

Second Street Church of Christ



October 16, 2016

Speak a Good Word for Jesus

One day John was standing with two of his disciples. They saw Jesus walk past, and John said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” (John 1:35-36 NET). This incident took place after John immersed Jesus and after Jesus’ time of temptation in the wilderness. The previous day John had seen Jesus and identified him as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” and “the Chosen One of God” (John 1:29, 34). If these two disciples had not been with John the previous day it seems that they had at least heard what he had said.

“When John’s two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus” (John 1:37). These were disciples of John. They had been travelling around with John as John preached and baptised. They would have been aware that John had identified himself as “the voice of one shouting in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord’” (John 1:23). He was the one to prepare the way for the Messiah. And now he had identified to them who the Messiah was. No wonder they were willing to leave John and begin to follow Jesus.

What is wonderful is what one of these disciples immediately did. “Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, ‘We have found the Messiah!’ (which is translated Christ). Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon, the son of John. You will be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter)” (John 1:40-42).

Andrew had found the Messiah, the one the Jews had been looking for – longing for – for centuries! But he couldn’t keep this good news to himself. He had to tell someone! So he went searching for his brother Simon, found him, told him who they had found, and brought him to meet Jesus, the Messiah.

An interesting word in this text is the word “first” (John 1:41): “He first found his own brother Simon.” This word can mean one of two things. It could be that the first thing that Andrew did was to find his brother – and it seems that this was the first thing that he did. Or the word could mean that Andrew first found his brother and then the other disciple did the same thing. Some suggest that the other disciples was James or John and they also went to find their brother.

One thing that is obvious from this encounter with Jesus, is that he knew Andrew and Peter (and possibly James and John) before he called them to be fishers of men (Matthew 4:18-22). No wonder they were willing to follow Jesus, as they had already identified him as the Messiah!

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*

(Continued on page 2)

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 - apple sauce.

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

(Continued from page 1)

Throughout John's gospel, when we see Andrew, we see that he is bringing someone to Jesus: in John 6 it is the boy with the lunch and later on it is a group of Greeks (John 12). What a wonderful picture: every time we see him he is bringing someone to Jesus! If that could only be said of each of us!

Do we have the same excitement that Andrew had when he found Jesus? Do we search and find those we love to bring them to get to know Jesus? Are we as convinced as Andrew was that Jesus is the promised Messiah? Are we willing to be a "fisher of men"?

Think of all those who were influenced because Andrew brought Peter to Jesus. What impact might we have through those we bring to Jesus?

Let us always remember our mission: to seek and save the lost. *Jon Galloway*

Hard roads

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14 NRSV).

As I write this I am in a small town in the mountains of Nepal, at the beginning a a major trekking route in the Himalayas. We are approximately 60 miles at most from Katmandu, the capital of Nepal from where we began our journey. That trip took us eight hours in a private four-wheel drive SUV. The car was fine and the driver was skilled. But, oh, that road!

I have been here and to similar places in Nepal many times and know what to expect. But it is still something of a nerve-wracking experience to drive over rough rocky tracks carved into the mountainsides, sometimes having been rebuilt many times over landslide damage. Meeting a bus with one side of your vehicle seeming to hang off over a sheer drop is just not fun.

I have somewhat jokingly told people in the past that the only reason the roads we drive aren't featured on "The World's Most Dangerous Roads" is that they cannot get the camera crew up to film them. That may not be entirely a joke.

Why would one travel such hard and potentially dangerous roads? There is really only one logical reason – because the destination makes it worthwhile. If you want to go somewhere special, and the only way to reach it is by a hard road, that is what you do.

I think we may misunderstand Jesus' lesson in the text cited above. He is not really talking about the choice between easy and hard. Rather he is talking about the choice between destination and journey. If our concern is for an easy trip, we will choose that, even if it does not lead us to the place we might prefer to go.

(Continued on page 3)

THE DISTINCTIVENESS OF CHRISTIANITY

Examining how Christianity mirrors Jesus

- ◆ Christianity is distinctive because of its message

Galatians 1:11-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Romans 12:1-2

- ◆ Christianity is distinctive because it allows one to see self as he/she is

James 1:23-25; Philippians 3:13-14

- ◆ Christianity is distinctive in its ideals and values

Philippians 3:8-10; 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5-6; Matthew 6:19-21

- ◆ Christianity is distinctive because it attaches equal importance to every soul

Romans 3:23-24; 2 Peter 3:9; Hebrews 2:9

- ◆ Christianity is distinctive in its conduct

Luke 6:27-28; Romans 12:20-21; Ephesians 4:1-2; Philippians 2:4

- ◆ Christianity is distinctive in finding Joy in suffering and sacrifice

Acts 5:41; 2 Corinthians 12:10; James 1:2-3

Are you living the distinctiveness of Christianity?

(Continued from page 2)

If on the other hand we want to go to a certain place which can only be reached with hardship and difficulty, then we simply pay the price and go on hard roads.

Ask almost anyone who takes the question seriously, “Do you want to go to heaven or to hell?” The answer will be unanimous, “Heaven of course.” Jesus knew that just as do we. But ask, “Are you willing to deny yourself, take up his cross, and follow him, knowing that you will spend eternity in heaven?” Or, “Would you suffer persecution and be ostracized by friends and family to follow Jesus?” Not so many will quickly respond with a yes to those questions.

Jesus understood basic human nature. He knew that the vast majority are more interested in a comfortable journey than a prime destination. That is, they want pleasure and ease in this life, whatever that may cost them eternally.

Used by permission from Forthright Magazine (forthright.net). Copyright © 2016 Michael Brooks

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

Jeff & Meghan Stacy Family