

December 7, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

December 6, 2009

a.m. *“Learning to Do Well”*

Scripture: Isaiah 1:10-17

p.m. *“Abundant Pardon”*

Scripture: Isaiah 55:6-13

Life of Christ

Don Hatch

The life of Christ which is told within the pages of the Bible is the most noble and worthy study for all men of every age. It is admitted by those of other beliefs that Jesus was a great teacher and a living illustration of what He taught. Islam calls Jesus the “Messiah”. The views of the Jews were admiration for His teachings. Unhesitatingly great intellects of different ages, whatever their relationship to Christianity may have been, give due respect to the teachings of Christ. Men like Galileo, Bacon, Kelper, Newton and others, renowned in secular fields, hold the name of Jesus above every other name. The life of Christ is the holiest and mightiest piercing the darkness as the guide to present in full the knowledge of God. The estimation of the gospel as thoroughly genuine shines forth in unique ways presenting a formidable array of axioms, maxims, bedrock truths and instructs in the ways upon which a holy life can establish itself on things spiritual and eternal. It is impossible for the Bible to be a mere work of men.

Unhesitatingly Christianity, though opposed by many, has made claims concerning Jesus Christ which are extraordinary. It claims that He was God with us (Mat 1:18-20). The reverence paid to Him in passage after passage shows that His spiritual and intellectual abilities were far beyond any writer, orator or leader which preceded Him or follow Him (Mat 7:28, 29). The life of Christ should concern all because it demonstrates holiness and a fitting array of perfection which unites divinity and humanity. Jesus Christ demonstrated the divine and human in such a unique way that philosophers in their pompous way are struck silent. The beauty of His purity and the graciousness of His teaching were loftier than any words man has ever taught. His friends did not have to invent things to make plausible His words and deeds. Jesus of Nazareth was the divine character, a symbol higher than a human can reach but which encouraged humans to reach for the goal of the high calling in Christ Jesus (Phil 3: 14).

The character of Jesus Christ is inexplicable in human terms but when viewed from the vantage point of the spiritual realm He was sublimely divine. No one ever loved mankind as

Christ did, He was truly great and good as the Bible says. Jesus Christ was the noblest and in the most perfect sense, the realization of ideal humanity. When Christ is compared with anyone of antiquity He surpasses them all. Jesus was not merely a man. He was God with us (Mat 1:18-20; Jn 1:1-17). Jesus alone founded a kingdom and church upon love and millions today would die for that love. The Gospel of Jesus is not merely a books but a living, vibrant and powerful means of conquering all those who oppose godliness. The soul that is enthralled with the gospel is willing to lose itself and become a possession of God (Mat 22:34-40; 1 Pet 2:10). Jesus has absolute sovereignty, but had but one aim, purifying the souls of man and reuniting them with God (Mat 28:18-20; 2 Cor 5:18-20). Men have conquered the world but Jesus Christ conquered the hearts, minds and souls of men. They did it with force, He did it with love (Jn 15:12, 13). The testimony of countless writers could be incorporated to verify Jesus, but nothing stands as a greater testimony than his church (Mat 16:13-20; Acts 2:47; Eph 1:20-23). After all is said and done there is no other name in which wherein there is salvation (Acts 4:12). Incorporating Christ into a life one can develop purity and godliness (Phil 1:3-11).

