

September 19, 2021

Announcements

Larry Wood

Song Leader

Chris Moore

Scripture Reading

Britt Lindley

Opening Prayer

James Pilgrim (A.M.)
Michiel Criswell (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Randell Koon (A.M.)
Tripp Yancey (P.M.)

Lord's Table

Kevin Shackelford

Count and Usher

David Smith & Jimmy Vandygriff

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Brice Lindley (09/22/21)

OUR RECORD

September 12, 2021

Sunday Bible Study: 86
Sunday Morning Worship: 104
Sunday Evening Worship: 73
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 71

BULLETIN BY E-MAIL

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:

chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net

View Chapman Challenger:

chapmanchurch.com

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

1. **Hear** the Gospel (Romans 10:13-17).
2. **Believe** the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16).
3. **Repent** of Sins (Acts 3:19).
4. **Confess** Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37).
5. **Be Baptized** for Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38).
6. **Be Faithful** (Revelation 2:10).



CHAPMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST
250 COUNTY ROAD 550
RIPLEY, MS 38663

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

Published Weekly by
Chapman Church of Christ
Ripley, Mississippi
(662) 837-7012
chapmanchurch.com

ELDERS: Terry Chapman, Brad McAlister,
Jarvene Shackelford, Tommy Wade
DEACONS: Bryan Davis, John Hopper, Rickey
Loveless, Chris Moore, Kevin Shackelford,
Wayne Vandygriff, Larry Wood
PREACHER: Mark Lindley

A Tough Parable

By Joe Chesser

Most of Jesus' parables are easily understood; they cut straight to the heart of his point. For example, the message of the parable of the wise and foolish builders (Matthew 7.24-27) is simple and clear – foolish people hear only while the wise ones hear and do. But a few of Jesus' parables leaves us scratching our heads.

One of these for me is the parable of the dishonest manager (Luke 16.1-9). First of all he was caught squandering his master's possessions and was being fired. So, he decided to cheat his master for selfish purposes by making deals with the master's debtors. When the master found out what he did, he commended the dishonest manager for being shrewd.

That's as far as the story goes, but on the surface it sounds like Jesus was commending a crook: "For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light" (Luke 16.8). Thankfully, with a little help from Mike Ireland I was able to see that "Jesus told this story to explain the importance of making the wise and right use of the money and possessions we have ... to be wise and faithful stewards who invest our money in kingdom priorities" (From Morning to Evening: Every Day With Jesus, August 18th).

Volumes have been written on the subject of money. But I'm afraid that many of us have concluded that as long as we give generously in church on Sundays we can use the rest of our money and possessions any way we choose that pleases us. Perhaps Jesus is using this parable to broaden our perspectives as stewards of His blessings to us. It has challenged me to think more seriously about how I use all of what God has given me. How honest or dishonest have I been with my finances? How have I allowed selfishness to justify my decisions regarding my possessions? Have I been faithful enough with unrighteous wealth to be entrusted with true riches? Am I serving God or money. It certainly can't be both (Luke 16.10-13).

Perhaps it's not so much that this parable is tough as it is that dealing with money as God teaches is what's tough. Who really trusts Jesus enough to give up all their possessions in order to be his disciple (Luke 14.33)? Who really seeks the kingdom of heaven more than worrying over the physical needs of life (Matthew 6.25-33)? Who really stores up treasures in heaven in the way they use their money and possessions (1 Timothy 6.17-19; Matthew 6.19-21). Who really begs for the opportunity to contribute to the needs of others (2 Corinthians 8.1-5)? Who really believes that we reap what we sow (2 Corinthians 9.6)? Who really walks by faith in how they use their possessions and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5.7)? Tough questions for honest hearts.

Grasping Hope By David Bragg

Charles Spurgeon, a well-known denominational preacher of 19th century, related in one of his sermons the story of a sailor who fell overboard amid a great storm and the thrilling rescue that followed. As soon as the cry, "Man overboard!" was sounded the crew flew into action determined to save their shipmate from drowning. The poor sailor was quickly found, and a rope was tossed to him. That rope was that sailor's lifeline, and he knew it. When the men finally got the man onto the ship after his harrowing experience, he was unable to loosen his grip on that rope. It was hours before he could relax his grip as the strands of rope became embedded in the flesh of his hands.

