

May 24, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

May 30, 2010

a.m. "*Sabbath Rest*"

Scripture: Hebrews 4:8-13

p.m. *Fifth Sunday Singing*

The Necessary Risk

Don Hatch

Sowing the seed and the Sower was one of the parables Jesus used to teach discipleship (Lk 8:4-13). To the disciple Jesus Christ is the most wonderful and fascinating person who ever lived. He spoke with wisdom and authority. Mankind had never nor will ever hear such a teacher. In spite of the feelings and assurance disciples have there is always a growing hostility toward Him because He demands loyalty, purity and selflessness. In our day it is increasingly clear that there are bitter enemies to Christianity. They want to destroy every vestige of it, doing away with the moral and spiritual teachings which connect themselves with Him. With many silencing Christ has become an obsession and life's ambition. It is clear to destroy His preaching has become a coordinated effort and relentless. What is to be done? Jesus spoke mainly to meet the spoken and unspoken questions of disciples. He sought to soothe and comfort them in their work in His kingdom. He wanted them to know why efforts produced results. He gave the cure for discouragements. He wanted disciples to know that effort was never wasted and in the end the great harvest is sure. The point of Jesus' life and teachings was the great truth mankind needed to know about salvation [gospel]. He knew that sowing the seed was hard work and waiting for results was a lonely wait. **He knew that the seed had to germinate, some might never germinate, some would grow and others would die along the way.** Nonetheless, a plenteous harvest will result. On this truth the disciple can build a life.

Disciples should never be discouraged even though nothing seems to be happening. Great things appear even when the moment seems unlikely for them to appear. There are countless stories of men and women with high ideals and standards who placed themselves in time and circumstances where they were able to be used by the Lord. They brought forth many wonderful efforts which were crowned with success. Many of them never saw the fruit of their labor in their lifetimes but seeds sown have grown a hundredfold. Necessarily they had to take the risk if there were to be preachers, missionaries, elders, deacons and faithful members of the Church. Every effort has a result. Some seeds fall on ground that is tainted with weeds, thorns, thistles and these kill the hope for the seed. Satan still sows tares (Mat 13:24-30). When we realize this we come face to face with a powerful foe that is hostile to Jesus Christ. There are times when hostile and ferocious foes assault the disciple and seek to draw them away from the risky business of sowing the seed. Disciples must be willing to take a stand on one side or the other. No one can be neutral. Inevitably the attacker from darkness will come even upon the most ardent and steadfast of Christ's disciples (Lk 22:31-34; 2 Cor 12:1-10). It

is impossible to distinguish in early growth what a single seed will produce. After the death of the seed, the fledgling plant and early reproduction of itself, there are still the inextricable attempts to thwart the full uses of the seeds potential. There are ways to enhance the fullness of the plant like watering and fertilizing. It is risky business but the hope of fullness in the plant is worth all the effort of the sower.

Jesus always enforces the moral lessons and shows the probability of a full harvest. Disciples can see that often those branded socially unacceptable are the ones who, when converted, become the most ardent and faithful. Those who are more succinctly in stride with Jesus know the possibilities of moral and spiritual reform. When the heart begins to respond, God will give the increase (1 Cor 3:1-9). The Word of God and the mind of man are two indispensable parts of fulfilling the hope taken in the necessary risk of the sower. Different hearts are represented by different soils. The **mentally lazy** are those who refuse to think. Jesus wants everyone to think. Until men think for themselves they are but a “gad-fly” [sometimes called a “horsefly”]. These just want to be “left alone”. The **mentally arrogant** have the attitude that makes them think they have learned all and nothing else is worth looking into or learning. They are persuaded in their pride that Jesus was intolerable and His doctrine impossible. There are those who are **mentally fearful** to open their minds to the moral and spiritual needs and requirements of the soul. He might deny the existence of God or prefer not to see His handiwork.