Those who openly acknowledged the supremacy of Christ were willing to endure all to personify their love and devotion to Him. Polycarp, about be burned in an amphitheater in Smyrna, gave answer to the governor, who sought to make him revile the name of Jesus, “86 years have I served him, and he never did me wrong; and how can I now blaspheme my King who has save me?” Nearly 2000 years have passed from the time of this early confessor who died blessing the name of God and counted it glory to share the destiny of other martyrs who loved Jesus. Jesus lived among men, shared their joys, sorrows and the humblest means made His life extraordinary, wherein He glorified God. The absolute unselfishness of Christ’s character is indeed unique in its actions. His self-denial throughout became a measuring device by which His followers instinctively lived. Jesus founded a religion in which all of mankind could become a part of a brotherhood wherein they would serve God (Gal 3:27, 28; Col 3:5-11). The freedom He brought was superior to anything man has ever known or will ever know. The fundamental principles of Christianity remain new and supremely grand concepts springing directly from God. The highest ideals of man must ever be that their souls reflect the image of their Creator. His image can only be that which is pure with an all-embracing love, to God and man, for God is love (1 Jn 3:1, 2). Christianity is not service alone, for such is valueless if the heart is not pure and actions do not reflect a divine likeness. Christianity rested on the basis of a moral constitution which has aspirations comparing themselves not with each other but with a holy God (1 Pet 1:13-25). The life of Christ sets forth essential principles and responsibilities which exemplified righteousness and godliness (Tit 2:1-14). From first to last Jesus is majestic and simple, infinite and gentle. Comparison to Him is impossible but the church advances Him as she lives in praise and honor of God through Him. His life set forth awe-inspiring submission to the Father. Mankind was given a pattern by which one could live and please God.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

It has been said that forgiveness is a prerequisite to the abundant life. We all want to be forgiven if we do something wrong. As children we learn this very early in life. Forgiveness is

a beautiful thing. I would like to share some additional thoughts about forgiveness as we journey through life.

Forgiveness is one thing we cannot receive unless we are willing to give it to others. “. . . *bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do*” (Col. 3:13). We must learn to forgive because Christ did forgive us. This is our ultimate example we have to follow, Jesus Christ. We must learn to give it to others as Christ gave it to us.

Forgiveness that forgets enables one to put behind him all wrongs he has suffered from others and thus find a new life. This was true of Joseph who suffered the meanest treacheries and cruelest injustices at the hands of envious brothers who sold him into slavery. They sold only his body—they could not sell his spirit. Joseph found the abundant life in forgiveness and forgetfulness; and it can never be found apart from this Christ-like bigness of heart.

Forgiveness is a matter of mercy rather than justice. A mother who knew this sought the pardon of her son from Napoleon. The emperor said it was his second offense, and justice demanded his death. The mother replied, “I don’t ask for justice; I plead for mercy.” “But,” said the emperor, “he does not deserve mercy.” The mother cried, “Sir, it would not be mercy, if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask for.” “Well, then,” said Napoleon, “I will have mercy and pardon your son.” And he did.

We, too, need mercy—not justice—and, hence, we cry out, “*Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions* (Psa. 51:1). In our effort to develop bigness of character, let us not forget that God “*shall execute judgment without mercy, to those that hath shown no mercy*” (Jas 2:13).

May we be a forgiving and merciful people and never forget how to forgive others.

~Jerry McKey

“And Jesus went out thence, and withdrew into the parts of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanitish woman came out from those borders, and cried, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a demon. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I was not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. But she came and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. And he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs. But she said, Yea, Lord: for even the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and

said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it done unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was healed from that hour” (Mat 15:212-28).

“Jesus therefore answereth, He it is, for whom I shall dip the sop, and give it him. So when he had dipped the sop, he taketh and giveth it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. And after the sop, then entered Satan into him. Jesus therefore saith unto him, What thou doest, do quickly. Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. For some thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus said unto him, Buy what things we have need of for the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor. He then having received the sop went out straightway: and it was night. When therefore he was gone out, Jesus saith, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him; and God shall glorify him in himself, and straightway shall he glorify him. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say unto you. **A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; even as I** [bolded, italicized and underlined dh] have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered, Whither I go, thou canst not follow now; but thou shalt follow afterwards. Peter saith unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee even now? I will lay down my life for thee. Jesus answereth, Wilt thou lay down thy life for me? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice”.

This scene of deceit and betrayal is altered by the words “even as I”. Jesus knew that Judas Iscariot was set to betray Him into the hands of the Hebrew leaders. Yet, He gave the Apostles the highest virtue known to Christianity. Christians are to love “even as” Christ loved. Jesus’ love was not ephemeral and brief. Jesus love persisted in the face of overwhelming odds and set the standards for Christians. “...Jesus knowing that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto his Father, having loved his own that were in the world, he loved them unto the end” (Jn 13:1).

