

Weatherly Weekly

April 28, 2019

2019 Edition, Number 17

Hinderers

Michael W. McLemore

Paul wrote to the Corinthians of his reason for tarrying at Ephesus. He related, "For a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries," 1 Corinthians 16:9.

It seems with every door — opportunity — comes an adversary — hinderer. In life we always find that the "open door" and the "many hinderers" go together. Very seldom can we have the one without the other. With Paul we share a common problem, the hindrance of progress in the cause.

When Paul first came to Ephesus, he proclaimed the truth, great miracles accompanying the preaching, and the word of God is said to have increased and "prevail mightily" Acts 19:20. Yet, "about that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way" Acts 19:23. Satan stepped up and tried to undermine the good. It is the same today. The Devil hasn't taken a day off.

Paul had many opportunities afforded him. Time and again he passed through open doors to teach and build. Yet, who faced

more challenges than he? Frail health, difficulties and dangers in traveling, the willfulness of his traveling companions, men of base character, sudden and unexpected demands for his time and teaching, his persecuting enemies, even the sometimes difficult restraints and limitations placed upon his work by the Holy Spirit all seemed very real hinderers to opportunity. He never fainted. He pressed on.

How do we meet the hinderers? First, we must fully accept the fact that, here on earth, God has put open doors before us. The faithful are his agents among men. Stepping through those doors, embracing the task, God will multiply the opportunity. Second, we must prepare for conflict. It will come. The hinderers are always with us and they have many forms. It may be our own human frailty. It might be a brother or sister of base character. It could be overwork, difficult circumstances. Whatever the hinderer, it will come. We need to be prepared! Remember, no "hinderer" can prevent God's people from embracing their opportunities. □

Gone Fishing

Eric Reynolds

The only example we have of Jesus cooking is found in John 21, where he serves the disciples a fireside breakfast of bread and grilled fish on the seashore. Afterward, Jesus initiates a pointed conversation with Peter: "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" What does Jesus mean? Who or what are "these"? Why does Jesus repeat the question three times? What is the significance of Jesus' pastoral commands to Peter?

Many have pondered this intriguing passage. Some find significance in the Greek words for "love" employed by Jesus and Peter. Others suggest that Jesus' three repetitions recall Peter's three denials, providing Peter the opportunity to reaffirm his love, thus healing the breach. In this article, we will explore this conversation in view of the context of the miracle on the sea.

The chapter begins with Peter's decision to go fishing, which sounds like a good idea to the other disciples present, including James and John. But the all-night expedition proves futile. That is, until an unknown figure on the shore calls out to cast their nets on the other side, resulting in a miraculous haul of fish. John realizes right away it is the Lord— and little wonder, for this whole scene is a repeat of an earlier miracle.

On the same sea several years before, Peter, James, and John fished all night with no success (Luke 5:1-11). The next day as they worked on their nets, Jesus made use of Peter's boat as a floating pulpit. After his lesson he instructed Peter to go out farther and let down the nets, resulting in a catch so large the nets and boats could hardly contain it. Peter fell at Jesus' knees, who then said, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." Thus began their journey as disciples. "And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him."

Fast-forward three years or so. Things have changed. After his crucifixion, Jesus rose from the dead just as he had promised. But his appearances are brief and sparse; he no longer lives and walks among them as he did before. What is to become of his disciples?

It is during this time that Peter announces, "I am going

fishing" (John 21:3). Is this a way to pass the time? A means of providing food? Or a step toward returning to life as a fisherman?

When Jesus enters the scene, he performs the same sign as he had the day he called these men to become disciples. These twin miracles form bookends for Jesus' time on earth with Peter, James, and John. The last one ends like the first: "Follow me" (vs. 19). In fact, John's Gospel closes on the image of Jesus and Peter walking and talking, John following.

With those parallels in mind, let us return to the conversation between Jesus and Peter from that morning. The Lord's first words to Peter are interesting: "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." But Jesus already has fish cooked. When Peter returns with the catch, Jesus invites the disciples to eat. The hundred fifty-three fish lie nearby, presumably still flopping in the net.

After they eat, Jesus addresses Peter directly: "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" There are at least three ways this question can be understood. 1) Do you love me more than these other men love me? 2) Do you love me more than you love these other men? 3) Do you love me more than you love the fish? Neither Jesus nor Peter clarify (for us) which is meant.

Peter responds, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus replies, "Feed my lambs." Three times the Lord asks; three times Peter affirms; and three times Jesus instructs Peter to tend his flock. Whatever else can be made of this, it is clear that Jesus' plans for Peter are spiritual in nature. Years before he had called Peter to become a fisher of men, and here he reaffirms not only Peter's standing as a disciple, but his mission as an apostle. To our knowledge, Peter, James, and John never cast another net in the water.

Perhaps we, too, need to be reminded of our own calling. At times our journey may not go as we expect; our world may be turned upside down; we may not understand how things will work out. But having put our hand to the plow, we must never look back. There is work to do. Don't be "gone fishing." □

Watch
LIVE

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Wanda Castleman remains at home as she recovers from a serious leg infection. We are thankful for the progress thus far and continue to pray for her to overcome. Say her name daily as you lift your voice to the Lord.

