



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

Vol. 22 No. 05

May 2018

UPCOMING EVENT!!

Jayson & Leslie Cardwell

From Beaver Dam, KY

Saturday Night

May 19th @ 6 PM

@ Voice of the LORD Tabernacle



**Come join us for this POWERFUL night of
worship & praise!**

Fellowship & food following the service!

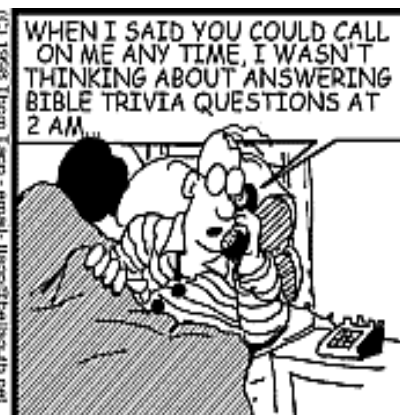
216 Hill Street Livermore, KY

I Know Whom I Have Chosen

Jesus said, "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you that you should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain" (John 15:16). I believe the Lord examines our fruit daily. He has called me by my name and I am His. Yes Lord, I did not choose you - you chose me. I was chosen at the age of 13 years old, and I believe I was called, for Jesus calls and He chooses. I was born again. However, it was 27 years later, and I had wandered away from my Father's house. Then I came to my right mind, through much affliction. As David said, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted (Psalm 119:71). I saw my affliction and I called to my Lord Jesus Christ and He restored the joy of His salvation to me. Have you failed in your walk with the Lord? Jesus said, "I know whom I have chosen" (John 13:18). He has called you and He has chosen you. Precious one, as you read this,, do you feel the call of God upon your life and yet no door opens? The word of God said to "make your calling and election sure" (2 Peter 1:10). I see a great door. On the other side is the work He has for you, yet that door does not open. You can't bring things that are not repented of and expect Him to open that door of ministry until you can say "I surrender all. Nothing in my hand I bring. Only to thy cross I cling." Over 40 years ago He opened that door for me, and I can say, "Thank you, dear Jesus"! I don't regret a mile that I have traveled for the Lord. "All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give. I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live. I surrender all." I would love to hear from you. Please feel free to send me your prayer request. Until next time, His Handmaiden, Sister Betty Jean Robinson



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH



Cousin Leroy

Junior had been wearing glasses since the age of three. When he was in the first grade he came home one day very distressed. Wanting to find out what was the matter Ma asked, "Junior, what happened to ya today to upset ya so much?" He answered, "It's not fair Ma...I'm not allowed to go to the library." Ma became very concerned and asked, "Why aint ya allowed to go to the library?" With a tearful reply he said, "Cause, in order to go to the library you have to have "supervision", and I wear glasses!"

Bubba and the Misses

While attending a Marriage Seminar at church dealing with communication, Bubba and the misses listened to the instructor, "It is essential that husbands and wives know each other's likes and dislikes." He addressed the man, "Can you name your wife's favorite flower?" Bubba leaned over, touched his wife's arm gently and whispered, "It's Martha White, aint it?"

The Loan

An elderly lady walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the loan officer. She says she is going to Europe on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5000. The bank officers says the bank will need some kind of security for such a loan, so she hands over the keys to a new Rolls Royce, parked on the street, in front of the bank. Everything checks out, and the bank agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan. An employee drives the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and parks it there. Two weeks later, the lady returned and repays the \$5000, and the interest, which is \$15.41. The loan officer says, "We are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us is why would you bother to borrow \$5000?" The lady replied, "Where else in New York City can I park my car for 2 weeks for \$15.00?"

The Stairs

Bill, Jim, and Scott were at a convention together and were sharing a large suite on the top of a 75-story skyscraper. After a long day of meetings they were shocked to hear that the elevators in their hotel were broken and they would have to climb 75 flights of stairs to get to their room. Bill said to Jim and Scott, "Let's break the monotony of this unpleasant task by concentrating on something interesting. I'll tell jokes for 25 flights, and Jim can sing songs for 25 flights, and Scott can tell sad stories the rest of the way." At the 26th floor Bill stopped telling jokes and Jim began to sing. At the 51st floor Jim stopped singing and Scott began to tell sad stories. "I will tell my saddest story first," he said. "I left the room key in the car."



