

REJOICE IN TRIALS

Michael W. McLemore

Jesus left His faithful followers quite a list of bad things we ought to expect in His "Be-Attitudes" — "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets," *Luke* 6:22-23.

Listen to them: Men will hate you; men will exclude you; former friends will want nothing to do with you and ostracize you; men will spew their displeasure and disapproval of you; men will rebuke and mock you! To some your name will be synonymous with "evil." Mean and nasty things will be part of their daily repartee when it comes to you. In short, "Get ready for ridicule!"

Why would people do such things? Jesus answered, "Because you're Mine!" They will happen because you are a Christian, seeking to live a life pleasing to God and in obedience to the

commands of Christ. They're intimidated by you.

More powerful than Jesus's explanation is His recommended response. "Count yourself blessed!" "Rejoice!" "Leap for Joy!" Are you a disciple of Jesus, a faithful follower of Christ, a New Testament Christian? Prepare for conflict and rejoice that you are counted worthy to suffer with Christ and the faithful who've preceded us!

How exactly do I do that? Listen to the Lord's assuring promise — "Your reward is great in heaven." Note that He does not assure his listeners of a reward on earth. Too many of us prefer our relief now or to live the Christian life with no opposition. He never promised it. Relating to trials in this life will not be easy, but doesn't it help to know that when it comes, and it will come when we are living faithfully, it's just what He said would happen? You're prepared!

Rejoice and thank God that He has found us worthy to share in the fellowship of Christ.

Reach Out and Touch Someone

Dee Bowman

t may well be that the besetting sin of modern day discipleship is its failure to procreate itself. Speed has been so aggrandized in our society that it has become necessary that whatever we do we must do in a hurry. We seem to be possessed with a determination to succeed more than to be spiritually inclined and equip ourselves for eternity, so we tend to put off things that don't pertain to our quests. One of those things is reaching out and touching someone.

I have a theory. It may not be right, or it may be a bit simplistic, but it's worth considering anyway. I don't think anybody will go to heaven by himself: he will go with someone or take someone with him.

Discipleship does not depend on some kind of human machinery for its procreation. It depends on the disciples themselves. "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also," 2 Tim. 2:2. That process is so simple. But where is it being used? How sad, because it works. If every person in the congregation decided to convert just one soul to Christ in the coming year, and if there are 300 in our congregation, the church would be 600 in just twelve month's time. Will that not work? The problem is not that the plan won't work; the problem is we won't work the plan.

What is necessary to get at the business of making known the gospel to those who come under your influence? I would suggest just four...

CONCERN When Jesus saw the multitudes, "he was moved with compassion," *Matt. 9:36*. We emphasize his feeling of "compassion," but fail to consider that the compassion moved Him. It took Him from unconcern to concern, from indifference to distress. It is that same movement of compassion that caused Him to die for the sins of the world. "God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son" is a statement of His concern for the lost souls of men. The gospel is the power of God to save *Rom. 1:16*, and that power is retarded only to the extent that it is not used. How about you? Are you actually concerned for the lost souls around you? Are you actually moved by what you see? If you are not, why not? I hardly see how one can call himself a Christian and

not be moved by the number of lost souls he sees every day.

BOLDNESS One of the Devil's most effective tools in retarding efforts to convert people is diffidence, a lack of confidence. It takes courage to try and teach someone. You run a kind of risk. You are apt to fail a lot of the time, and knowing that makes it even more difficult to make the effort. But make the effort we must. Jesus failed. In fact, he failed most of the time. But some will come, some will be interested, and even if you just snatch one soul from the fires of Hell you have done well. "Be not weary in your well doing," said Paul *Gal. 6:10*, "for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not." If we would just keep that in mind our mission would be an easier one, our work more diligent, our successes more often.

WILLINGNESS TO BE INCONVENIENCED We are wedded to convenience in this society. We don't want anyone or anything to invade our comfort zone. That proclivity to be comfortable has thwarted many an effort at converting someone to Christ. We make flimsy excuses, give faulty "reasons" why we can't make arrangements to teach someone. It gets in the way of our plans. What that says, most of the time, is that our plans are out of order, our priorities ill arranged. You have to want to convert someone before you will do it.

