

Doing the Right Thing

Greg Tidwell

As a young man, Abraham Lincoln tried his hand in many professions, once working as a store clerk. One day, as he closed the store, Lincoln discovered he had overcharged a customer by six cents. Now, in the mid-nineteenth century six cents was worth much more than it is today, but it was still not a great deal of money.

The six cents, however, belonged to the customer. To do the right thing, after work Abe Lincoln walked the three miles to return the money. It was a small thing, but it was the right thing to do. Jesus tells us, "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much" (Luke 16:10, ESV).

One of the greatest dangers facing the church is the tendency to embrace "selective obedience," setting aside those aspects of God's will which seem trivial or inconvenient.

Small compromises, however, inevitably make way for larger changes. Even the smallest transgression may be the starting point on a path that leads to eternal death.

None of us are perfect, and all must rely on God's grace. The Lord is merciful and forgives sin, but the Lord never accepts sin as all right. We, therefore, should rest assured in God's forgiveness. We must never, however, use God's grace as an excuse to embrace what is wrong.

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Sunday Schedule	
Bible Classes	10 AM
Worship	11 AM
Worship	6 PM
Wednesday: Bible Classes	7 PM

Mission Works and Evangelism: House to House/ Heart to Heart Restoration Radio Jim Waldron Manuelito Children's Home



Questions for week of January 27

1. What power did the devil promise to Jesus?

2. What power did Pilate claim?

3. What power did Jesus have regarding his own life?

4. What power did Jesus claim to have after the resurrection?

5. At what location were people baptized in water vapor as well as water?

6. What sarcastic command did God give when Israelites were being troubled and attacked by Ammonites?

7. Who was indicted for his disobedience by the evidence of animal sounds?

Answers for week of January 20

1. What plant is associated with Zacchaeus and Amos?

Answer: Sycomore tree. Zacchaeus climbed one and Amos harvested fruit from them.

Luke 19:1 And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 And, behold, there was a man named **Zacchaeus**, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. 4 And he ran before, and **climbed up into a sycomore tree** to see him: for he was to pass that way.

Amos 7:14 Then answered **Amos**, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a **gatherer of sycomore fruit**:

2. What city was described as empty, void, and waste?

Answer: Nineveh

Nahum 2: 8 But **Nineveh** is of old like a pool of water: yet they shall flee away. Stand, stand, shall they cry; but none shall look back. 9 Take ye the spoil of silver, take the spoil of gold: for there is none end of the store and glory out of all the pleasant furniture. 10 **She is empty, and void, and**

waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain is in all loins, and the faces of them all gather blackness.

3. In the New Testament, where are children described as seated and criticizing?

Answer: They are sitting in the marketplace.

Luke 7:29 And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him. 31 And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like? 32 They are like unto **children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.**

Matthew 11:16 But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows, 17 And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.

4. What woodcutter's tools were used to describe the folly of haughty rebellion?

Answer: Axe and saw

Isaiah 10: 13 For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man: 14 And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped. 15 Shall the **axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith**? or shall the **saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it**? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it were no wood.

Just as it is foolish to think of an "axe and saw" rebellion against the wood-cutter, we also know that rods and staves do not rebel against the shepherd. The lesson for us humans is that we

should see the foolishness of rebelling against our "Maker and User".

5. The lack of metalsmiths among the Israelites was a good thing in the eyes of the people of Philistia. Why?

Answer: Because the Israelites could not make their own weapons. If I have not misunderstood this passage, the Israelites DID have files for sharpening their tools but had chosen to use the Philistines' "sharpening services". So when the day of battle came, no one had their weapons except Saul and Jonathan. The other weapons were "in the shop"!

(1 Sam 13:19-22) "Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears: {20} But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his ax, and his mattock. {21} Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads. {22} So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found."

6. Jesus sent a disciple to Saul of Tarsus, and that disciple announced two purposes for coming to him. What two things had the Lord sent him to tend to on Saul's behalf?

Answer: Ananias announced that he was there to lay hands on Saul that he might 1) receive his sight and 2) be filled with the Holy Ghost (Spirit). Vs. 17

(Acts 9:10-18) "And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. {11} And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, {12} And hath seen in a vision **a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight**. {13} Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: {14} And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. {15} But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: {16} For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. {17} And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. {18} And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized."

7. What event brought tears to the eyes of the widowed, and was also the inspiration for an exhibition of a person's work?

Answer: The event was the death of Tabitha (Dorcas). (Acts 9:36-41).

vs. 37. The exhibition was when the widows showed Peter the coats and garments which Dorcas had made while she was alive. vs. 39.

"Acts 9:36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named **Tabitha**, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. 37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. 38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. 41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

Improving Courtesy and Respect

Sometimes small congregations get into bad habits that would totally disrupt larger congregations. Here are a few suggestions that will help us be more worshipful and less disruptive:

1. If you arrive late, please enter the auditorium in as unobtrusive way as possible. Please wait in the lobby if scripture is being read, prayer is being led, or a song is in progress. Try to enter during transitions.

2. Unless there is an emergency, or a child needs to be carried to the nursery (or outside), please try to avoid leaving during the service.

3. Before a service begins, if you need to talk, please talk quietly, not raucously. Preferably, try to prepare your heart to worship in reverence.

4. If visitors are present, make every effort to speak warmly to them, even if you have to neglect those you see every week. We have only one chance to make a good first impression on our guests. (If a guest happens to occupy your accustomed seat, please choose another place to sit.)

5. Please try to protect our facility and supplies by not marking in songbooks and pew Bibles, and writing on fans.

If you have observed other distracting behaviors (even at other places) that have been omitted here, please write your suggestions down and place them in the suggestion box.

Bible Bowl Next Sunday Our fifth session of Bible Bowl will be at New Union next week. Best wishes to our youth.

Prayer Needs and Requests

Pray for the sick and injured of our congregation and our friends and relatives:

Nick Graham's father (lung cancer)

Jessie Pearl Green's brothers: Arlin Mesick with kidney cancer Jerry Mesick with lung cancer.)

William Miller at NHC

Jackie Hafer, defibrillator to be installed 2/4.

Laura Singleton confined at home

James Mason having leg pain

Vadna Trail with problems walking

Donna Gordon still recovering from broken bones.

Joe Green with painful dry eyes

For the record:	12/30	01/06	01/13	01/20
Bible Study	19	19	14	16
AM Worship	29	29	16	26
PM Worship	21	20	18	19
Wed. Bible Stud	y 22	13	13	20
Contribution	\$529	\$468	\$483	\$700

Assignments	January 27	February 3	
Song leader (SS)	Wayne Gannon	Tim Walden	
Announcements	Junior Conner	Joe Green	
Songleader-Worship	Tim Waldron	Wayne Gannon	
Scripture reading	Daniel Green	T J Waldron	
Opening prayer	Lee Rose	James Mason	
Table service (center)	Ken Thomas	Joe Green	
(center)	Wayne Gannon	Daniel Green	
(outside)	Steve Miller	Nick Graham	
(outside)	Junior Conner	Junior Conner	
Closing Prayer	Daniel Green	Andy Miller	
If you cannot serve, please contact Junior Conner			