VOTL
Voice of the LORD

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Billy R. Douglas

Shut In With God

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20

In the above passage of scripture we find what I think is one of the saddest pictures in all of the Word of God. We see the church of Laodicea just a couple of verses before this boasting "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;" yet here we see Jesus...the one they needed the most is found standing outside knocking on the door! And because He was shut out they were in essence "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" and they didn't even know it! Yet in all of this...in spite of all of this Jesus was still knocking...calling for them to open the door and let Him in. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." What a beautiful picture of God's grace and never failing love. Even though they had set Him "outside"...even though they had no time for Him...even though they had filled their lives with everything but Him...He still knocks...He still calls...He still invites them to "sup" with Him! No matter our spiritual condition there is a great truth to be gleaned from this passage of scripture. The word sup means to dine, have a meal with, to have communion and fellowship. The LORD desires that of all of His children. He longs to have fellowship and communion with us. How do we do this? Through making His Word a daily part of our lives and by having a prayer life. Spending time each day in His Word and spending time each day in prayer! Someone once said "Prayer is how we talk to the LORD...reading His Word is how He talks to us". I think there is great truth in that! There is strength to be found in spending time in His Word and spending time in prayer. This is something that will change your life...you can sing, shout, run the aisles and jump the pews and still stay the same. BUT when you begin to spend time in His Word each day...when you begin to spend time in prayer each day it is IMPOSSIBLE for you to stay the same! I believe that this is one of the main reasons that the church of today is in the mess that it is in...the lack of these two things in the lives of Christians. It is not preached from behind most pulpits...sadly it is not practiced by most of the men and women who stand in the pulpit and the result is a generation of pew warmers who know more about the world than they do about the Word! Who know more about Hollywood than they do about the Holy Ghost! All through the Word of God we see example after example of men and women who were people of prayer! We need some people in the church today who know how to pray! We need some people in the church today who know what the WORD has to say! We need some people today who will take the time to get alone with God! Some people who will stop putting their relationship with the LORD on the back burner and move Him and spending time with Him to the top of their "to do" list!! How important are these two things? You will never grow spiritually without them! You will not have the strength or the power that you need in your walk with the LORD without them! You are in grave danger of being deceived without them! I cannot imagine going a day without reading His Word...I cannot fathom the thought of going a day without spending time with Him in prayer. Find yourself a place where you can get alone with God...turn off the cell phone, turn off the TV...shut out all of the other noise and have communion with Him! You will see very quickly what a difference it makes in your life, He's knocking...He's calling...will you take the time...will you MAKE the time to open the door and sup with Him? I want to close with some of the words to an old old song called "Shut In With God"...*Of all pleasant places on land or on sea There's no place on earth that is sweeter to me Than to kneel at the feet of my Master and Lord For there, I'll be shut in with God Shut in with God in a secret place There in the spirit, beholding His face. Gaining new power to run in this race Oh, I love to be shut in with God.* Until next time may the LORD Bless and keep you. Pastor Billy R Douglas

