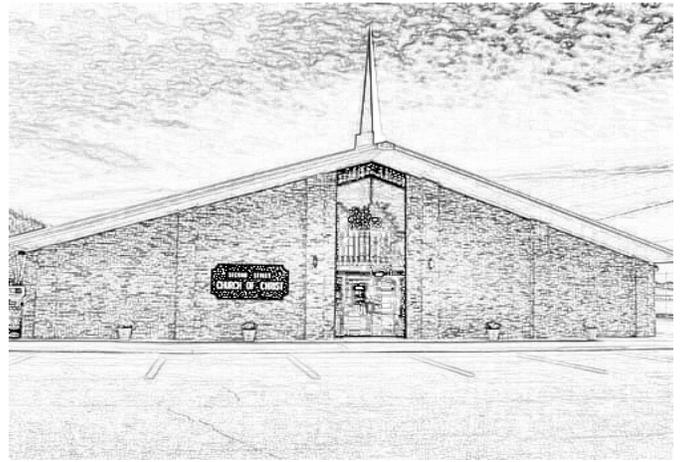


Second Street Church of Christ



October 9, 2016

Thirty pieces of silver: The rest of the story

Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, an act inspired by Satan himself (John 13:27).

John notes that when Judas departed from Jesus, it was night, which fits the motif of evil throughout the Bible (John 13:30; 1 John 1:5; Colossians 1:13).

The remarkable mind of God works throughout history to accomplish his plan without violating anyone's freewill. The logistics of such an idea is beyond our imaginations.

Despite the freewill of Judas and the Jewish leaders, they perfectly followed the plan foreseen by God before time.

In Zechariah 11, God's judgment is coming upon his people and their sorry shepherds.

The prophet said that they "weighed out for me my wages thirty pieces of silver" (Zechariah 11:12, NKJV). The Lord replied that the silver would be thrown into the house of the Lord and given to the potter (Zechariah 11:13).

Earlier God had used the same sum in the Law of Moses showing the vision and foresight of God. There it appeared in a discussion of an ox that killed a man or a woman (Exodus 21:28).

The intent of the owner of the ox played a part. If the oxen had been known to be violent, then the owner must pay a redemption price on his life for killing a male or female servant (Exodus 21:32).

Burton Coffman notes in his commentary, "This is the only case where a money compensation, instead of capital punishment, was expressly allowed in the Mosaic Law."

The redemption price? Thirty pieces of silver.

The plan of God worked smoothly and the precious Lord was betrayed and crucified for the sins of the world (Romans 5:6-8).

Exactly as prophesied, Judas received 30 pieces of silver. Remorseful, Judas returned the money to the defiant shepherds of Israel and the money was thrown down in the house of the Lord and used to buy a potter's field (Matthew 27:1-10).

The Bible is very rewarding to study because of God's extraordinary wisdom and vision. His greatness is evident on every page.

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MINISTER

Adam Cozort

662-663-0231

Office

662-454-9429

P.O. Box 126
Belmont, Ms. 38827

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Bible Class....9:00am
Sun. Morn. Worship.10:00am
Sunday Evening.....5:00pm
Wed. Evening.....7:00pm

***Endeavoring to keep
the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:3***

Announcements

Welcome Visitors!! You are our honored guest, and we are glad you came our way! We invite you back to our evening services at 5:00 and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 pm.

The sign-up sheet to host a singing and fellowship night is posted on the board in the foyer.

Food Pantry item - can tuna/chicken and crackers.

Pinevale Food Drive spaghetti sauce, cooking oil, paper towels.

Singing at Edna's October 15th 5:30.

An American Indian tells about a brave who found an eagle's egg and put it into the nest of a prairie chicken. The eaglet hatched with the brood of chicks and grew up with them. All his life, the changeling eagle, thinking he was a prairie chicken, did what the prairie chickens did. He scratched in the dirt for seeds and insects to eat. He clucked and cackled. And he flew in a brief thrashing of wings and flurry of feathers no more than a few feet off the ground. After all,

Years passed. And the changeling eagle grew very old. One day, he saw a magnificent bird far above him in the cloudless sky. Hanging with graceful majesty on the powerful wind currents, it soared with scarcely a beat of its strong golden wings.

"What a beautiful bird!" said the changeling eagle to his neighbor.

"What is it?" "That's an eagle — the chief of the birds," the neighbor clucked. "But don't give it a second thought. You could never be like him."

So the changeling eagle never gave it another thought. And it died thinking it was a prairie chicken. Ted Engstrom, *The Pursuit of Excellence*

Be a Barnabas

Barnabas was such an encouragement to the early church that he was even given that nickname: "Mr. Encourager." Of course the Hebrew way of saying that was "son of encouragement" (Acts 4:36,37). Paul urges us to "Not let any unwholesome talk come out of [our] mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen" (Ephesians 4:29).

