

November 17, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

November 30, 2008

a.m. *"One Thing Is Needful"*

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

p.m. *"Fifth Sunday Singing"*

Teaching

Don Hatch

Rich varieties of words are employed in the Bible to describe teaching and its processes. Words describe the function of service and express how one is made a disciple. Teaching demonstrates how to discipline various facets of life in conforming to noble and stately purposes under a standard of authority. The glory of teaching, in harmony with God, shows He is the great teacher of His will using ways which are to direct one in spiritual obedience (Deut 4:5-14; 31:12, 13). The teaching of the Law means to trust easy changes in an educational process where the teacher puts forth new ideals and facts as a sower broadcasts seed onto the ground (Lk 8:1-8, 9-16). It is not mechanical or external but internal and vital to eternal life. During Old Testament times the process of religious teachers was to take the book of the Law of the Lord, as given by inspiration, making it the norm for priest, king and people (2 Chron 23). God's words distinguished themselves as significant and not mere merchandising to call attention to the teacher. The function of teaching exercised resolute interpretation of God's words based upon clear grammatical standards and was orientated to the difficult problems of life and their solutions which led to a godly manner of life (Neh 8; Psm 119).

Various forms of knowledge delivered means of looking at wisdom. This process allowed the one being taught to "look at" those items which would enable them to enter into intellectual fields of resources causing spiritual growth (Prov 16:23; 21:11). The mission of the "sage" was to make brighter and easier the wisdom of God. These wise men sought to make others "see" and "understand". Understanding moved from the simplistic to the more difficult. Thus, it was a mainstay of guidance (Prov 9:9; 22:19).

This intellectual sphere applied to "illuminating" the mind and overcoming "ignorance". This service, rendered by the teacher, enlightened in the principles of how and what to study to be able to make marked advances in personal development. It was expected that the teacher would refer to some source of authority. A clear vision of heaven's desires was formed through instructions and illumination. Clear spiritual values "boiled forth as from a fountain of living water".

Feeding others was compared to feeding sheep (Acts 20:17-35). Subsequently the propellant and power was a strong influence under divine guidance where personal responsibility became the pronouncement which demonstrated fulfillment or failure. Utterances

were characterized by instruction, admonitions, persuasion and predictions of rewards to the faithful. Ownership of what had been taught entailed accountability. Preeminently the teacher and student bonded in the process by fellowship with God. A didactic [moralistic, moralizing, straitlaced] delivery was far more important than performance by the instructor. The central thought of teaching was to cause learning. The acquisition of knowledge which became useful wisdom implied a personal relationship with the subject and student in order that an acquirement of the things taught was useful to the student on a personal level.

Analogous for a learner is the horse or mule who needs a bit until fully trained. Later the movement of the rider manifests the direction the animal is to go without the restraint of bit or bridle (Psm 32:9). Incumbent upon the teacher and student is a willingness to engender an atmosphere of trust. The glory and prosperity of the kingdom is due in large part to the emphasis laid upon religious instruction as a basis of Christian character and stability. Reading had to be frequent, distinctiveness and obedience mandatory. Correct use of intelligence was imperative. Because of the graveness of the subject it gave a mighty impulse to the thing taught. Deprived of the privilege of an institution of religious education for teaching correctly the word of God makes the moral security of a nation fretful. The teacher was culpable if he cared not that the students learned and practiced spiritual values (Jas 3:1-11).

Law is derived from the use of education of people in moral, social and ethical principles. This teaching is internal and vital to the inner man. The Old Testament was often called “the book of the law” (Deut 28:61; 2 Kg 22:8); the book of the law of God (Josh 24:26) and thus positioned itself as a written manuscript wherein man could seek education in the ways of God. The recorded revelation and legislation continued to be the divine norm and ultimate authority for people, priests, prophets and kings (2 Ch 23:11; Neh 8:1-3). The idea of teaching revelation was a demonstration that God had spoken to the prophets (Heb 1:1-5). Being a pedagogy [teacher] the function of the Bible brought solutions to social, domestic and religious problems by administering God’s will. Wisdom was derived from this revelation allowing one to see for himself what had never before entered his heart, soul and mind as astute instructions which were beyond any worldly advice (Jas 3:13-18; 1 Cor 2:6-16). Those who are wise shall shine like the firmament (Dan 12:3). Thus, it is a significant accomplishment in the sphere of education when one learns, lives what has been taught and teaches with the light of God’s word (1 Jn 1:1-10).

Teaching is a means of feeding the soul of man in virtue and wisdom. Bible teachers bless now and their efforts lead to eternal life as a lamp unto the way

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

Words of comfort from our Lord recorded in John 14:1-4. These verses give me a wonderful feeling of God's love, regardless of the circumstances that may befall me. In our congregation, we have many that are ill, some are suffering bereavement, some are challenged with financial difficulties, some are having family problems, some are looking for employment.

May they all find comfort in these passages, II Cor. 1:3-5, "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ."

We are to share the love and comfort of Christ with our brethren who are having great difficulties in life. Let us speak softly and encourage one another to do greater works for God. "But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." I Cor.15:57, 58.