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. Matthew 6:6

**WHITHER SHALL I GO? Part 02**

By: Evangelist Mike Heltsley

As the Psalmist thought of God's Complete and Constant knowledge of all his ways, It was beyond his ability to Comprehend WHAT HE COULD NOT "COMPREHEND" Secondly I want you to see ...II. WHAT HE COULD NOT "CAUSE" So, as the Psalmist continues to think of these Truths about God ...He Contemplates the Truth that He cannot Cause or Create a separation from God's Presence We find him asking in v. 7 – "Whither shall I go from Thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from Thy presence?" Then he provides the answer to his own questions Whither Shall I Go? – Psalm 139:7 He tells us that it impossible to be separated from the Presence of God Notice what he say First we see ...A. A 'Flight' The Psalmist says in vs. 8-10 – "If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there" "If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;" "Even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me" The Psalmist declares that there is no where you can go to get away from the presence of God He says – "If I was able to go to heaven, I would obviously be in the Presence of God. If I make a bed in the grave (the idea behind the word hell used here), even death will not separate me from the Presence of God. He will be there even in death. If I could sprout wings and fly off into the morning sun to the ends of the sea, fly away as far as I can go, I will not separate myself from the Presence of God. He'll be there" The Psalmist is reminding us that no matter where we are or where we go, God is there This is God's Omnipresence's / That He is everywhere It is impossible, even if we tried, to run or flee from the Presence of God Whither Shall I Go? – Psalm 139:7 No matter what you Do, God knows! Furthermore, no matter where you Go, God is there! I think of Jonah The story is familiar of how he tried to run from God Yet, Jonah found out that you can run ahead of God and you can run away from God, but you can't run anywhere or anyplace that He is not there A 'Flight' Cannot Separate Us from God's Presence Secondly, we see ...B. The 'Night' The Psalmist says in vs. 11, 12 – "If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me" "Yea, the darkness hideth not from Thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee" The Psalmist tells us that it is not only impossible to Flee from the Presence of God,... But it's also impossible to hide from the Presence of God The darkness of night will not hide or conceal us As far as God is concerned, the darkness is as the day III. On the night of July 13th 1977, the lights went out in New York City. Tens of thousands of people looted and burn the city. Steel shutters and grills were ripped from storefronts, plate glass ... Whither Shall I Go? – Psalm 139:7...windows were shattered, and people hauled off everything they could get their hands on. Some even went as far as stealing trucks to haul off the loot. Over 2,000 stores were plundered and damaged at the cost of \$1 billion. Why? ... Because it was dark! They thought that since it was dark, no one would see or recognize them Yet, I remind you that the darkness does not hide us from God He is there! You can close the door, pull the shades, turn off the lights, yet God is there You can go across town or out of town, yet God is there You can wait till the sun goes down, yet God will be there! Neither Flight nor Night can separate us from the Presence of God Whither shall I Flee from His presence? Nowhere! Whither Shall I Go? – Psalm 139:7 We are never out of His Presence We can't Flee or Hide from ... God's Presence He's there! WHAT HE COULD NOT "COMPREHEND" WHAT HE COULD NOT "CAUSE" The final truth we see is ...III. WHAT HE COULD NOT "COUNT" We read in vs. 17-How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. The final Truth that the Psalmist has been contemplating has been the Acts and Activities of God in his life This is God's Omnipotent / That is, God is All-Powerful - Whither Shall I Go? – Psalm 139:7 He describes the number as the sands of the sea In other words, if I tried to count the many ways God has worked in my life, it would be impossible It would be like trying to count the grains of sand you find on a beach-- Oftentimes we feel that God is doing nothing in our life -- Other times we feel that we are not of any special interest to Him I want you to notice carefully How the Psalmist describes God's attention to his life First we see ...A. God's 'Pre-natal' Attention to His Life In vs. 13-16, the Psalmist describes the Attention God gave to his life even before he was born We read in v.13 – "For Thou hast possessed my reins: Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb." The statement, "For Thou hast possessed my reins," simply means, Thou hast created my innermost parts The word "possessed" means to create or form The word "reins" is the Hebrew word for bowels It would include all the vital organs—lungs, kidneys, liver, heart, brain, etc. Whither Shall I Go?



Caleb's Life of Holiness

Pastor Steve Huston

Numbers 14:24 "But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it."

