

July 19, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

July 25, 2010

a.m. "*Noble Army of Martyrs*"

Scripture: Revelation 7:11-17

p.m. *Update from Bear Valley School of Preaching*

Dan Keele – Student Preacher

Jesus Spoke Don Hatch

A parable in the Bible is a brief, succinct story in prose or verse that illustrates a moral or religious lesson teaching an eternal truth. Fables are object lessons which generally are analogies or comparisons that do not use specific truths to make a point. Fable can be of animals, plants, inanimate objects which are beyond the realm of reality. Parables are characteristically illustrations of belief which will benefit any who hear them.

The word parable is Greek [parabole] an illustration or narrative generally referring to something which might naturally occur by which a moral or spiritual lesson can be drawn. Conveying a spiritual truth and illustrating a universal axiom describes the action of a parable. Those seen in parables have a spiritual or moral decision which must be made. Making spiritual decisions comes with a price. There are consequences for all decisions. Moral dilemmas detail distinctive character building influences which must be faced. A parable generally consists of actions without extraneous details or distracting circumstances. Old Wives' Tales, Folklore and Legends are normally set aside as familiar truths which are clothed in fantasies. Parables differ with these because they are realistic stories inherently taking place in familiar life settings. Parables are of ordinary mankind who find themselves in the midst of everyday living with surprising things happening to them. Similes and metaphors are often used in writings to obscure or hide, in a secret meaning the truth, for which it seeks to have the reader search.

Parables demonstrate how a person should behave, believe or identify with the spiritual life God has carefully prescribed. Parables provide guidance for proper lives. Parables use language purposefully to convey a hidden or secret concept for which the reader or hearer can immediately understand or find an answer. Parables convey explicit and significant truths in a straightforward and obvious manner. Parables are to enlighten the hearers by submitting to them a case for which they must make a judgment. Parables have principles which can be deduced and applied to all equally. The best known source of parables is the Bible. The parables Jesus Christ told are the best known in the entire world. Even in the world where mankind knows less and less of the Bible these parables are still well known.

In the history of Israel they used parables to convey moral or spiritual truths. The Jews were familiar with parables. The most famous parable was Nathan's presentation of the ewe to David (2 Sam 12:1-7). Parables of Jesus Christ are found in Matthew, Mark and Luke forming approximately one third of Jesus' teachings. Believers place a great importance on these words of the Lord (Jn 8:28; 14:10). These memorable stories conveyed messages of great importance to the welfare of Christians. They were seemingly simple but upon reflection they were deep and profound. Their purpose was to illustrate an internal analogy that mankind could identify with and make the spiritual connection. Jesus' parables were a witness to the world of a world that waits. Jesus likened the kingdom to the various items in His illustrations and allowed the disciple to see the wonders of the Kingdom of God.

The disciples were told that they had received special knowledge of the kingdom and it would make them wise unto salvation. Whosoever received this knowledge would find life and that abundantly. By hearing they understood that the kingdom was within them. Jesus knew what was within mankind. Who would be better than Jesus Christ to reveal the power of God's hidden truth? This type of teaching was best suited to the spiritual needs of disciples. The images set forth by Jesus were incredible insights, more than a mere similitude or analogy. Parables of the Lord presented insight into the heavenly calling and what it would mean to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Jesus parables affirmed an inward spiritual man which needed to be in fellowship with the Father.

Jesus used word-pictures to help people understand who God was and what His kingdom would be like. Jesus used images, characters and everyday miniatures to illustrate His message. His parables appealed to all parts of society. His word pictures challenged the mind, heart and soul of the listener. Skillfully Jesus made clear the obscure and enlightened the pathway upon which all men travel. Jesus' vivid illustrations were powerful and absorbing. Reading and studying Jesus' teachings are refreshing and beautiful. Jesus' parables often have surprises and unexpected twists. Some had double meanings. While His parables were rooted in the first century culture they are applicable for all times. They underline the fact that there is a God, He is alive and all live, move and have their being in Him. Jesus' teachings still lead us in the ordinary activities of life. They define the unknown and open the portals to the ways of God. Mankind needs to allow these teaching to take root in their lives.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

Please don't miss our great lessons on Wednesday nights. This summer, we are having various gospel preachers to speak. They are bringing lessons about a very little talked about subject, 'afterlife'. It is amazing that we are already in the last half of 2010. How time flies as you grow older. There is much to do and the harvest is plenty.

John 4:34-38 (New King James Version)

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to

reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

This congregation is busy spreading the gospel throughout the entire world. You are an important part of the work in Russia, India, Cambodia, France, Germany, Ghana, Australia, Ukraine, Malaysia and many other countries. This week you sent financial support in appreciation to Monday John Akpakpan, a Nigerian missionary who has volunteered to be Mission Printing's manager of tract distribution in his area. Many have been very active in encouraging our Sister Ivy Paul with gifts before she returns to India. On July 25, Sunday night, Dan Keele will report to us about his biblical education at Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver. He will also bring the lesson of the hour. Dan appreciates the support that we are giving him and is excited about his four day visit with us. He plans to work in the Navajo Nation along with Terry Laurence, whom we support in Fort Defiance, AZ. We have just received a note from Oleg Yakimenko in St. Petersburg, Russia:

Natasha and the boys returned from Ukraine July 2nd. And from July 3d till 12th we were in the Estonian camp organized by the Tallinn church of Christ. Natasha and I were invited to be teachers/councilors there. It was a great time for us and the boys, good work for Christ' cause and wonderful fellowship. It makes us think of preparing our summer camp near St. Petersburg... next year. Such events help a lot to instruct children and teenagers in the faith. I am working on my June report that I will send today or tomorrow. Many scheduled and additional appointments with people. We get frequent visits by friends travelling through St. Petersburg. God bless you all, Oleg

We have wonderful missionaries working hard all over the world for the cause of Christ. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”- [Romans 1:16](#). Please pray for the Mission Printing ocean container of 600,000 tracts to be delivered safely to Brother Akpakpan in Nigeria on July 26.