Have a wonderful week in the Lord.

~Richard L. Renfro



The Comfort of Scripture

If you fear spiritual conflict and the fight is hard, read Psalm 27.

If you feel you lack of spiritual desires, read Romans 8.

If your love for others or for God is weak, read 1Corinthians 13.

If you lack the knowledge of God's law, read Exodus 20 and Matthew 22:34-40.

If you find it hard to forgive, or to seek forgiveness, read Psalm 32:51 and Matthew 18.

If you do not have eternal life, read John 3:1-18.

If you desire a vision of heaven, read Revelation 21, 22.

If you are discouraged, read Isaiah 40.

If you are in doubt, or lack faith, read Hebrews 11, 12.

If you are weary of those who oppose you, read Psalm 37:1-7

~ Herbert Lockyer

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008

Your Talents

Everyone influences and is influenced. If there is a stronger impact from worldly influence there is a deterioration of morals. Surrounding atmosphere changes even an iron ball. The ball cannot remain unaffected by the sun or night.

We have to choose what will influence us, thereby affecting our lives. Those items of higher value are to be sought. Jesus used the illustration of salt and its savor. If it loses its savor what can make it salty again (Mat 5:13)? Immensely important is setting high value upon our own influence. Simply being a complement, giving clear and personal service to purity can change even a nation. Salt exists for service. Usefulness is what separates one person from another. There is a place you can be of great service. In a local congregation your talents will bless and benefit another. Why not use your influence for good? All are welcome at the Belt Line Road church of Christ. Come! Use your talents for the Lord.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the November 27, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, November 30, 2008

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

Sunday, December 7, 2008

Front foyer: Stan & Doris Selby; Max Melton

Back foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Family News:

MISSION PRINTING

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

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

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

SINGING SESSION

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, all classes will be suspended this Wednesday evening (11/26) to meet in the main auditorium for devotional time at 7:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The office will be closed this Thursday and Friday, November 27th & 28th, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. If you have a need on those days, please contact Don or one of the elders.

LADIES

The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class will meet on December 2nd at 11:00 a.m. for a lesson & luncheon.

Polly Cline has notified us that she will be able to speak at Ladies' ½ Day, 2009.

ANOTHER BOY!

Marjorie Bennett has a new great-grandson, **Avery James Cox IV**; he was born on November 21st weighing in at 6 pounds. Avery lives in Lubbock. Congrats, Marjorie!

THOSE TO SERVE IN DECEMBER

Lord's table (front): Mike Batot, Glen Kelly, Thomas Rathbun, James Gilliam, Bill Matthews, Ty Harvey, Grady Fowler, Brandon Howard

(back): JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Max Melton, Keith Vaughn, Bobby Bowen, Jeremy Hardegree, Virgil LaFerney, Derroll Allen

p.m. Brandon Thomason, John Mayer

Card Pickup: a.m. Ethan Howard, Toby Howard **p.m.** Nathan Allen, Kenny Mayer

Contribution Counters: Mike Batot, Stan Selby

Communion Preparers: Bobby & Mary Bowen

PRAYER CONCERNS

•**Bob Bingham** will reschedule the PET scan that was planned; insurance needs to approve it first.

•**Jane Easter** went to the ER yesterday with back problems; she was released & is to have some testing done.

•**Joann Hatch** has been very ill due to medication changes.

•**Everett Newton** is home following surgery on his toe.

•**JC Ross** is undergoing therapy.

•**Henry Seidmeyer** is ill at home with a cold.

•**Ruth England** (Gwen Bingham's sister) is in the hospital in Terrell following a fall.

•**Wayne Ruyle** (Ilene Ashworth's son-in-law) was able to be at worship with us yesterday!

•**George Ryon** (Ann's son) has been moved to room #536.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Joann Hatch, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Percy Henry (Hank's brother), Todd Jonas (Charlene Carroll's grandson), Willie Lawson (Shellie Pearce's dad), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Crystal Vaughan (Mary Curtis' daughter), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- Nov 26: All classes are to meet in the main auditorium for a devotional time.
- Nov 27-28: Office will be closed
- Nov 30: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- Dec 2: Ladies' Bible Class at 11:00 for lesson & luncheon

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Julie Roses

Sunday evening:

- Sandy Hall

DEC. LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- Glen Kelly
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Bill Matthews
- Ty Harvey
- Grady Fowler
- Brandon Howard

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Bobby Bowen
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Virgil LaFerney
- Derroll Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Marvin Brown
- Harold Head

SCRIPTURE READING

- Jerry Baker
Luke 10:38-42

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Dean Webb

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Brandon Thomason
- John Mayer

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Bill Paschall

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	99	73	94	125
A.M. Worship	156	143	165	210
P.M. Worship	90	95	95	112
Wed. Class	94	83	95	110
Ladies Bible Class	21	22	22	35
Contribution	\$4907	\$4481	\$5381	\$5400

MISSIONS

21st Century Global Missions

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India

Roland & Rose Mohsen – France

JB & Ivy Paul – Bitragunta, India

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

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 – Bear Valley School of Preaching

Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India