Background Scriptures to read: Numbers 13; 14; Joshua 14:6-13

(Numbers 13) Using Caleb as an example, let's look at some of the facets of a lifelong commitment to the life of holiness. He had faith in God and lived as a servant to God. He went into the land to evaluate it. His spirit was different than the other spies. Their evaluation was self-centered; Caleb's evaluation was God-centered. He calmed the crowd down after the other ten riled them up. Can you picture the people getting restless as the ten spies gave a bad report? The growing tension, the growing whispers... Then Caleb steps up and says, "No, no, no, you're looking at this all wrong! Look to God—let's go and possess this land; it's already ours for the taking!" Friends, the life of holiness is having a right spirit, a spirit which is focused on the Word of God and takes His Word as truth. A spirit which trusts in the saving power of Jesus, and the working, servant—obedience power of being filled up with God's Holy Spirit. (Numbers 14) The life of holiness is also a life of following the Lord fully. When the rest of the congregation was content to stop at Kadesh-barnea, Joshua and Caleb would follow fully. Regardless the cost, they were willing to go all the way with God. Their family and friends wanted to stone them, the people of the land most assuredly would kill them if possible; BUT even in the face of such oppositions they trusted in the Lord and would follow Him fully. Listen to their reply in Numbers 14:7-9. "And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not." You can see clearly the difference between a holy life and the self-centered life. It's not only a life with a different spirit, a life which is fully committed to God, but it is clearly a life which CAN be lived today, in this present world! The life of holiness is definitely a present possibility! In Joshua 14:6-13 we read of Caleb's patient waiting—the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years! He would watch all the members of his family die (except whatever children were young enough to not feel the wrath of God's judgment upon His faithless people). Throughout these forty years he would see a new generation grow and he would be an example of a disciplined "Christian" life. He remained faithful to God and continued to trust in Him. Caleb steps forward to claim his inheritance, being satisfied with nothing less than God's very best. Even though he was 85 years old now, he was anxious to get out there and conquer the mountain and conquer the giants. Look at his strength; look at his faith; look at his ambition; see this man of God continue to walk in holiness, keeping his eyes set on God and his life consecrated to God's glory and promise. So, what made Caleb different than the rest of the congregation of the children of Israel? What can make you different from the "congregations" of the American church today? What can make you different from the world which surrounds us? We are called, as the children of God and as those who are saved by Jesus, to come out from among them and be ye separate—we are called to have a different spirit. We need what Caleb had; we need to embrace a life of persistent, dedicated, unashamedly, whole-heartedly, sold-out holiness! Are you ready to see what that looks like? How did God describe Caleb? "But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it." (Numbers 14:24) Let us strive to live up to God's description of Caleb; let us seek and pray for the Holy Ghost to give us this different spirit: Caleb was God's servant. He would walk obediently to the command of God. Will you? Caleb was a man of another spirit. He was an Israelite but he was different from his family and the other spies that he had gone into Canaan with. He only had eyes for God. He would neither look to himself nor the community around him. He would fear God alone, not the men of his community or the giants of the land. He was a man with a spirit of faith, which led to courageous obedience. He said, let's go possess the land, not conquer it. If God said it, it was as good as done. Would you possess such a spirit? Caleb followed God fully. He was consecrated to God. He was completely sold out to God's will and all that would entail. Whether Caleb would possess the promise today or forty years from today, he would not waver in believing that God will reward the faithfulness of a holy life. Will you be fully consecrated to God? For Caleb, it was lifelong. There is great importance in finishing well. Neither his strength nor faith had waned. He was just as ready to fight for God and God's glory as he was 45 years earlier. He was and would remain a man of God. Are you in it for the long haul? Will you trust God to the end—bitter or sweet? (Although the very end is sweet for any who will remain faithful to the end) Caleb had a great reward. It was a different and spectacular reward. It combined God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. Because Caleb walked in faithful holiness, he had peace all around. Are you FULLY consecrated to God and His will? Is your prayer, "not my will by Thine be done"? What giants in your life are you fearful of dispossessing? What promises are you holding back from possessing? Be like Caleb: Commit to be God's servant. Consecrate to follow Him fully. Continue in utter abandon to the Holy Spirit.



Reesie's Recipes



Strawberry Blossom Cake

by Teresa Daugherty

- 1 box strawberry cake mix
- 1 small box vanilla instant pudding mix
- 4 eggs
- 3/4 cup veg oil

32oz container frozen strawberries, sweetened

Thaw strawberries and drain off juice. Save juice. Puree strawberries in blender. Preheat oven to 350. Spray bundt pan with non stick spray. In large bowl combine first 4 ingredients, add 1 cup pureed strawberries. Mix well. Pour into pan and bake 42 minutes.