Have a wonderful week in the Lord,

~ Richard L. Renfro

EXCEEDING RICHES OF HIS POWER

“For this cause I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you, and the love which ye show toward all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him; having the eyes of your heart enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to that working of the strength of his might which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all” (Eph 1:15-23).

God's "exceeding greatness" is a superlative way of manifesting the powerful means He uses to grant salvation to mankind. Jesus Christ died upon a Roman cross, was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, He was in the tomb three days and in Hades [place of disembodied spirits]. God raised Him by His glory (Rom 6:1-11). The exceeding greatness of this miracle displays the boundlessness and surpassing dimensions of God's power.

There are a number of scriptural superlatives which convey the tremendous importance of our "great salvation". These are marked by the adjective like "exceeding," which in the Greek implies essentially boundless, surpassing dimensions of the features it describes. Paul intensifies the magnitude of the divine mystery and opulence of grace. The wisdom of God's gifts to man acknowledge mankind's need and God's willingness to save. The measure and magnitude of divine salvation brings hope and joy. God shows the exceeding grace in His kindness towards us (Eph 2:7). There is glorious liberty in Christ (Rom 8:21). Jesus allows mankind to obtain mercy because they renounce the hidden things of shame handling the word of God in truth, commending themselves in the sight of God (2 Cor 4:1-6). As children of obedience, not fashioning themselves again according to former lust, they seek to be holy like God is holy (1 Pet 13-25). The scriptures teach that where sin did abound grace "abounds more exceedingly" (Rom 5:12-21). "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations forever and ever. Amen" (Eph 3:20, 21).

The measure of God's grace, love and kindness towards us show the expanse of salvation through Christ Jesus the Lord. The wonderful peace that passes all understanding keeps our hearts (Phil 4:7). God's eternal blessings are exceedingly wonderful. Thus, the infinite blessings and resources of God surpass the imagination of mankind. All of the spiritual and physical blessings are freely bestowed upon the children of God (2 Cor 7:1).

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, July 25, 2010

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

Sunday, August 1, 2010

Front foyer: Nancy Pond, Roberta Price

Back foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Family News:

MISSION PRINTING

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

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

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

SUMMERTIME GOSPEL PREACHING

Bill Burke will be speaking on "Is Christ the Answer" on **July 28th**. Bring a friend!

SUMMER YOUTH SERIES

The Summer Youth Series on **July 27th** will be at the Birdville Church of Christ. Meet at the McKey's house at 5:30 p.m. for a ride.

CAMP

Senior camp is now in session; we are grateful to the brethren at the Bangs Church of Christ for providing such an opportunity.

THANK YOU

We feel much love for each of our Beltline family. The prayers, cards, calls & visits in the hospital & at our home were great encouragement to both of us. Tom is improving; please continue to pray for him. Thank you, in Christian love, Tom & Billie Prince

I am doing better & think of being with you. Thank you for your prayers. Marietta Houser

NEW BIBLE STUDIES

Don Hatch began a new study **on July 18th** in the main auditorium on the "Minor Prophets".

Beginning **August 8th**, Jerry McKey will begin a new study on "Encouraging Statements in the Bible" in the Jr. Auditorium.

NEWS OF THE SICK

- **Gladys Barnes** underwent successful cataract surgery.
- **Billie Beverly** will soon undergo pre-op testing for back surgery.
- **Billie Gilliam** is wearing a boot to strengthen her ankle.
- **Vera Gleghorn** is suffering with knee problems.
- **Hank Henry** is feeling better; he was able to be in worship.

- Jack LaFerney** underwent a procedure last week.
- Everett Newton** is now home.
- Perry Cotham** is now at home.
- Doug Price (Roberta's son)** got a good report from his doctor.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Bobby Bowen, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Gail Hieronymus (Mike Garrison's daughter), Johnny Williams (Bobbie's son).

Psalm 24:1-10

The earth *is* the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This *is* Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face. Selah

Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

Who *is* this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He *is* the King of glory. Selah

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- July 25: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- July 27: Summer Youth Series, Birdville
- July 28: Bill Burke: "Is Christ the Answer?"

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Glen Kelly
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Mike Garrison
- Dorris Walker
- Brandon Howard

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Bill Paschall
- Roy Martin
- Bobby England

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Garl Latham
- Stan Selby

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Henry Seidmeyer
Revelation 7:11-17

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Bill Matthews
- Glen Kelly

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Kenny Mayer
Mark 16:14-18

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Jerry Baker (last song; Jerry McKey)

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Thomas Rathbun
- Robert Ruckman

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Garl Latham

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	88	92	82	125
A.M. Worship	153	172	147	210
P.M. Worship	73	80	78	112
Wed. Class	85	87	76	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	30
Contribution	\$4617	\$4944	\$5339	\$5433

MISSIONS

- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - Malaysia
- 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 – Stephenville, TX
Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India
Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching
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