

Weatherly Weekly

November 14, 2021

2021 Edition, Number 46

LESSONS FOR SOWERS

Michael W. McLemore

Jesus' Parable of the Sower offers powerful lessons, *Luke 8:4-15*. His lessons are meant not only for ears of the word, but Sowers.

GET BUSY SOWING – Christ assured that the living seed of the Word of God will produce an abundant harvest. He calls Sowers to give themselves to the ministry of the Word; fruit will come — though not to an equal degree in each person's life. It takes time, and the first results often turn out to be disappointing. Frustrations are certain. Setbacks are plenty. But God's Word, faithfully sown, will raise a harvest of lives lived under the blessing of the rule of God.

SOW GOD'S SEED – The only seed that will bear the fruit of gospel change in people's lives is the Word of God, *Luke 8:11*. Different seed will produce a different harvest. Different seed may keep people together, it may create a helpful group experience, but it will not bring people

under the rule of God. Only the seed of the Word of God can do that.

LOVINGLY SOW SEED – The Sower is casting seed, not dropping bombs or hiding land mines. Christ asserts that God's work is accomplished, not by earth-shattering blasts, but by the faithful, humble teaching of the Word of God.

BE CAREFUL – Sowing is not for the faint of heart. Sowers are trodden upon. Difficult experiences are a reality. When they come, "be careful of your heart!" Don't be hardened by the work. Sowing is costly. Circumstances make it more and more difficult. When that happens, "be careful your heart!" Don't lose your joy in sowing. Finally, the life of a Sower becomes more crowded. Greater responsibility makes it more difficult to manage your life. When that happens, "be careful of your heart!" Always leave room for Jesus! ☐

Do Justice and Righteousness

By Doy Moyer

In Scripture, justice and righteousness are so closely connected that one would be hard pressed to differentiate them in any practical sense. The terms seem to be a strengthening of each other, a way to emphasize that doing justice IS doing righteousness, and doing righteousness IS doing justice. They cannot be separated or thought to be independent of one another. Without righteousness, there is no justice. Without justice, there is no righteousness. And so often, these terms are tied to how the poor and oppressed are treated:

"Thus says the LORD: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place," *Jer 22:3*.

"The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed," *Psa. 103:6*.

This is not just an "Old Law" thing, for Jeremiah says, "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land," *Jer. 23:5*.

The Messiah's reign — the very one in which Christians partake — is executed with justice and righteousness. "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne," *Psa 89:14*.

In the New Covenant, we are familiar with the terms "righteous" or "righteousness." The term "judgment" is close to "justice." But "righteousness" is sometimes elusive to our understanding. We often say that it means "being right." That is not sufficient, though, for we are immediately confronted with the fact that "None is righteous, no, not one," *Rom 3:10; Psa 14:1-13*. Of our own, we are but filthy rags. Only God can make one righteous. Only He can ultimately forgive, reconcile, and justify.

Even more, only God can empower us to do righteousness. Whoever serves is to do so "as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" *1 Pet 4:11*. We are to use our freedom to serve God, recognizing that any ability we have to do what is right still comes from Him, *1 Pet 2:16*. This is not a denial of free will, but a recognition that it must always be subject to God if it is to be used properly to His glory, *Rom 10:3*. Once we fail to

subject our will to His will, we will not be able to do righteousness by our own strength, *see Rom 6:16*. We will utterly and always fail.

Righteousness is more than being right; it is doing right, *1 John 3:7*. This doesn't mean we are "made right" by doing a bunch of good things — that cannot happen without God's mercy and grace and being "born of Him," *cf. 1 John 2:29*. Righteousness, though, is not simply a state of being, but a continual process of acting. (Rutledge in *The Crucifixion* suggests it should be understood more as a verb than a noun. That fits with God's command to "do righteousness.")

When God says to "do justice and righteousness," He is not saying passively to "be just and be righteous." He is not just saying to "be Holy" in some abstract sense. Rather, He is ordering a way to live and act that reflects His character as One who always does justice and righteousness. God saves us in order to do justice and righteousness. In other words, "we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them," *Eph 2:10*. We stand for and practice a gospel is that intended to bring peace, life, and healing. It is a proclamation that the Messiah brings "liberty to the captives" and sets "at liberty those who are oppressed," *Luke 4:18-19*. It is a message which emphasizes that there is no partiality and that "in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him," *Acts 10:34-35*. We act on behalf of freedom in the greatest of all senses.

Even so, while we live in a sin-torn, corrupted world, full justice and righteousness will elude us. We will always yearn for more, knowing that we are in a broken world that has generally shunned God's righteousness. This is why we need to look to Him. This is why we need to proclaim His excellencies, *1 Pet 2:9*. If we really want full justice—if we really want all things to be right—then He is the One who has the power and will make that happen. He has "fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead," *Act 17:31*.

In the meantime, we must trust Him. We must repent. We must seek to live a pure and undefiled religion, *Jas 1:26-27*. We must seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, *Matt 6:33*. ☐

Watch LIVE!



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

We are saddened by the loss of **Searcy & Evelyn Hall's** daughter-in-law, **Cathy Hall**, on Friday morning. Cathy fought a courageous battle against cancer. Please pray for Cathy's husband, **Randy**, as well as his daughter, **Tracy**, son, **Jake**, and grandson, **Hallden**.