Remove from oven and poke holes in cake.

Glaze

- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 1/3 cup strawberry juice
- 3 Tbsp oil

3 Tbsp water or juice if there's enough

Mix well and pour 1/2 over hot cake while it is still in the pan. Let set 5 minutes. Turn out on to plate and pour remaining glaze over cake.

Oreo Stuffed Crescents

Submitted by Angela Smith

- 1 can (8 oz) refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
- 8 Oreo cookies
- 1/4 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips
- powdered sugar

Heat oven to 350°F. Line cookie sheet with cooking parchment paper. Unroll dough; separate into 8 triangles. Place 1 cookie on wide end of each triangle. Fold dough up and over cookie to cover completely; pinch seams to seal tightly. Place on cookie sheet. Sprinkle tops with chocolate chips. Bake about 12 minutes or until puffy and light golden brown. Dust with powdered sugar

Crock Pot Lasagna

- 1 bag of frozen cheese ravioli (25 oz)
- 1 lb of ground beef, browned
- 3 cans of crushed tomatoes (14 or 15 oz each)
- 1 tablespoon of Italian Seasoning
- 1 tablespoon of Garlic Salt
- 4 cups of mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese

In a large skillet brown the beef completely and drain off any remaining fat. Stir in all the cans of tomatoes, and seasonings. In a 6 quart crock pot, cover the bottom with some of the sauce. Then place a layer of ravioli across the bottom. Then place a layer of the mozzarella cheese. Continue this until all the meat sauce and the ravioli is used. You want to end with the meat sauce on top. Then top with the leftover mozzarella cheese and add the parmesan cheese on top. Cook on low for 4 hours. Turn off and let it sit for about 15 minutes before you serve.

Backyard Steak Burgers

- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup finely chopped sweet onion
- 1/2 tsp chili powder
- 1 Tbsp barbeque or steak sauce
- salt and pepper to taste

In a medium bowl, by hand mix together ground beef, egg, onion and chili powder. Mix in sauce until mixture is sticky feeling. Form into balls, and flatten into patties. Place in pan or on grill and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Grill or pan fry for about 10-12 minutes or until done, turning once.

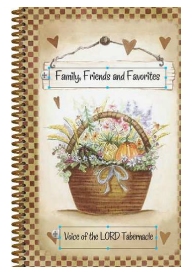
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Overcoming Sorrow

Loren Larson

Sorrow is more than a temporary feeling. Sorrow is more intense and long lasting than simple sadness. It runs it's devastating course through the soul of those who experience it, wreaking havoc on its path. By sorrow the normal activities of everyday become drudgery. Someone traveling with great sorrow may easily lose all energy and the will to move forward. Sorrow can sap one's strength, leaving them listless and caring for nothing. People in this state have a bruise of the heart. Nothing shows on the surface, yet long after the event that brought on sorrow is past, the strength of its bondage remains, creating a nightmare of unequaled despair. To those in this state I offer a solution. I offer hope beyond the distress. The Lord Jesus comes today offering the opportunity for healing, restoration, and peace. He's the only one that can heal the broken heart you own and can set every captive free that willingly comes to Him. He lifts up those who are bowed over in spirit and brings new life to the soul that can barely breathe. Place your faith, your life, and your broken being in His capable hands and you will experience the miracle of restoration. He has promised to turn none away.