The risk a planter takes in sowing the seed is that the broadcasting of it on some soil [hearts] will produce shallow faith. Difficulties come when the “feelings” which arise are called upon to deepen their roots but there is little depth to their lives. In the scorching trials of life many are overcome and perish. To be sure of faithfulness there will always be a test, a comprehensive examination. Thorns and thistles commonly take the nutrients from a young plant. The second best method of Satan is to sap the strength of a new convert because all failures discourage. The planter takes a risk. What should the planter do? Leave the seed in the barn, only sow on ground that has been certified as good, sow very little seed so it will not be wasted? Keep the seed out of sight so that no one will know that they have something of such great value? Wait until everything is optimum, weather is just right, soil tested; place seed in ground [heart] sparingly, just do nothing and hope for the best? The seed is only effective when sown. It is risky, but with God the results are extraordinarily wonderful (1Cor 3:1-9).

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

It was Solomon in the long ago that gave man's purpose in life. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter; Fear (respect) God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13). It was the Christ, the Son of God and master teacher that also gave man's purpose in life. "Thou shall love the Lord God with all thy heart, soul, strength, and mind and thy neighbor as thyself" (Lk. 10:27). "Whoever hears these sayings of mine and DOES them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (Matt. 7:24). "For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

Matt 13:47-51 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire; there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things? They said unto Him, yes, Lord."

Are we looking for Bible authority instead of man's authority, faith instead of feelings and undenominationalism instead of denominationalism? Then we need to invite and/or bring others to the Belt Line Road Church of Christ!

Attendance is very important, and we need to do better, those that possibly can. In less than one month, our Vacation Bible School will be in progress. Are we making plans to support this Vacation Bible School? Mark your calendar..... June 14-16... .We need to promote this Vacation Bible School to our loved ones, neighbors, friends and strangers. We are counting on a good attendance, but everything is dependent on Belt Line members..... Let's do our part and make this a big success.

Have a great week serving God! Remember our sick and shut-in with prayers, calls and cards!

~ Dean Webb

"For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, That I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers In the day that I took them by the hand to lead them forth out of the land of Egypt; For they continued not in my covenant, And I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, And on their heart also will I write them: And I will be to them a God, And they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his fellow-citizen, And every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: For all shall know me, From the least to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And their sins will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new covenant he hath made the first old. But that which is becoming old and waxeth aged is nigh unto vanishing away" (Heb 8:8-13).

VICTOR'S CROWN

"...For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of; for necessity is laid upon me; for woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel. For if I do this of mine own will, I have a reward: but if not of mine own will, I have a stewardship intrusted to me. What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel without charge, so as not to use to the full my right in the gospel. For though I was free from all men, I brought myself under bondage to all, that I might gain the more. And to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, not being myself under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; to them that are without law, as without law, not being without law to God, but under law to Christ, that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might gain the weak: I am become all things to all men, that I may by all means

save some. And I do all things for the gospel's sake, that I may be a joint partaker thereof. Know ye not that they that run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? Even so run; that ye may attain. And every man that striveth in the games exerciseth self-control in all things. Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, as not uncertainly; so fight I, as not beating the air: but I buffet my body, and bring it into bondage: lest by any means, after that I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected" (1 Cor 9:16-27).

Paul set forth the standards by which he hoped to achieve a "crown of victory". He strove for "mastery" of himself. He devoted himself to "tempering" his life in all things and thereby receiving the victor's crown. Many times this term is used to remind the Christian of the mastery needed. The hope, joy and crown of Paul's efforts as a preacher was faithfulness of brethren (1 Thes 2:17-20). The joy which comes from observing others growing in the strength of the Lord is inexplicable. Each Christians standing fast, unwavering and always abiding in the Lord demonstrates that labors in the Lord are never in vain (1 Cor 15:50-58; Phil 4:1). The crowning joy is the hope that all Christians will one day receive this crown. It is the prize of the spiritual race. Satan seeks to minimize the value of a Christian's victory over him. To be a "conqueror" in the name of the Lord is the most awesome thing which a Christian can experience (Rom 8:321-39).

Paul gave a charge to Timothy concerning his role in preparing individuals for the Christian life. Paul had weathered the trials of life. He was coming to the conclusion of life and was being offered to the Lord like a "drink offering" (2 Tim 4:1-8). After fighting the good fight, keeping the course Paul says a "crown of righteousness" awaited him and all those who were faithful and loved the Lord.

Peter said the "crown of glory" will never fade away (1 Pet 5:4). James identifies the enduring of life's temptations as receiving a "crown of life" (Jas 1:12). Eternal life is received at the hands of a gracious Lord. His mercy, grace and peace encourage the Christian to strive for the "crown". Let us lay aside all things which can easily beset us and run the race that is set before us. We have a "great cloud of witnesses" that patiently ran and won the "crown" (Heb 12:1-29).