Silvia Henderson and family are in our prayers following the loss of our brother Auburn. We are praying for solace for this good family.

Betty Reavis remains on our prayer list as she recovers from her treatments. She will still periodically require treatments, but she is glad to be free from the daily grind of Chemo. Your prayers are appreciated.

Daily Prayer List:

Please remember these in your daily petitions to the Father:

Barbara Woodard	Melonie Power
Melvin Godette	Glenda Cavender
Ken Cavender	Jeff Harbin
Aladean Jacks	Marty Haselden
Teresa Grizzard	Sylvester Collette

Study Series Finale Tonight

Tonight is the final week of the **2019 Spring Sunday Night Study Series**. Our finale is always a great event. The children will be present in the auditorium to demonstrate lessons that they have learned during the last six weeks of study. We hope every Weatherly member will be here tonight.

Following the study series portion of the night, we will be led in a devotional period of worship. Jared Jimison will lead the congregation in song. Mike McLemore will speaking in an abbreviated format that will include the invitation of the Gospel. The Lord's Supper will follow. Come be a part! ☐

Group Four Meets Tonight

Group Four, led by **Ron Harmon**, will be meeting this evening immediately after worship. Remember that you will be dismissed early from the assembly tonight.

MAY BIRTHDAYS



APRIL 28, 2019

5-2	Cathy Preston	5-7	Bill Reavis
5-8	Hill Roberts	5-9	Nick Holland
5-9	Ruth Mitchell	5-12	Betty Dubose
5-12	Joe Pellegrini	5-14	Sarah Starks
5-15	Dot Summers	5-17	Megan Caudle
5-23	Terry Childress	5-23	Melvin Godette
5-26	Addison Ivey	5-28	Terry Barnette

You Say, God Says

Adapted

For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it.

You say: "It's impossible."
God says: "All things are possible."
You say: "I'm too tired."
God says: "I will give you rest."
You say: "Nobody really loves me."
God says: "I love you."
You say: "I can't go on."
God says: "My grace is sufficient."
You say: "I can't figure things out."
God says: "I will direct your steps."
You say: "I can't do it."
God says: "You can do all things."
You say: "I'm not able."
God says: "I am able."
You say: "It's not worth it."
God says: "It will be worth it."
You say: "I can't forgive myself."
God says: "I forgive you."
You say: "I can't manage."
God says: "I will supply all your needs."
You say: "I'm afraid."
God says: "I have not given you a spirit of fear."
You say: "I'm always worried."
God says: "Cast all your cares on Me."
You say: "I don't have enough faith."
God says: "I've given everyone a measure of faith."
You say: "I'm not smart enough."
God says: "I give you wisdom."
You say: "I feel all alone."
God says: "I will never leave you or forsake you."

Don't give up on God because He's never given up on you. Resolve to be faithful to Him. ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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Weatherly Heights
CHURCH OF CHRIST

930 Weatherly Road SE
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Mailing:

P.O. Box 4619
Huntsville, Alabama 35815

Phone: 256 881-9535

Email: contactus@weatherlychurch.com

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:00 am
Sunday AM Assembly	10:00 am
Sunday PM Assembly	5:00 pm
Wednesday Classes	7:00 pm

Stay informed and engaged online at
www.weatherlychurch.com

WATCH:



Sermon archive or
live stream during
all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

Louis Garrett	256 883-7785
Tommy Hill	256 883-0010
Will Starks	256 883-5273
Forest Summers	256 348-2251

Evangelist

Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941
Email: mmclemore@weatherlychurch.com

Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough	Steve Hagewood
Ron Harmon	Kirk Hatcher
David Jacks	Ben Little
Hill Roberts	Collis Terry
Bobby Wright	



These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, April 21

Welcome: **Will Starks**
Song Leader: **Jared Jimison**
Opening Prayer: **W.D. Patrick**
Scripture Reading: **Jim Ehl**
Romans 6:17-23
Sermon: **Michael McLemore**
"Slaves to Righteousness"
Closing Prayer: **Steve Hagewood**

Sunday, May 5

Forest Summers
Charles Hill
Tommy Hill
Michael McLemore
Gary Patton & Jason Moore
TBA

Evening Worship

Study Series **Finale**

Songs Leader: **Jared Jimison**
Opening Prayer: **Hill Roberts**
Closing Prayer: **Phil Shaver**

Evening Worship

Lecture Week

Wednesday, May 1

Songs Leader: **Phil Furlough**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **Jim Risner**

Wednesday, May 8

Collis Terry
Mike McLemore
Jimmy Harbin

Group 4

2019 Weatherly Lectures
May 2-5

"Living in Christ"
Michael McLemore, Jason Moore, Gary Patton & Eric Reynolds

Group 1

Quarterly Adult Classes
April – June 2019

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Living Responsibly
Tommy Hill
AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
Lessons from Isaiah
Mike McLemore

Serving in April

Serving on the Lord's Table AM	Riley Monroe	Jim Risner
** Overseer	Jeremy Leshko	Clark Boles
	Charley Skinner	Jim Ehl
	Ron Harmon **	Ed Dill
Lord's Supper PM	Gene Preston **	Kirk Hatcher
Communion Prep Building Lockup		Sue Terry
		Collis Terry

