



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXIV September 30, 2007 No. 39

From Where I Sit

Michael D. Greene

Our Gospel Meeting with Mel Futrell is now history. I was edified by the opportunities for learning and fellowship the meeting presented. I know all who took part were as well. Let us continue to pray for those who may have been motivated by the

meeting to obey or to be more faithful in their Christian walk. Let us also remember Mel and his good family as they labor for the Lord at the Shades Mountain church in Birmingham, Alabama.



In the youth devotional at the Hogan's this past Saturday night, Mel encouraged our young people to be regular Bible readers. At one point he asked for a show of hands as to how many had been Bible readers the previous week. I was impressed with the number of hands that went up. I pray that all of our youth will develop and/or cultivate the habit of being a daily Bible reader.

As Mel spoke to the group assembled, it made me think of an event in the life of our Master that is recorded in Luke 4:16-20. On this occasion, he returned to Nazareth where he was brought up, went into the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to *read!* He was handed a copy of Isaiah. He opened it and "*found the place where it was written...*" He read from Isaiah 49:8-9 and then declared to those assembled that the scripture was being fulfilled in their hearing.

There are many things we could learn from this passage, but as we think about being a regular Bible reader, two things about this stand out to me. First, our Lord stood up to read the word of God. In our words today, Jesus stood up to read the Bible, and He did so publicly. We often say that Jesus is our example in all things, and indeed He is. Should we not follow this example and be a Bible reader, and if appropriate, be willing to read it in public?

But secondly, the text says that Jesus "*found the place...*" Just here we need to remember that Jesus was not reading from a book as we know it, but rather from a scroll. Books as we know them, technically known as a codex, were not invented until around the second or third century. We also need to remember that it was long before the Bible was divided into chapters, which was done in 1250 A.D., and verses, which was done in 1560 A.D. or so. Finding a passage in a cumbersome scroll with no chapter or verse divisions shows that Jesus was *familiar* with the text. This was not the first time He had read the book of Isaiah! Are we that familiar with the text? Can you open your Bible and "find the place?" If you are or become a daily Bible reader you will be able to do so!

Ray's Ramblings

Ray Pack

What a pleasure it was to have the Futrell's with us this past weekend. I am always excited to see and hear Mel speak. He has a masterful knowledge of the scripture and a keen sense on how to make application of it in a very practical manner. There is no

mistake about where Mel stands in regard to the Bible. I also appreciate the great singing all weekend long. I heard some folks comment that the singing was possibly the best we have had during a Gospel meeting in several years. It is a great pleasure to be able to lead such a wonderful group in singing.



The following article came across my desk the other day and I believe it offers some good advice on how to travel to heaven.

Directions to Our Father's House

Make a right onto Believetth Blvd.
Keep straight and go through the Green Light,
which is Jesus Christ.
There, you must turn onto the Bridge of Faith,
which is over troubled water.
When you get off the bridge,
make a Right turn and Keep Straight.
You are on the King's Highway - Heaven-bound
Keep going for three miles: One for the Father, One for
the Son, and One for the Holy Ghost.
Then exit off onto Grace Blvd.
From theres make a Right turn on Gospel Lane.
Keep Straight and then make another
Right on Prayer Road.
As you go on your way,
Yield not to the traffic on Temptation Ave.
Also, avoid SIN STREET because it is a DEAD END.
Pass up Envy Drive, and Hate Avenue
Also, pass Hypocrisy Street, Gossiping Lane,
and Backbiting Blvd.
However, you have to go down Long-suffering Lane,
Persecution Blvd. and Trials and Tribulations Ave.

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Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. - *Different Disciples*
Mark 8:34-38

P.M. - *5th Sunday Night Singing*

“Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?”

“Why did my Savior come to earth?” is a question that begins a hymn that all of us have sung over the years. The song answers the question with the repeated line “because He loved me so.” Did Jesus Himself ever say why He came? Are there any words in scripture from our Lord as to why He came from heaven to earth? Indeed there are. While love may have been the motivation of God’s sending Jesus, and His willingness to come, the Bible records Jesus as giving at least eleven reasons or purposes for His coming. Six are found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Five are found in John’s gospel. In this article I want to look at those in Matthew, Mark and Luke. In next week’s bulletin we will look at the five in John’s gospel.