Jesus is our lifeline, rescuing us from churning ocean of sin. Wave after wave threatens to pull us down into the dark depths with no hope of escape. Then He who could calm the seas comes to our rescue. In Him we find refuge (Hebrews 6:18) and salvation.

In Christ we find hope. The writer of Hebrew described our hope with these words: "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" (Hebrews 6:19). Our hope in Christ sustains us when life is going well. But its true beauty becomes evident during times of difficulty and trial. Don't let go of that hope! It is "both sure and steadfast." Sailors drop an anchor, one end firmly attached to its deck while the other is planted deep in the ocean floor, confident that their ship will remain secure. They have "faith" in that anchor. It will hold fast (i.e., "sure") regardless of what may be going on around it ("steadfast;" cf. Acts 27:29, 40). Spiritually, the Christian holding the promises of God in Christ has in their grasp a great spiritual "anchor," both "sure and steadfast" (Hebrews 6:19).

In times of trouble and testing, don't let go of your hope. You have Jesus' word that He will not forsake you (Hebrews 13:5).

Bridle or Bridal? By Edd Sterchi

Bridle \brid-l\: the headgear with which a horse is governed and which carries a bit and reins (from Webster's Eleventh Collegiate Dictionary)

Many Christians want to control Christ in their life like they would a horse- speeding up here, slowing down there, turning on a whim. They want to get on and get off (i.e. have Christ in their life) when they want. They worship Him when they want, do His will when they feel like it, allow Him into their life when nothing better is going on. They only want Christ around when there is a perceived need in their life, but otherwise, He is put out to pasture. It is sad, but to people like that Christ is no more than a domesticated animal. Their lives eventually become more and more miserable and worldly.

Bridal \brid-l\: a marriage festival or ceremony (from Webster's Eleventh Collegiate Dictionary)

Some Christians realize that they are subject to Christ as a bride is to her husband (Eph. 5:22-23). Thus, they understand that Christ will lovingly lead them - and they are willing to go with Him at all times. They worship when and how Christ wants, they do His will always, they allow Him into every area of their lives all the time. Their life is one of celebration and joy, of fulfillment and spiritual beauty - like the perfect wedding!

So Christian, is your relationship with Christ bridle or bridal?

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Remember count your blessings, pray for our lost ones, the sick, the world and the broken-hearted.

•**SICK:** Juan Stroupe, Brock Lindley, Wayne Vandygriff, Kirstan Fitzgerald

•**HOSPITAL:** Michelle Bellew

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Junior Derrick, Jane Morrison, Patti Hall, Johnny Cissom, George Doss, Joanie Kate Reese, Louise Pannell, Thad Berryman

•**CANCER:** April Pounders, Lori Duke, Billy McBryde, Marie Brumley, Keith Hall, Hermie Henry (Bonnie Hurt's Mother), Cohen Hurt, Frank Elliott, Jimmy Smith, Betty Faye Ledbury, Peggy Boggs, Marsha Jones, Nita Trotter, Niani Colom-Omotesa

•**SHUT-INS:** Tippah County Health & Rehab: Romia Palmer #204 Resthaven: Oleta Phillips, Johnnie Carpenter

**Sermons available on
Facebook and YouTube**

TEXT ALERTS

Text chapmancoc to 95577 to receive
Chapman's Text Alerts.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

We rejoice to announce the birth of

Lorelei Chase Chapman

September 10, 2021

7 lbs • 13 oz • 19 in

Parents: *Chase & Olivia*

Pine Vale Children's Home 2021 Fall Food Drive

Due to COVID-19 - We will be
doing monetary donations.
Donation Box is in the foyer.

PROGRAMS OF WORK

Website: chapmanchurch.com

Articles • Sermons (Audio) • Chapman Challengers

The Bible Broadcast

Sunday Mornings at 8 AM • WKZU radio 104.9 FM

Southern Sentinel Article

Every other Wednesday

Correspondence Course

Study the Bible in your home, at your convenience,
by enrolling in a free Bible correspondence course.

To enroll: call (837-7012), write (250 CR 550, Ripley,
MS 38663) or e-mail

(chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net)