson (Centerton), Denise Baer, George & Debbie Howie, Leo & Trina Bratcher and Caitlin (BV).

Continue to remember those on our prayer list: Parker Willis's grandfather passed away Tuesday night. Carrolyn Sargent is in Rogers Mercy after a fall this weekend. Amy Rooney will have surgery Tuesday, September 26th, Karen Horton had a heart cath on Thursday the 21st, as did Janice LaPorte. Continue to remember Doris Rhodes, Becky Pittman's sister, Karen, Maggie Wicker, Andrew and Hannah Cousins and their unborn baby, Lynn Barnica, Susan Duffy, and Grace Martin's mother.



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ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
John Caylor.....903-520-2131
Dallas Dobbs.....479-640-49439
Perry Johnson.....913-707-8379
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203
Jerry Snyder.....479-282-5501

DEACONS

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

MINISTERS

Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525



Bella Vista
CHURCH OF CHRIST

REACHING FATHERS - MOVING CLOSER - GROWING DEEPER

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

Return Service Requested

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

SUNDAY	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)	



Seeing Clearly

In Luke 7, beginning in verse 36, we read the account of Jesus in the house of Simon the Pharisee. Jesus had been invited to this man's home for a meal. You can almost see it, can't you? This popular new rabbi, who has been traveling around teaching, healing, and drawing great crowds, has come for dinner. I imagine that Simon had the place cleaned up, put out the best food, and the fine dishes. He had invited all of his friends and neighbors to come and meet this up-and-coming teacher. He probably envisioned an evening of lively conversation around deep theological topics, and hearing more about what attracted so many to Jesus.

Things are going pretty well until *she* shows up. She is a woman with a reputation, a woman with a past. Luke simply calls her "a sinner." She walks in, carrying a flask of ointment and comes to Jesus. She can no longer control herself as she begins to weep. As the tears fall, they land on the feet of Jesus, so she does what has to be done. She falls to the ground, let's down her hair and begins to wash his feet with her tears and dry them with her hair, then anoint his feet with the ointment.

It seems to be a beautiful act of worship and thanksgiving, but not all in that room appreciate it. When the host of the dinner saw it, he began

LIFELINES



to have his doubts about this seemingly prophetic rabbi. *“If this man were a prophet, he would have known what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.”*

There are a lot of things that we can learn from this short passage of scripture.



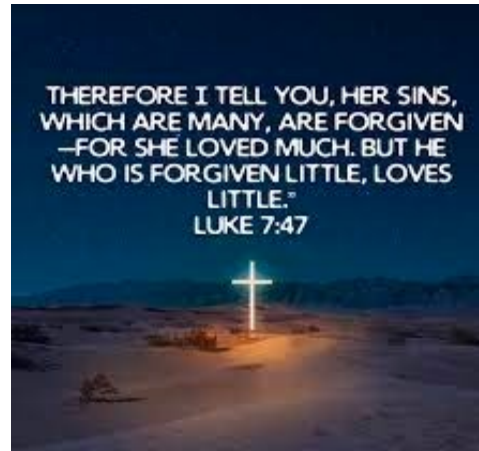
From the woman who crashed the dinner party, we get to see what a genuine response to the love and grace of God looks like. We see that in that response, nothing could keep this woman from the feet of Jesus. She was willing to risk humiliation and embarrassment in order to express her love and devotion to the one who saved her. There was nothing that could keep her away.

We can always find reasons for not responding to what Jesus has asked us to do. There are always things that take our attention and demand our energy so that we spend less time at the feet of Jesus. What this unnamed lady teaches us is that when we realize who he is and what he has done for us, the only reasonable response is to do whatever we can for him.

There are risks involved in responding to Jesus. Things in our lives will change. The way we interact with other people and the way that we react to the world around us will be different. When we respond properly to Jesus, there will be those who will be uncomfortable with our response. Are we willing to risk it?

We also learn some things from Simon. It appears that Simon has trouble with empathy. And when we think of it, it is really not surprising. Luke is determined that his readers know about Simon’s religious affiliation. In the first four verses of this narrative, Luke refers to him as “the Pharisee” four times. We would not know his name if it were not for Jesus, but we would certainly know he was a Pharisee. He was educated in the Law. He had spent a good portion of his life immersed in God’s word, and was rigidly obedient to that word. That is not Simon’s problem. Simon’s problem is that he thought that he had nothing to forgive. Simon saw himself as the standard by which others were to be measured. His lack of hospitality toward Jesus, and his judgmental attitude toward this woman tells us a lot about his opinion of himself.

What do we see when we look at ourselves? Do we see someone who has got it together? Do we see ourselves as people that God is fortunate to have in his kingdom? Or, like the woman at Simon’s house, do we see ourselves as hopelessly lost without the grace that Jesus brings?



What do we see when we look at others? Do we criticize their response to Jesus because it is not something with which we are comfortable? Do we see those who are struggling with the sin in their lives as unworthy to be close to Jesus? May we strive to see Jesus for who he really is, our only way to peace with the Father. May we strive to see ourselves as we really are, sinners that are without hope except for the grace of God in Jesus. May we strive to see others as Jesus sees them, created in the image of God, dearly loved, and welcome at the feet of Jesus.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Save The Date

SUNDAY SERVANTS September 24, 2023

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & ScriptureNathanael Green Song Leader Mike Martin
 GreetersTerry Balentine, Gary McCool, Phil Ward Communion Scripture & Prayer..... Jerry Snyder
 Closing Prayer.....Lee McCain
 Nursery WorkersJanet Alumbaugh, Angie Christiano

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture..... Stan Hankins Song LeaderTyler White
 GreetersTerry Balentine, Jim May, John Bowman Communion Scripture & Prayer..... Bryan Busbee
 Closing Prayer.....Tracy Bowman
 Nursery WorkersKarla Winslow, Hollie Strickhausen Van DriverJim Branstetter

September Worship Coordinators

Worship CoordinatorKim Metheny Streaming Coordinator Kyle Dillard
 Audio CoordinatorJim Caylor Video Coordinator Aaron Bagwell