Collis Terry's knee surgery went very well. His surgeon repaired cartilage on both sides of his knee. The report was great. His surgeon thinks he will have a good outcome. **Sue & Collis** wanted me to thank you all for your prayers.

Ron Harmon was able to be with us on Wednesday. We are glad that he continues to bounce back quickly from his procedure. Your prayers and expressions of concern have meant much to the Harmon's.

Sandra Ivey, Terry Childress' mom, remains on our prayer list. She was released from rehab last week and is home doing well. We are thankful that sister Ivey is well enough to be home. Say her name to the Lord as you pray.

Peggy & Terry Childress were able to be with us last Lord's day. It was great to see Peggy doing well. She still has a challenge or two but overall she's great!

Mechi Hunt's sister, **Zoila Herring**, continues to have an interest in our daily petitions. The family greatly appreciates you for your prayers and your encouragement.

Maragem Harbin's is still awaiting a doctor visit to address some of her ongoing issues. Pray for her comfort. Also, remember **Debbie & Jimmy** to the Lord as you pray. Debbie has

been having an ongoing irritation with shingles. Ask for her comfort.

Pray for those who are in assisted living facilities and memory care — **Laura Phillips, Jim Risner, Lane Roberts, Dot Summers**. ☐

Daily Prayer List:

Glenda Cavender	Melvin Godette
Laura Phillips	Dot Summers
Charlotte Hagewood	Lane Roberts
Bill Reavis	Ron Harmon

WEATHERLY UPDATES

Our Wednesday night assembly continues to go very well. It is awesome to see you during the week. Our children's class continues to grow in number.

Going forward the elders have decided to begin more moves toward normalcy. Barring something unforeseen, we plan to return to masks optional after thanksgiving. We appreciate your patience as we all do our best to keep everyone safe.

Sunday morning Bible Class begins at 9:30. Mike is continuing his series **Divided We Fall**.

Sunday morning worship begins promptly at 10. Mike will continue his series on "Gratitude" today. We will be asking the question — "Thanks in Every Circumstance?" from **1 Thessalonians 5:18**.

Remember our **ZOOM Devo** at 7 Sunday evening. Come be a part of something pretty special.

Wednesday our **1 Corinthians** study, **Abounding Together** continues at 7 pm. We will stream as well as assemble in person. ☐

Generosity

Michael W. McLemore

One of the great marks of *agape*, sacrificial love, is generosity. Love overcomes evil by doing good. In *Romans 12:9-21* Paul shows what love looks like...

"Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep, *13-15*."

That is hard!

Generosity opens my home to others, or help to alleviate their needs. It is shown when I share the joys and sorrows of others. Perhaps the greatest display of generosity is when I choose to bless those who have hurt me!

Blessing someone who has hurt me doesn't come naturally. When someone brings pain into my life, I'm tempted to focus on the injustice of what they have done. I'm tempted to brood over what I lost, like Jonah when God took his shade, *Jonah 4*.

God expects something better. Generous people give more than is needed or expected. They give when kindness is not deserved and where it may never be returned. And God calls me to this because this is how He has dealt with me!

Won't you join me in trying to be truly generous? ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 am
Sunday AM Assembly 10:00 am
Sunday PM Assembly Zoom 7:00 pm
Wednesday Classes 7:00 pm

Stay informed and engaged online at
www.weatherlychurch.com

WATCH:

LIVE Sermon archive or live stream during all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

Tommy Hill 256 883-0010
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Evangelist

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Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough	Steve Hagewood
Kirk Hatcher	David Jacks
Hill Roberts	Collis Terry
Bobby Wright	

Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, November 14 Sunday, November 21

Welcome:	Tommy Hill	Will Starks
Song Leader:	Hill Roberts	Mel Ambrose
Opening Prayer:	Bill Thompson	Steve Hagewood
Scripture Reading:	1 Thessalonians 5:18	Colossians 2:1-8
Sermon:	Mike McLemore <i>Thanks in Every Circumstance?</i>	Mike McLemore <i>Guard Yourself with Gratitude</i>
Closing Prayer:	Ron Harmon	Adam Hagewood

Evening Worship Evening Worship

Bible Skillz	CANCELLED	CANCELLED
Songs Leader:		
Opening Prayer:	Virtual Devotion on ZOOM	Virtual Devotion on ZOOM
Closing Prayer:		

Wednesday, November 17 Wednesday, November 24

Songs Leader:	Mel Ambrose	Bill Thompson
Invitation:	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
Closing Prayer:	David Jacks	Ron Harmon

None None

2021 Lectures Canceled

Quarterly Adult Classes

October – December 2021

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Divided We Fall
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

First Corinthians
Mike McLemore

Serving in November

Serving on the Lord's Table AM
** **Tommy Hill (11-7), Ed Dill (11-14), Collis Terry (11-21), Will Starks (11-28)**
** **Overseer**

Lord's Supper PM **

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



11-17	Brody Besherse	11-20	Riley Monroe
11-21	Miles Hagewood	11-22	Ina Carter
11-25	Debbie Harbin	11-25	Amanda Stovall