In Mark 1:38 we find Jesus saying: “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.” The word for preach here is not the usual word for that activity. Here Jesus uses the word that was commonly used of the one who was commissioned by a ruler to announce publicly in a loud clear voice some item of news. A characteristic of this one we would call a herald is he would be under the authority of another, but his announcement would carry all the weight and authority as if announced by the ruler himself.

By whose authority was Jesus preaching? By that of the Father. Jesus’ will was to do that of the Father, and what He said and the doctrine He preached were not His but the Father’s (John 5:19-47, 7:16-19, 8:28, 38). What was it He preached? “Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.’” (Mark 1:14-15, see: Matthew 4:23).

After Jesus had called Levi the tax collector to be His disciple, the scribes and Pharisees questioned His associating with such sinners, to which Jesus said: “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance” (Mark 2:17, see: Matthew 9:13, Luke 5:32). Jesus came to bring God’s message of repentance and salvation to a lost and dying world.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaimed that He had not come to destroy the Law but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17). There is more that can be said about this statement than space in this article allows. Suffice it to say that Jesus is announcing to the multitudes that one of His purposes for coming was to fulfill “the Old Testament by obeying the Law perfectly, by fulfilling its types and prophecies, and by paying the full penalty of the Law as the Substitute for sinners. (from The Wycliffe Bible Commentary, Copyright © 1962 by Moody Press.)

Why fulfill the Law? To take it out of the way, so that both Jew and Gentile might be reconciled to God in the one body, the church (Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:11-22, Colossians 2:11-23). That both Jew and Gentile were to be saved in that one body was what Paul called the

mystery of God that was now revealed (Ephesians 3:1-21, Colossians 1:24-29). No longer was covenant relationship with God to be limited to a specific group of people through a law tied to a specific place, i.e. the Temple in Jerusalem. But now the covenant of God is universal in its scope and unlimited with respect to time and place (John 4:21-24, Matthew 28:18-20).

One of the most challenging of Jesus statements as to why He came is found in Matthew 10:34, “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.” Matthew 10:34. This is especially challenging because we often think of Jesus as being “the Prince of Peace.” With whom was this conflict represented by the sword to be had? Jesus said in the context that the conflict would be in families! In families? How or why? Jesus own words contain the answer: “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.” (Matthew 10:37-38). Here then is the challenge: “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it” (Matthew 10:38-39). Jesus wants nothing to stand between us and a relationship to God through Him, not even the most precious of family relationships.

When James and John the sons of Zebedee, aided by their mother, came to Jesus to request places of prominence and authority in the kingdom, Jesus responded with a demanding principle for those who would seek to follow Him: “...but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all” (Mark 10:43-44). Upon what was this demanding principle based? “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Jesus came to give us the supreme example of service to follow. That is the key to greatness in the kingdom of God.

Finally, after Jesus’ encounter with Zacchaeus, while dining in Zacchaeus’ house again He was accused of associating with sinners. To which Jesus said: “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:9-10, compare: Matthew 18:11, Luke 9:56). That is truly good news, worthy to be proclaimed to the world.

Jesus came to preach the gospel, to call sinners to repentance, to fulfill the Law, to bring a sword, to serve, and to seek and save the lost. And, we appreciate that, as the song suggests, “Why did my Savior come to earth? ...Because He loved me so.” Indeed, love was His motivation for His coming to accomplish all these and several more purposes which John records and which we will discuss in next week’s bulletin.

—Michael D. Greene

News and Notes

MARIE ROSE will have outpatient surgery October 11. **CHARLINE RICH** underwent knee replacement surgery Monday at Hardin Memorial and is currently in Room 230. **BUTCH YATES**, Carrie White's dad, is in St. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital in Louisville. **MICHELLE LAWSON** has been released from Hardin Memorial. **ANN PETERS** will begin chemotherapy treatments October 1 and have one every three weeks for a total of four treatments.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	Roy Johnson
Alyenne Bates	J Martin
Neil Burden	Tom Morgan
Elonda Crafton	Marie Rose
W. C. Davis	Terry Showers
Howard & Millie Gardner	Grace Speer
Barnard Gillim	Barbara Underwood
Faye Guess	Lonnie Underwood

Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers: Dave Fulbright, Scott Allen, Robert E. Wooten, Justin Gardner, Kelly Leverett, George Edwards, Joe Betterton, Myles Brothers, Dale Martin, Terry Turner, Cameron Ponder, Brett Fleming, Mike Chandler, Nathan Blair

Additional Prayer List: Jan Allen, Delsie Axton, Gil Berry, Christa Bradley, Sue Cantrell, Lindsay Corman, Betty Davis, Martha Dillow, Sydney Dover, Ellen Duvall, Kevin Fox, Sadie Gentry, Betty Goheen, Renee Green, Jane Hack, Louie Hodge, Rose Johnson, Lina Lee, Gayle Massey, Erman McClaskey, Lucinda McCune, Terri McDonald, Phil Noltemeyer, Joe Pawley, Ann Peters, Stephen Pitcock, Charles Pottinger, Patsy & Joe Richter, Roge-Ge-Neal Smith, Florence Stull, Reiko Tarasavage, Patsy Taylor, Juanita Tillery, Andrew Verble, Laura Walker, Kevin Weaver

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to LaVelle Dyer and her family in the death of her brother, Ralph Rich, who passed away last Friday morning in Nashville after suffering a heart attack. Mr. Rich's funeral was held Sunday in Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee. Please remember the Dyer family in your prayers.

Thank You

Thank you for all the nice cards I received while I was sick with the flu. A special thanks to the Ladies Bible class for the pretty card with everyone's signature. Thanks again.

Pansy Sells

I would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards I received for my birthday, for your prayers and for your phone calls to check on me. I appreciate each act of kindness.

Betty Addington

Area Gospel Meetings, Lectures, Workshops, Ladies Days

Please check the bulletin board for congregations in our area who will be holding special activities in the coming weeks.

Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 9/23/07

Pkgs/Boxes of rice

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **5TH SUNDAY NIGHT SINGING, September 30.**
- **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP, Monday, October 8, at 10:30 a.m.**
- **YOUTH RALLY at Ethridge Church of Christ, Ethridge, TN, October 26-27.** A sign up sheet is posted on the Youth bulletin board. See Ray Pack or Terry Nowland if you have any questions.
- **FALL GET-TOGETHER, Saturday night, October 27, at the Muncy home in Bardstown, 6:00 p.m.** Bring finger foods and games.
- **LADIES RETREAT, November 9-10, at White Mills Camp.**

OUR RECORD FOR September 23, 2007

Sunday Bible Study	153
Sunday Morning Assembly	219
Sunday Evening Assembly	158
Tuesday Ladies Bible Class	13
Wednesday Bible Study	158
Contribution (Budget -- \$5,885)	\$6,693

**Elder/Coordinator for September
Rick Whobrey**

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Secretary:

Kim Whobrey	769-9267
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www.etowncofc.org

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: What grain farmer told his workers to deliberately leave part of the crop behind in the field so a certain poor woman might be able to come through behind the harvesters and find an abundant gleanings?

*Last Week's Bible Question: Who ran into the tabernacle and grasped the altar in a vain attempt to avoid execution? The correct answer is **Joab, 1 Kings 2:28-35**. Edna Ashlock, Joyce Pack, Bloria Taylor, Mary Greene, Kay Thomason, Mary Walker, Betty Bray, and Martha Cato correctly answered the question.*

*Please write down your answer and give it to Ray, put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to **rpack119@bbtel.com** by Tuesday afternoon. Please include the Scripture reference and your name.*

Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Bible Classes	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship	10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship	6:00 P.M.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class	10:30 A.M.
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Wednesday

Evening Bible Class	7:00 P.M.
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Daily Bible Reading Schedule
Week 36
1. Psalms 18:30-19; 1 Cor. 12
2. Psalms 20-22; 1 Cor. 13
3. Psalms 23-25; 1 Cor. 14
4. Psalms 26-29; 1 Cor. 15:1-34
5. Psalms 30, 31; 1 Cor. 15:35-58

Sept. 30 — 5th Sunday Night Singing
Oct. 8 — Church Workers Workshop
Oct. 26-27 — Youth Rally, Ethridge, TN
Oct. 27 — Fall Get-together, Muncys
Nov. 9-10 — Ladies Retreat

PARTICIPATION

Are You Part of the

Elizabethtown Church of Christ
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