

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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December 12, 2010

Volume 30, # 50

SEEKING JESUS CHRIST

Mark records in his gospel a huge amount of activity that characterized Jesus' Galilean ministry. The reaction to these many occasions of teaching was that the people "were amazed at His teaching;" (Mark 1:22). They were also "all amazed" at the miracles which were performed by Him (Mark 1:27). Very early one morning, Jesus had left Simon's house to find a secluded place to pray. As the day continued people were flocking to Simon's house in search of Jesus. Simon and his companions went out seeking Jesus and when they found Him, they said, "Everyone is looking for you." (Mark 1:37). How wonderful it would be if, today, it could be reported that everyone is looking for Jesus!

Why do men seek Jesus? Wanting to know more, there were many who sought Jesus out of *curiosity*. Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee and Peraea, was one of those who "wanted to see Him for a

long time, because he had been hearing about Him and was hoping to see some sign performed by Him.” (Luke 23:8). Other people sought Jesus out of *fleshly motives*, “because you ate of the loaves and were filled.” (John 6:26). Others sought Jesus looking for physical relief because they were *suffering*, but had little, if any, desire for spiritual relief. (cf. Matt. 4:23; 9:35). There were some who, having *desire for salvation* from the consequences of sin, sought Jesus because “the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (Mark 2:10); Jesus has the “words of eternal life.” (John 6:68).

We should seek Jesus today. He provides what every man needs, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Rom. 3:23). We need *remission of sins*! His word has gone forth into all the world (cf. Mark 16:20; Col. 1:23), and it reflects His purpose for coming to earth: “to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10). We must seek Jesus because He is *the only one* who is able to meet the needs of mankind: “for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.” (John 8:24). Failure to obtain forgiveness from Him is to “die in your sins.” John the Baptist testified of the extent of Jesus’ power to remove sins when he declared, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). Jesus Christ is the only available *access to God*: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” (John 14:6). Jesus Christ is the *revelation of God* to man: “He who has seen Me has seen the Father;” (John 14:9). Friend, seek Jesus through His *invitations*, with reliance upon His *promises*: “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matt. 11:28).

Many seekers became dissatisfied. Sadly, “many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.” (John 6:66). Unfortunately, Jesus Christ does not fit preconceived notions of men about what they desire to be the case regarding Jesus and His Word. In order to be right, men must conform to the truth that is in Jesus (Eph. 4:21). Paul described it as, “the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation” (Eph. 1:13). Men must conform to “the

message of truth,” not seek to alter and corrupt the message to suit their personal desires and conveniences. If men reject the only avenue to salvation, “there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and *the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.*” (Heb. 10:26-27). Friend, will you seek Jesus today on His terms? May we help you?

- GFS

Be Holy, For I Am Holy

God’s word to us says, “But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:15-16). To be holy we are told to present our “bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God” (2 Corinthians 7:1), and “that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” (Ephesians 1:4).

We must be holy in all our thoughts, actions, dress, and speech. If our thoughts are not holy then our actions, dress, and speech will not be holy. “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7). We act as we think. If we want to be pure and holy then we will have “sound speech that cannot be condemned” (Titus 2:8). Those who are holy will “adorn themselves in modest apparel” (1 Timothy 2:9).

We must have a pure heart and lead a holy life in order to see God in eternity. “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8). One who does not lead a holy life cannot go to Heaven. We are to “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). This life is so short and temporary. “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness” (2 Peter 3:11). So we can be pleasing to God and go to Heaven when this life is over, “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from

all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1). To fear God we must hold Him in the highest respect and do anything and everything He says.

■ *Ron Boatwright*

. *“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;” (Rom. 12:10)*

Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.” (1 Cor. 15:33)

SUNDAY’S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *“Things to Remember When You are Unfairly Treated!”* (text: 2 Tim. 4:14-18); Sunday evening: Jesus Christ: A Closer Look – *A Day When Compassion Trumps Rest!* (Mark 6:30-44).