

**August 11, 2008**

**SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**August 17, 2008**

a.m. *"Forgive Them"*

Scripture: Luke 23:33-38

p.m. *"Save to the Uttermost"*

Scripture: Hebrews 7:11-25

**A Tutor To Bring Us To Faith**

Don Hatch

Abel and Cain represent two fundamental and opposing views of worshiping God. Their occupations differed, but were still agricultural, with one tending livestock and the other crops. Neither vocation was superior to the other. Under the Mosaic Law both animals and crops could be sacrificed to Jehovah. Hence, the Patriarchal period manifested much of what was to follow in the Mosaic Law.

Offerings ranged from meat-offerings to fragrant offering of sweet smelling odors to Jehovah (Lev 2; 3; Ex 23; 29). These sacrifices did not arise from the natural instincts of man, but were guided by God and were subject to divine revelation (Heb 1:1-5; 2 Pet 1:22, 23). God sanctioned sacrifice which typified the atonement of Jesus Christ. Sacrifices were prevalent, independent of each other, often opposed to man's reasoning on his relationship with God but instinctively ingrained in the spiritual makeup of humanity. The sense of sin and loss of communion with God was stamped on mankind's heart. Sacrifice for sin determined any issue concerning why Cain and Abel offered divergent gifts. Mankind sacrificed because of an inalienable likeness to God and saw that life without communion with God did not exhibit the inner man controlling the outer man. Thus, sacrifices have not been arbitrary but necessity if mankind was to freely surrender himself to God. Sacrifices, when unbidden by God are mere acts of gratuitous superstition and acts of will-worship being neither acceptable nor pleasing to God. Correct sacrifices were honored and received approbation from God. Therefore the offering of divergent sacrifices by Cain and Abel were not acts of superstition but worship. These sacrifices were indubitably authorized by God. The nature of expiatory [atonement] sacrifice is strengthened by Cain and Abel seeking God. One acted on faith, the other was faithless (Heb 11:4, 5). God never approves of presumptuous sacrifices or superstitions. The divine institution of sacrifice is supported by the facts that ancient nations in conjunction with other rites and rituals offered sacrifices. History sets forward that holy sacrifices were divine and not superstitions.

Inaugurating Israel as a nation was the sacrifice of the Passover (Ex 14). The Passover is unique in character and embraces a ceremony directed by divine urging. The use of the animal and its blood embraces the peculiarities of the atonement manifested in Jesus Christ offering Himself for mankind's redemption. Moses built a great house wherein God would be honored. Sacrifices became very important as a solemn part of the covenant. Historical sacrifices and memorials marked the inescapable concept of salvation. In consecration of expiatory sacrifices

the need was for Israel to act upon what had been revealed to them. A serious consecration of those who offered the sacrifices was mandatory. There were limits imposed on who, what, where, when and how a sacrifice could be offered. Scripture gave impressive truths which guarded against corruption of values and virtues of the worshippers. There were periodic gatherings of Israel to acquaint them regularly with ordinances and making clear what was acceptable to God. God initiated a way and means for man to approach Him. It did not come from man's imagination. Typical sacrifices in Israel were means to establish a tutorage for Christians to know the value of Christ's vicarious sacrifice for mankind on His cross.

Heathens conceived of their gods as haughty and aloof to man. Scripture represents God as approachable and seeking mankind by sanctioning the way wherein broken fellowship could be reestablished. Minutely God gave directions for discontinuation of will-worship which in heathenism found full scope to create and invent monstrous sacrifices. The nearer worshippers drew to the concept of "propitiation" [favorable removing of the wrath of God] the more accurately they wanted to offer their personal sacrifice to God (Rom 12:1-5). A sacrifice has a twofold effect on worshippers. The effects are the ability to see that God would approve of them and a deepening of spiritual values. Worshiping God is well defined and practical. Offering a holy sacrifice is a crowning moment that cleanses corrupted sinners and makes them sanctified because God receives sinful mankind and allows them to offer sacrifices to find forgiveness of their sins (Rom 5:1-5). When the sacrifice which was ordained by God manifests itself as a fulfillment of the scheme of redemption the typical character of all other sacrifices demonstrated God demanded obedience. Christ in offering of Himself on behalf of mankind is distinct because He came to do the will of the Father. Spiritual efficacy depended on the true sacrifice and was conditioned by faithfulness.