Jesus defined love by saying, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you. No longer do I call you servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I heard from my Father, I have made known unto you” (Jn 15:13-15). Jesus affirmed that His love was extensive. He loved all mankind and died to procure for them salvation from their sins (Rom 3:21-30; 5:1-11).

Immeasurable love freely offered in the vicarious death of Jesus upon the cross should command the attention of the world. No other religion teaches that God endured the cross on their behalf that redemption could be granted and fellowship restored. Christianity is amazing and wonderful. The love of God should constrain us to love “even as” Jesus loved us. The world is better because of Jesus’ love. It can be made better by the Christian demonstrating the same love to their fellowman. We love because God first love us.

~Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, December 13, 2009

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: Roberta Price, Nancy Pond

Sunday, December 20, 2009

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Back foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Family News:

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

SINGING SESSION

The **Sunday afternoon** singing session will meet in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** devotional will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class will meet on **Tuesday, December 15th** at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex to prepare "goodie bags".

OPEN HOUSE

All members are invited to an Open House at the Hatch's on Sunday, December 13th from 4pm til 5:30pm. There will be a shuttle provided from the building.

SHENANDOAH LECTURES

The Shenandoah Lectures will be held on **Friday, February 12th through Monday, February 15th, 2010** on "The Everlasting Priesthood". Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the back foyer for more details.

THANK YOU

We appreciate and love our church family. Thank you for the cards, food, & care during Max's surgery. In Christian love, Max & Juanita Melton.

Thanks to everyone for the cards, calls & prayers. Evelyn is getting better. Melvin & Evelyn Armstrong.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Richard Renfro is compiling a mass list of email addresses for all members; please forward your address to renfro.richard @att.net.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Kayla Allen got perfect attendance last quarter in Joann Hatch's class.

BIBLE CLASSES

Classes will be suspended on **Wednesday, December 23rd** due to the Holiday; all classes will meet in the main auditorium.

WITH SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Faye Harrison** who passed away on Saturday; services will be held in Lubbock.

MISSIONARIES

There is new information on the mission board concerning our missionaries & their families. We appreciate Wil Sadler's good report on what's going on in the Military work. The Sadler's are due to return home on Wednesday.

NEWS OF THE SICK

- Jerry Baker** is now home following gall bladder surgery.
- Elsie Nanney** is in room #208 at Ashford Hall.
- Carol Swinney** spent time in the hospital for blood; she was released & is doing better.
- Roy Thomas'** cancer has recurred.
- Sandy Greene** (former member) has colon cancer & will undergo surgery today (12/7).
- Linda Lind** (Marcella Porter's sister) suffers with congestive heart failure.
- Robert Porter** (Marcella's brother) will get a pacemaker this week.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Evelyn Armstrong, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Elsie Nanney, Everett Newton, Tom & Billie Prince, Frances Seidmeyer, Leo & Carol Townsend, Joy Webb, Thomas West, the Wolfe's, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), the DiPalmas (missionaries).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- December 13: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- December 13: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- December 13 : Open House at the Hatch's
- December 15: Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- Thomas Rathbun
- Brandon Howard
- James Gilliam
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby
- Glen Kelly
- Henry Seidmeyer

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Virgil LaFerney
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Roy Martin

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Garl Latham
- Jerry Baker

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- John Mayer
Isaiah 1:10-17

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Marvin Brown
- Henry Seidmeyer

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Ty Harvey
Isaiah 55:6-13

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Jerry Baker

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Robert Ruckman
- Bill Paschall

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Darrell Allen

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	84	86	92	125
A.M. Worship	144	147	156	210
P.M. Worship	70	75	85	112
Wed. Class	74	72	82	110
Ladies Bible Class	20	21	20	35
Contribution	\$4431	\$7098	\$5374	

MISSIONS

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
Glen & KuinTattersall – Australia
Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko - Russia
Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX
Foster's Home for Children – Stephenille, TX
Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India
Ian & Mabel McPherson – Tasmania Australia
Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India