

MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship This Sunday

May 2, 2021 ~ 9:00 AM

In our Sanctuary (*please wear a mask*)

or

Outside Parking Area

Services on YouTube

meadowbrookbaptist.cc

April 25, 2021

Worship Attendance 38 World Hunger \$27.00

Budget Offering \$3,017.00

Weekly Needs to Date \$45,050.00

Weekly Offerings to Date \$42,047.70

**NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU'VE
WALKED AWAY FROM GOD,
THE RETURN TRIP
IS ONLY ONE STEP.**

FOUR LIFE CHANGING WORDS

“Consider it pure joy my brothers and sisters, when you face all kinds of trials.”

James 1:2

The third request in the prayer Jesus taught us to pray is, “**Thy will be done**” (Matthew 6:10). Right after I became a Christian, my Pastor said in a sermon that if we pray, “*Thy will be done in my life*”; our lives will change. I prayed it and before the year was over I was pulling a “U-Haul” to Texas to go to seminary; something that had never entered my mind before I prayed that prayer. Will you pray that today? I don’t know where it will lead you; but I do know you will find joy, like I did, because Jesus will walk with you, and give you the strength to face anything along the way. Fanny Crosby was blind and she wrote these lines:

“All the way my Savior leads me; What have I to ask beside? / Can I doubt His tender mercy, Who through life has been my Guide? / Tho’ my weary steps may falter, And my soul a-thirst may be / Gushing from the Rock of Ages, / Lo! a spring of joy I see.”

The Gospel of Mark

Help Everybody (Continued)

Mark 1:1 – 2:22

“If you love those who love you, what good is that? Even evil people love those who love them. If you do good things to those who are good to you, what good is that? Even evil people do that.”

– *Jesus in Luke 6:32-33*

“The wicked will not inherit the kingdom of heaven- the immoral, / the idol worshippers / the adulterers / the homosexuals / the thieves / the drunkards / the slanderers. And some of **you were like that!** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified, in the name of the Lord.”

-1 Corinthians 6:11

In His first year of public ministry (Mark 1:1-2:22), Jesus was laying the foundation for His church. He found Jewish friends and fellow workers who would tear down the wall of prejudice (Acts 10), and reach out to non-Jews (Gentiles). This was **serious**, because if they had not done this, Christianity would have remained a tiny sect of the Jewish religion and died out in the First Century. This was also **difficult** for them. They had to go against what they had been taught all their lives and lose many friends in the process. When Jesus hinted, in His home town church (synagogue), that God might bless non-Jews; the congregation rose up and tried to kill Him.

The best way to reach people outside the church, like first century Gentiles were to the Jews, is to care enough about them, to reach out and help them in the name of Christ. They are far more likely to believe Jesus loves them if they experience us loving them. And this means everybody! Jesus reached out to a tax collector who was a traitor in the eyes of his countrymen; to an immoral Samaritan woman that “good” Samaritan women didn’t want to

be around; and a man “full of”-“covered with” leprosy, who everybody else threw rocks at.

We saw last week that we are to do this because: (1) God **created** every human being; (2) Jesus **gave His life** for every human being {1 John 2:1-4}; (3) and Jesus **sends us** to share the gospel with every human being (Matthew 28:18-20). The final reason is that (4) **God can change any human being.**

Biblical “love” does not mean we have to “like” a person or agree with the life they are living. There is no group I dislike more than the KKK. I saw one of their parades when I was eight years old, and asked my Mama why they wore masks. She said, “They are cowards who hide their faces to hurt people.”

In the 1960s in Mississippi, two young black boys who grew up in the area were walking down the road. Two evil men grabbed them, took them to a secluded spot by a river and tortured them for hours. Then they tied them to an engine block and threw them into the river alive. The FBI found out who did it, along with the details and where the bodies were. They got their information from an anonymous informer, given a code name like “RP 120.” He would not come forward, so the men were not put on trial.

The killers stayed free. This all changed thirty years later. In 1999 ABC’s “20/20” reported that the case had been reopened. Mystery witness “RP 120” came forward to testify. He was the leader, the “Grand Wizard” of the KKK when all this happened. ABC showed films of him screaming and preaching hate, violence and the use of guns against blacks and interfering whites. The killers, proud of what they had done, had come and shared with him the horrible details - especially how the frightened boys begged over and over for their lives.

The former leader told Connie Chung, “That picture stayed with me. I couldn’t eat. I couldn’t

sleep. I couldn’t live with myself because of what happened to those boys and the part my teaching hatred played in it.” He said he had to turn his friends in, to find forgiveness. He also said he was still trying to find it. I hope some good Mississippi pastor told him about Jesus.

JESUS - A REAL HUMAN BEING

“He had to be made like His brothers in every way.” (Hebrews 2:17)

Simon Peter and Jesus were playing golf in heaven and they came to a hole where they had to hit over water. Peter hit a “six iron” (which goes farther than a “seven iron”) and it landed on the green. Jesus hit a seven iron and the ball went in the water.

He borrowed a ball from Peter and prepared to hit it. Peter said, “Lord, You need to hit a six iron.” The Lord replied, “Arnold Palmer would hit a seven.” It went in the water again. He asked Peter for another ball and Peter asked Him to please hit a six iron. Again, the Lord said, “Arnold Palmer would hit a seven”.

This happened several times and they gave out of balls. The Lord asked Peter to go swim out, dive down and get a ball. Peter, mad about Him continuing to use a seven iron, refused. The Lord went down to the lake and began walking on the water to where the balls went in.

Other golfers, waiting their turn to play, walked up, saw Him in the distance walking on the water, and asked Peter, “Who does that Fellow think He is, Jesus?” Peter said, “No, He thinks He is Arnold Palmer.”

To some this might seem sacrilegious, but to me it is the best illustration I know that shows Jesus was a real human being.

On earth, Jesus could have used His divine power to escape the cross, but He chose not to.