It is clear from the idea of Old Testament sacrifices that the worshiper was seeking propitiation, preservation and fellowship. Superstitious sacrifices constantly ignored God's will and were self-styled. The link to God's favor has always been that He instructs man in what is required in each sacrifice and predominately weds understanding to application. It is essential and characteristic of sacrifices that the Old Testament was a tutor to teach us that there are standards of absoluteness which God requires of those offering sacrifices. With a clear view of sacrifices the church can act in faithfulness to offer sacrifices acceptable to God.

## **FAMILY CARE**

### **A Message from Our Shepherds**

We are thankful for our deacons who serve this congregation well. 1 Timothy 3:13 states, "For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

We are grateful for the work that they perform and supervise. They are Darrell Allen, Glen Kelly, Garl Latham, and John Mayer. These men make many of the 'day to day things' run smoothly here at the Belt Line congregation. They oversee the preparation of the communion, counting the contribution, transporting members, teaching the Bible, repairing the building and a hundred other things that need to be done. They take on the responsibility of being a deacon along with their family duties and challenges.

Please give them a big 'thank you' the next time you see one, they deserve it. Romans 12:9-13 says, "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."

We thank God for every member of the Belt Line church of Christ. As we continue to spread the Truth, let us not grow weary in doing good (II Thess.3:13).

Please remember our sick and bereaved in your daily prayers.

~ Richard L. Renfro

### **The Heart of God**

The parable of the prodigal son is one of the best known and best loved of Jesus' parables. As in all the Master's teachings, many wondrous and abiding lessons are to be learned. Yet, this parable does not stand by itself. It is but one third of a message. The fifteenth chapter of Luke, in which the parable is found, presents a trio of parables, all of which teach a single truth.

The first of the three parables is that of the lost sheep (verses 4-7), the second, the parable of the lost coin (verses 8-10), and finally, the parable of the prodigal, or lost son (verses 11-32). The unvarying refrain from the first to the third of these parables is the joy in heaven over the lost being found (verses 7, 11, 32).

What is the single message to be gleaned from the three? In these parables Jesus allows mankind to look into the heart of God. God's passion is for the lost. The lost are those who have gone away from Him, and when they do, He feels a sense of loss. He is the shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine to find the one. He is the homemaker who lights a lamp, sweeps the house, and searches diligently for the solitary lost coin. He is the father whose eyes longingly scan the distant horizon to catch sight of a rebellious boy returning home. Jehovah's desire is for lost humanity.

One should realize that these parables, as Alexander Maclaren explains, "were not meant to set forth with anything like completeness either what wanderers had to do to go back to God, or what God had done to bring wanderers back to Himself." While the Bible clearly tells of God's redemptive work on behalf of mankind and His redemptive plan for man's return, that is not the intent here.

The need for such a message is learned from these parables' setting (verses 1-3). Sadly, there are many people presuming to serve God who do not share the Father's love for the lost. The elder brother demonstrates that it is even possible for one in the Father's house not to know the Father's heart. This becomes evident when the diligent effort to win the lost is absent, and hesitance to receive the repentant is present.

The child of God, to truly be such, must share the heart of God.

~ David Deffenbaugh; minister for the church in Tehlequah, OK

## **SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008**

### **Purpose to Serve God**

Placing emphasis on planning for the future is wise. Many plan for retirement, trips, recreation and other events while yet unseen. Provisions are identified which will accomplish the plan. Consideration is carefully made to see that the outcome is suitable. When the plan does not work out it can be augmented by a contingent action. Wisdom seeks the best solution.