Luke 4:18 - The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

TRIALS PRAYER

By Debbie Preuss

Dear Lord,

When I cannot see the road ahead Help me remember what You've said
 That You are with me all the way By my side, You'll always stay
 When I'm in the valley of despair Help me remember that You are there
 When I'm on the mountain top Remind me, Your love won't stop
 When trial comes, help me to see That through this time, You're leading me
 When tribulations come my way I know with You, I'll be okay
 Help me hold on and be strong May I hear, Your heart's song
 Break me Lord, if You must For in You, I put my trust
 When I'm in the valleys deep Hold me Lord, while I weep
 Then gently Father, lead me on Through the valley 'til the shadows gone
 Grant me wisdom, Lord to see That by Your hand, You're leading me
 Lord, I put my trust in You To ever, always lead me through
 You are with me all the way By my side, You'll always stay
 I will remember what You've said When I cannot see the road ahead



Thursday, Friday & Saturday
May 10th, 11th & 12th

7 AM - 12 PM

Voice of the LORD Tabernacle
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 sale! Come out, find some
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Give us this day our Daily Bread

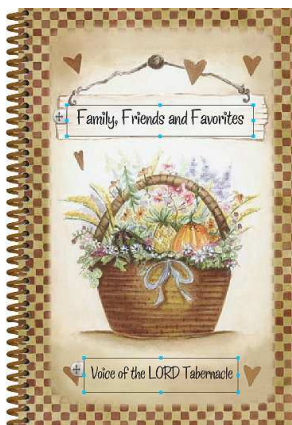
Pastor Don Ragsdale

When we pray how many times do we find ourselves praying for bread to satisfy our physical cravings yet fail to ask for the True Bread that came down from Heaven? John 6:32 Jesus said in Matthew 4:4It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. So what matters is not what man says but what God says. The entirety of the Word of God is the Testimony of Jesus, Rev.19:10 And through the Scriptures we learn of Who He is and What He came to do, Jn.5:39 yet life is not in them but in Him, John 1:4. When the disciples asked Him how we should pray, He said to them, "Give us this day our Daily Bread," Mat 6:11. The key to knowing the will of God can only be found through daily relationship of communing with God our Father through prayer and allowing Him to commune with us through His Word. We can pray, "Your Kingdom come and your will be done," all day long but if we fail to feed on the word of God, we cannot receive the direction, guidance or provision God has for us nor can we without the leading of the Holy Spirit, Rom. 8:14. So as believers we must see our need for Daily Bread, because Jesus said, Without Me you can do nothing, John 15:5. If we expect to survive spiritually speaking, we must have it and truly cannot live without it. Jesus said in John 6:50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. This is why Jesus told us to take up the Cross daily, Lk.9:23 for without embracing His Finished work daily we cannot live properly for Him. As He told us in John 6:53..... Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. This clearly reveals to us that the Written Word of God is given in Context to the Living Word, Who became Flesh in order to die for a Sacrifice for our sins and through that avenue we also can be changed. So the only way I can know the benefits of the Cross is revealed to me through God's word, which reveals to me, God's Son, so if I refuse to spend time in it, through personal Bible study, 2 Tim. 2:15. Assembling with the saints where the word is preached, Heb.10:25 then I'm harming myself spiritually speaking because I'm cutting off the life line that keeps me alive, Heb.4:12. Faith only comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God, Rom.10:17, so if I close the door on God's word in my life then the Doors He desires to open for me, He shall also close. Don't stop allowing God to direct your paths, get back to His Word, the Word of the Cross, and allow it to be a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path, Psa 119:105.

Word of the Cross Ministries

7134 Church Rd. Walls, MS 38680 P.O. Box 449 Southaven, MS 38671 www.wordofthecrossministries.com

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. John 6:35



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A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Luke 10:37

Additional passages for Today: Luke 10:25-37;

Thought for Today: Do you show MERCY? When Jesus asked the question who was a neighbor to him that fell among the thieves, the man replied, "He that shewed mercy on him." Jesus said, "Go, and do thou likewise."

