

CARTHAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

JANUARY 26, 2020

Founded by Christ---Grounded in His Word---Committed to His Love

What Will You Do With Jesus? (Part 3 and 4)

Joe Slater

Simon Peter, what will you do with Jesus? Peter answers, "I'll deny Him!" Let's hasten to add that this was a momentary lapse in Peter's loyalty; he quickly repented and went on to be a dedicated disciple and powerful preacher. He did, however, deny Jesus three times in Matthew 26:69-75.

What does it mean to deny someone? In Peter's case, it meant to deny that he was one of Jesus' disciples, and even to deny that he knew Jesus at all! Realizing that the Lord was on trial for His life, Peter felt threatened by the accusation of the servant girl: "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." Another girl repeated the assertion; then a group of men told Peter that his Galilean accent was a dead giveaway. At that point Peter called down curses and swore oaths as he desperately sought to convince them that he didn't even know who Jesus was.

The Lord isn't on trial before any human tribunal today, but we can still deny Him just as surely as Peter did. Once again, actions speak more loudly than words. Take, for example, the residents of the island of Crete where Titus was working. In his letter to Titus, Paul said this of the people of Crete: "They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work" (Titus 1:16).

Do we, like Peter, keep mum about our relationship to Christ when we're around hostile unbelievers? Or, like those on Crete, do we claim to know the Lord, but deny Him with behavior He detests? Remember that Jesus said, "Whoever denies Me before men, him I also will deny before My Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:33). What will you do with Jesus?

Pontius Pilate, Governor of Judea, what will you do with Jesus? Pilate answers, "I'll disclaim responsibility!"

When the kangaroo court of Caiaphas completed its miscarriage of justice, they hustled Jesus away for another sham trial before the Roman governor of the province of Judea (Matt. 27:11-26). Pilate knew full well that the Jews had no valid charges against Jesus, but "because of envy they had delivered Him" (v. 18). Spineless politician that he was, however, he bowed to the demand of the blood-thirsty mob that screamed, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate would have preferred to release Jesus. He was totally innocent, and the governor knew it and said so repeatedly. Rather than do the right thing, though, Pilate symbolically washed his hands, as if this absolved him of responsibility for permitting an innocent man to be executed. His cowardly act has become proverbial; people wanting to disassociate themselves from a disagreeable situation are said to "wash their hands" of the matter.

We routinely face situations where taking a stand for truth and righteousness brings howls of protest. We can stand firm as Jesus always did; or we can surrender to the crowd and "wash our hands" like Pilate. All around us, brethren are conceding to popular demands. Jesus' teaching on baptism doesn't suit most of the religious world, so some are reclassifying baptism as non-essential. His teaching on divorce/remarriage struck even His disciples as unreasonably hard, so most soften it or ignore it altogether. Few, if any of these, will acknowledge that caving in to culture and political correctness amounts to a denial of Christ; but the Lord Himself put those who reject Him and those who reject His word in the same basket (John 12:48). What will you do with Jesus?

Assignments for this week:

Sunday AM: 1-26-2020:

Announcements: Josh Clements

Greeter: Chayer

Opening Prayer: JR Sampson

Lord's Supper: Dennis Hartley

Bill Talley

Takota Anderson

Clay Johnson

Scripture Reading: Jeremy Jadwin

Closing Prayer: Steve Teel

Song leader AM: Alan Cook

Communion to Shut ins: L. Lawhon

Sunday PM: 1-26-2020:

Opening Prayer: Bill Talley

Closing Prayer: Kai Clements

Song Leader: Mike Lawson

Wednesday: 1-29-2020:

Song Leader: Kai Clements

Devotional: Nate Miller

In Our Thoughts and Prayers:

Ron Gibson: cancer

Mike Lawson's mother: fall

Becky Lawson's family: death of her sister

Cooper Jadwin: Complications of the flu

Robin Thompson (sister of **Lindia**

Kisling): blood cancer

Emily Anderson's grandfather:

Heart issues

Sharolet Trease (sister of Charlie Baker): cancer

Ron McCully (friend of Bakers): Health concerns

Lorraine Moser: Heart and kidney issues

Laure Bryant (sister of Maureen Dunaway's daughter-in-law): undergoing cancer treatments.

Ben Quade (brother-in-law of Bev Baker) undergoing cancer treatments.

Priscilla Lorton: Health issues

Jo Shrum: illness

Barb Durham's sister-in-law's sister: cancer and her (Barb's) sister.

Kathy Brewer: Health issues

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters serving in the military and their families.

Elders:

Dennis Hartley 417-674-0018

Larry Lawhon 417-310-2107

JR Sampson 417-674-0980

Deacons:

Takota Anderson 417-389-7449

Charles Baker 417-673-5237

Marty Block 417-388-2147

Josh Clements 417-850-0654

David Lawhon 417-388-1232

Steve Teel 417-359-6958

Minister:

John Johnson 417-434-0754

Worship Times:

10:20 AM Sunday

6:00 PM Sunday

Bible Class:

9:30 AM Sunday

7 PM Wednesday

Address:

3122 S. Grand Avenue
Carthage, MO 64836

Phone:

417-358-3661

Website:

carthagecoc.org

Supported Works:

Fair Haven Children's Home

Search Program

Gary Reaves

House to House

Weekly Record:

Sunday AM Worship: 77

Sunday PM Worship: 60

Wed. Night Class: 60

Contribution: \$2212

Our sympathy goes to Becky Lawson on the passing of her sister, Bobbie.

Use the following link or QR code to complete the yearly Carthage questionnaire. If you do not wish to do it on the computer, please get a printed form from Beth. Please have your form submitted online or to Josh, John, or Beth before February 2.

Link:

<https://forms.gle/iCPj4Z6adgeZh5M98>

or QR code:



Fair Havens Children's Home Pantry List for January:

Chocolate chips, cooking oil, Miracle Whip, ketchup, mustard, Ro-tel, taco sauce, taco seasoning, enchilada sauce and seasonings, gravy mixes, instant mashed potato flakes, Spam, sloppy joe mixes (canned or powder), and cookie/brownie mixes.

Also, remember to bring in used clothing for donation or to bale, money or gift cards to Walmart, and decent furniture/bedding (no TVs or mattresses).

****Please make it a habit to check your mailboxes periodically for cards, letters, forms to complete or other items.**