If any are to have spiritual success at any enterprise with redemptive value they should see that life is brief and place emphasis on the Lord's will (Jas 3:13-17). Planning for eternity starts with a commitment to doing the Lord's will. Mankind can prepare for the future by conforming to the image of Christ (Rom 8:26-30). All things work together for good to those who are called according to God's purpose. If any will purpose to serve God they will find God honors such a purpose (Dan 1). Purpose today to serve God and plan on worshiping faithfully each Sunday. All are welcome to worship with us.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the August 15, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

### **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **Sunday, August 17, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Nancy Pond, Roberta Price

**Back foyer:** JC & Dessie Ross

#### **Sunday, August 17, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Mike & Elizabeth Garrison; Max Melton

**Back foyer:** Robert & Cathy Taylor

## **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.

### **SUMMERTIME GOSPEL PREACHING**

Our theme this year is "Give Me the Bible, Holy Message Shining". Next Wednesday's lesson is entitled "**There is A Heaven**" & will be brought to us by Brother Richard Stephens III. Scripture reference: John 14:1-5.

### **39ers**

The 39ers will meet in the Annex next **Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 pm for food & fellowship. Bring your favorite dish & enjoy!

### **LADIES**

We will meet on **Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 a.m. in the Annex to work on bears. Please join us!

Also, mark you calendar for **Saturday, September 13, 2008**, 9am until 12:30pm, as we have been invited to the Keller Church of Christ Annual 'Intreat'. Our Beverly McKey will be speaking & the topic is "Are Our Hearts Right with God?" Please call the church office to RSVP as lunch will be provided. Thanks!

### **FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY**

The Robinson Road Church of Christ has invited us all to their 'Friends and Family Day', scheduled for **Sunday, August 17, 2008** from 9am until 2pm. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the back foyer for more details.

### **BIBLE CLASS FALL QUARTER**

The Fall quarter Bible classes are scheduled to begin on August 31<sup>st</sup> for Sunday morning & September 3<sup>rd</sup> for Wednesday evening. Teachers, let Brother Hatch know if you need supplies.

All teachers from ages Cradle Roll through High School are encouraged to attend a meeting scheduled for **Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>** in room #116 at 4:45 p.m.

### **IN APPRECIATION**

The family of John Morris wants to thank you for the cards, phone calls, & prayers. You have made our difficult time easier with your love. Thank you, Dana Hodgkins

### **WITH SYMPATHY**

Please remember in prayer the family of Mike Batot, whose father, Paul passed away early Saturday morning. Visitation will be at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 6pm - 8pm; services will be held at the Woodhaven Presbyterian Church at 3650 N. O'Connor Rd. (@ Northgate) here in Irving on Friday at 10am.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

- **Jane Easter remains** in Baylor/Irving, room #413.
- **Hank Henry** may need bypass surgery soon.
- **Robert Ruckman** is feeling better this week.
- **Christopher Tuttle** (Carol Partridge's grandson) is doing better this week.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Bob Bingham, Fauna Garrett, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Jan Smithson, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Joy Gilliam (the Gilliam's daughter-in-law), Percy Henry (Hank's brother),

Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Bette Yearwood (Becky Henry's sister), & our shut-ins.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Be sure and mark your calendar -

- Aug 18: 39ers in Annex at 6:30 pm
- Aug 19: Ladies work on bears in Annex at 10:00 a.m.
- Aug 20: Wed. Night Summertime Preaching, Richard Stephens III
- Sept. 13: Ladies' 'Intreat" at Keller Church of Christ; speaker, Beverly McKey
- Oct 26-29: Fall Gospel Meeting, Robert Dodson

### NURSERY ATTENDANTS

#### Sunday morning:

- Sandy Hall

#### Sunday evening:

- Betty Ruckman

### LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

#### Front Table

- Mike Batot
- Glen Kelly
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Ty Harvey
- Rob Farmer

#### Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Bobby Bowen
- Virgil LaFerney
- Keith Vaughn
- Bill Paschall
- Jeremy Hardegree

### SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Denzil Myers
- Grady Fowler

### SCRIPTURE READING

- Jeremy Hardegree  
Luke 23:33-38

### SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry Baker
- Robert Ruckman

### LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Darrell Allen
- Garl Latham

### COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Ty Harvey

### FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	77	95	95	125
A.M. Worship	142	150	167	210
P.M. Worship	95	94	94	112
Wed. Class	100	103	94	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	35

Contribution	\$6433	\$4871	\$5409	\$5400
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**MISSIONS**

21<sup>st</sup> 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