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, May 30, 2010

Front foyer: Ilene Ashworth, Thomas Rathbun

Back foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

Sunday, June 6, 2010

Front foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Back foyer: Max Melton, Nancy Pond, Roberta Price

Family News:

MISSION PRINTING

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

SINGING SESSION

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

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

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

CHRIST HAVEN

Just a reminder that the Christ's Haven truck will be here to pickup groceries on **June 15th**; bags with a list of needed items are available in both foyers.

RESONSE

Amber Vaughan responded to the Lord's invitation asking for prayers to stay strong & remain faithful.

SUMMERTIME GOSPEL PREACHING

Flyers are available in both foyers for our Summertime Gospel Preaching beginning in June; take a few & invite your friends & family.

HAPPY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Please join us on this special occasion when our parents Don & Joann Hatch celebrate 50 years of marriage at a reception in their honor on **Saturday, the fifth of June**, two thousand ten from two o'clock to five o'clock in the afternoon at the Belt Line Road Church of Christ Annex, 3344 Stovall St., Irving, Texas. Terri & Jack Fortner, Sherri Hatch, Tim & Rebecca Hatch, Serena & Arthur Jacob. Your sharing in our joy on this occasion is the only gift we wish.

OFFICE CLOSING

Due to the Memorial Day Holiday, the office will be closed on **Monday, May 31st**.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Be sure to invite friends & neighbors so that we may have the best VBS yet: June 14-16.

Also, come and help hand out invitations on **Saturday, June 12th** from 9a.m. – 11a.m.

HELP NEEDED

Please see the signup sheet in the front foyer if you will be able to sit with Billie Gilliam.

GLEENING FOR CHILDREN

The green coin cans for the Foster's Home for Children are available in both foyers; if you'd like to participate, please take one & fill it with your spare change; we have until the end of August to collect.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone at Belt Line Road for your cards, phone calls, but especially your prayers on my behalf. The care & concern you've shown me is amazing; Mary & I feel so blessed to belong to such a loving congregation. Again, thank you! In Christian love, Bobby Bowen

Dear Beltline Family, Grady & I both have many health problems & we call on our wonderful Beltline family once again. There are no words to express our love for you all; God has blessed us so much. Thank you for your prayers, cards, calls, & your love. God bless, Grady & BC Fowler

NEWS OF THE SICK

- Judi Bowman** (Nancy Pond's sister-in-law) is doing well after surgery last week.
- Tonya Bowman** (Nancy's niece) was released from the hospital.
- Janice Daniels' mom** is not doing well.
- Claude Holmes** (Elizabeth Garrison's cousin) will have double bypass surgery today (5/24) in Lubbock.
- Rose Mohsen** (missionary in Paris) suffers with rheumatism & is on a new medication.
- Lillian Porter** (Marcella's sister-in-law) is having surgery today (5/24).
- Doris Smith** (Ilene Ashworth's sister-in-law) is in the hospital in Pittsburg, PA with chronic leukemia.
- Beverly Sweat's son** was reported missing, but he called in & is ok.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Bobby Bowen, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Hank Henry, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Leo Townsend, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Mark Curtis (Lotah Franklin's friend), Gail Hieronymus (Mike Garrison's daughter), Johnny Williams (Bobbie's son).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- May 30: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- May 30: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- May 31: Office closed
- June 2: Begins Summertime Series

- June 12: Pass out VBS invitations
- June 14-16: Vacation Bible School

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Jerry Baker
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Brandon Howard
- Mike Garrison
- Dorris Walker

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Stan Selby
- Richard Renfro

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Henry Seidmeyer
Hebrews 4:8-13

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Fifth Sunday Singing Schedule

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Fifth Sunday Singing Schedule

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Fifth Sunday Singing Schedule

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Thomas Rathbun
- Robert Ruckman

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Darrell Allen

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	89	89	81	125
A.M. Worship	171	155	147	210
P.M. Worship	88	85	77	112
Wed. Class	74	83	77	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	35
Contribution	\$5904	\$4848	\$5398	\$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 – Stephenille, TX
Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India
Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching
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 – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India