Story for Today: Maggie flopped down on the warm grass and wiggled her toes into the lush green carpet. The grass was about the only good thing that she remembered from this day. From oversleeping and rushing to get to school, to failing a pop quiz, Maggie's day had went from bad to worse. To top it all off, Shelby and Staci had both watched as the bully of their class, Marcus verbally assaulted her calling her names she couldn't repeat. Later, Brett and Tyson had splashed mud in her face as they flew past in their old beater nearly hitting her as they careened as close to her as they could before she jumped out of the way. Life was difficult. Kids at school were cruel. Home was not a safe haven as long as her Mom continued to bring in boyfriends. But worse than all that, was attending youth group with all the other kids. She was made fun of, picked on and often secluded. The cool kids didn't want to be seen with her. The smart kids never noticed her. The shy kids ignored her along with everyone else. And the loud mouths made fun of her and caused her much grief. Maggie's life was pretty much a total disaster. Shelby and Staci had been best friends since 1st grade when they bumped into each other on the first day of school. Shelby had been raised in the church and was always at youth group. She listened carefully as her Dad, the youth pastor, shared the story of the good Samaritan. She had heard this story a million times. But this time that phrase, "He that shewed mercy on him" just jumped out at her. Mercy! How did one show mercy? She had heard it said that Grace was unmerited favor, or being given something you didn't deserve and that Mercy was not being given something bad that you deserved. So what had this beaten and bruised man deserved that the "Good" Samaritan hadn't given him. Immediately the face of Maggie sprang up in her mind. Maggie who was just a little obnoxious. It was easy for people to give her what she deserved. It was easier to grasp what humans deserved after spending time around people like Maggie. Her conscience began to eat at her and the guilt of what she had witnessed earlier that day and how she had responded hit her full in the face. She had not shown MERCY. She had watched as another had tormented the girl. Some days she had tried to be kind and maybe that is why Maggie had caught her eye, almost as if her eyes were begging her to help. She had looked away and had began talking to Staci. Her plans for the weekend had filled her mind and quickly erased the unpleasant event from her mind. Until now. She looked around the room. There was Maggie sitting by herself. Looking so sad and lonely. What could she do? She couldn't just get up during the lesson could she? And what would everyone else think? She needed to count the cost. Maybe she could just talk to her after class. What did God expect of her? Surely He wouldn't expect her to do something that would make her the laughing stock of the class! And who was to say what a person really should do??? By now her Dad was almost done. And she hadn't done a thing. As she glanced one last time in Maggie's direction she noticed a flying spit ball just as it made contact. It hit Maggie square on the cheek. Shelby couldn't look away as she saw the tears begin rolling down Maggie's cheeks. Mercy.... What would she do?

Questions for Today: What did Jesus mean when he said that we are to show mercy? What do you think Shelby should do? Earlier when Shelby witnessed Maggie's abuse, what could she have done that would have shown mercy? If she were to befriend Maggie, what might it cost her? If she doesn't, what might it cost? Is there someone that you know that you could show mercy to? What would that look like for you? Is mercy a one time thing?

Heavenly Father, Thank you for showing Mercy to your creation. Thank you for showing Mercy on me. Please help us to know what true Mercy looks like. Help us to extend it to the lost and hurting. Help us to make a difference for Jesus Christ in our world. Let others see your love through us! We thank you for helping us to recognize the cost and giving us strength to do what is right! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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PRAYER LIST

If you would like to send a picture of a loved one, a special prayer request or when you send a name to be added to our prayer list we will place it in our Prayer Box. Our Prayer Box sits on the altar at VOTL Tabernacle and your prayer requests are prayed over daily and in our services.

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Rodney Howell
Ann Hinton
Jamey Howell
Harvey & Betty Willis
Bill Johnson
Kelly & Carolyn Ralph
Bill & Kathy Willis
Samantha Ashby & family
Jeff Dickenson
Tonya Shocklee
Judy Frizzell
Letha Baize & family
Betty Butterworth
Bruce Taylor
Bobby Grove
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America & our leaders
Israel
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Molly Munjone
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Perry Munjone
Rex Munjone
Nina Munjone
Nicky Munjone
Baby (M) Munjone
Loretta Munjone
Jessica Garrett
Billy Garrett
Kayla Waide
Addie Coty
Grandchildren of Minnie Ball
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Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:16



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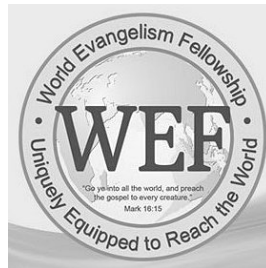
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