So am I a Pollyanna, believing that all people are good, sweet and well-intentioned? No. I know there are false teachers out there, and selfish, prideful brethren who would wreck a church for their own gratification. I see human beings as sinners who need the grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

But I also know that it's a tough world out there. In work places and at high school, sinful people hurt and maim others for the pleasure of it. It seems to me that in the church we should find safe haven. Some things we can learn:

- In order to grow, most of us are going to make mistakes, fail, sin. Will there be brethren there who have the vision to see beyond our current failings to what we can become? We can't just "write" brethren off when they make a mistake. What if Christ had written us off?
- When people fail or sin, they are at a crossroads. They might conclude that they are not worthy of Christ, and give up. They need a Barnabas to lift them up again at that moment!
- Have the wisdom to see in someone else an ability or talent you don't have. Identify those with potential.
- I remember the elder who told me that for twenty-five years he dreaded the moment after worship because every time it ended someone would find him in the foyer and complain or criticize. Begin to see things through the eyes of leadership – elders, deacons and preachers. See the complexity of the decisions they make. Become a Barnabas to them.
- Being a Barnabas is more than being an empty-headed cheerleader. It requires thought, vision, insight into the way others behave, and finding ways to motivate them.
- Different people are motivated different ways. The body is made up of many parts, each with a unique and needed contribution to the whole.

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The God Of All Comfort

Friends, there is no possible use to try and deny that there are difficulties and opposing influences in many places, and of all sorts. They are there. Hardly, do we find such that will or can minister comfort and bring encouragement to the sinking heart and life situated in great despair. However, some speak as though they want us to think that there are no real problems. Which is sound evidence of their profound ignorance of the stern realities of life. They might as well tell us that we ought not to have a head on our shoulders or a heart in our bosom. But, let's go to the Bible and consider Moses of old and how he would help the people.

We ask, how did Moses seek to encourage the hearts of his brethren? *"Thou shalt not be affrighted..."* he said. (Deut.7:21). Why would he make such a statement? Were there no enemies, no difficulties, no dangers? No, that was not the case; rather he assured them that *"the LORD thy God is among you, a mighty God and terrible."* (Deut.7:21). Here is the true comfort and encouragement. The enemies were there, but God is the sure resource for them, and for us today! Notice this passage. *"O our God, wilt Thou not judge them? For we have no might against this great company that cometh against us, neither know we what to do; but our eyes are upon Thee."* (2 Chor. 20:12).

Here lies the precious truth, help, and comfort. The eye, attention, or mind is upon God. His promises, His love, and His care is now brought in, and this settles every thing! Can we not remember, *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"* (Rom.8:31). *"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."* (Heb.13:5). To the people of his day, Peter gave them God's message of comfort. *"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."* (1 Pet.5:7). God's leader, Moses, met the rising fears of the people. Even though *"these nations are more than I"* (Deut.7:17), they are not more than the *"Mighty and terrible God!"* What nation could stand before Him? What shall we think and say today of all the many troubles we are called upon to bear? Simply this: Put your eyes upon the Almighty God, and *"thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."* (Psa.23:4). Paul was inspired to write to the Corinthians: *"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."* (2 Cor.1:3-4).

....Fred House

(Continued from page 2)

- One of the greatest pleasures is to say something good about another in secret, and have him find out about it by accident. Speak well of others.
- Tell them you appreciate them. Thank them. A teenager told me once: "My father never once said, 'I love you.'"
- Be creative. Cards. Gift certificates. Baby sitting their kids while they go out.
- Identify some particular groups of people to encourage: Send young people a card telling them what you appreciate about them. The person who teaches your kid, or grand kids' Bible class. The preacher's wife, the elder's wives. Often they lose their identity because of their husband's role. Befriend that woman. The victim of bereavement, divorce, or some other tragedy.

The church always seems to have plenty of critics; what it needs is more encouragers!

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study **9:00am**
Worship **10:00am**
Evening **5:00pm**

Wednesday

Bible Study **7:00pm**

Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*
for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalms 133:1

The process for becoming a Christian
is the same as it was over 2000 years
ago! To become a Christian, one must:

Hear the Gospel - Rom. 10:17

Believe the Gospel - Heb. 11:6

Repent of Sins - Luke 13:3

Confess Christ - Rom. 10:10

Be Immersed Into Christ - Acts 2:38

Live a Faithful Life - Rev. 2:10

None of these alone will make you a
Christian. These commands are from
God and must be obeyed from the
heart to become a Christian.

Prayer List



Paula Wanner	Matthew Horton
Joey Pierce	Faye Johnson
Phillip Pharr	Ellie Sander
Barbara Blackman	Stephanie Moore
Larry Sartain	Flora Wanner
Dorsa Sparks	Jennifer Steger
Lou Dodson	Shane Stevens
Mike Braden	Allison Heitzman
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
Sammy Green	Brenda Leatherwood
Charlotte Lard	David James
Janice Moody	Jimmy Searcy
Edna Wren	Edgar Cannon
Carolyn Holcomb	Henry Vandagriff



October Birthdays

Aly Williams 10/3

Debra Brewer 10/9

Barry Wren 10/10

Joey Moore 10/15

Jerry Dees 10/17

Braxton Cleveland 10/24

Jeffrey Higginbottom 10/28

Glenda Williams 10/28

Daniel Cozort 10/29

October Anniversaries

Corey & Ashley 10/6

Mallory & Brad 10/21

Steve & Michelle 10/25

Sympathy

Adams Family