FAITH We don't have enough confidence in the gospel. Is it or is it not power of God to salvation? If it is, then why don't we treat it as such? If you suddenly came across the cure for cancer, would you let anybody know about it? Would you treat it nonchalantly? Certainly not! You would want everybody to be delivered from the malady. You hold in your hand the power to save men from a malady much greater and more dangerous than cancer. You have in the gospel a power that can save men from their sin. How can you put much confidence in it to save your own soul if you don't have confidence enough in it to recommend it for the salvation of the souls of others?

It's time we got busy about evangelism in local churches. It's time we quit our short-sighted thinking and got to the business of making the gospel work in the places where we live and work every day. How long has it been since you talked with someone about his soul. Well, that's too long.



FAMILY MATTERS



News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members

FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Annie Godette, Melvin's mother, passed away early Wednesday morning from complication related to COVID. Melvin related the following... "It meant a great deal to her for the prayers that she received the last time I was able to speak with her. I'm so thankful for her teaching and introducing us to our Lord... She was truly a God fearing woman who lived and breathed God's unfailing word everyday of her life." We are saddened by her loss to this world. Our prayers continue with Melvin, Donna, Keion, Keria and their family. The Godette's will be traveling to attend the service next week.

Dianne & Ed Dill tested positive for COVID last Sunday. Both are steadily improving. We are thankful for their progress. Unfortunately Phillip has now tested positive. His symptoms are mild. Please keep the Dill's in your prayers.

We are continuing to pray for **Bill Reavis** as he recovers from COVID. No date has been set as yet for his most needed surgery. Keep him in your prayers.

Betty Dubose has graduated and will not have to see her specialist for 3 months unless something changes. We are thankful. Betty said, "I would like to thank everyone for the prayers. I know they made a difference."

We continue to solicit your prayers for Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, Ciera. She has begun her treatment regimen. It will be arduous. Pray for Ciera and all who love her.

Peggy Shelton reports that her cousin, **Rita Montgomery**, continues to struggle with the

affects of COVID. They are trying to ween her from the ventilator. Prayers are appreciated.

June Furlough's sister-in-law, Doris Moore, remains in rehab at this printing. Say her name to the Lord as you pray.

Mechi Hunt's sister, Zoila Herring, continues to have an interest in our daily prayers.

Many in our church family have been impacted directly or have family members who are suffering from COVID illness. The list is long. Please ask the Lord to watch over each one who is sick and to comfort those who are anxious for their well being.

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

WEATHERLY UPDATES

Sunday morning Bible Class begins at 9:30.

Mike will continue his study Divided We Fall!

Sunday morning worship begins promptly at 10. Mike's final lesson in his January "New Life" series is entitled "Rubble to Restoration" from Nehemiah 9:17.

Remember our **ZOOM Devo at 7** Sunday evening. Zoom in with us tonight!

Wednesday our study of 1 Corinthians study, Abounding Together, continues at 7 pm with streaming and in-person assembly. Mike will begin 1 Corinthians 16. □

JANUARY & FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

	1-26	Marissa Hunt	1-28	Cooper Caudl
Calendar	1-29	Jim Risner	1-29	Will Starks
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat 1 2 3 4	1-30	Jenny Jacks	1-31	Shirley Laney
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	2-7	Maragem Harbin	2-11	Aaron Gore
19 20 21 22 23 24 26 27 28 29 30 31	2-13	Julie Guice	2-14	Brennan Ivey
	2-15	Glenda Cavender+	2-15	Hilda Wright

JANUARY 30, 2022

Free Jokes

with Jay Boles

lark Boles sent me this cute "true-life-story" that his son, Jay, recounted last night. Before we settle for the too often held view that "there's nothing I can do to make the world better," READ THIS! MIVM

This evening on my walk through the neighborhood across from mine on Douglas, I encountered a young boy sitting in the middle of his front yard, wearing what appeared to be a taco costume, behind a sign that read,

"Free Jokes."

Curious, I stopped and asked, "Are you wearing a taco costume?"
To which he replied, "Yes."

Ok, now you have my attention.

"What are you doing out here in the cold wearing a taco costume with that sign?" I inquired.

"Well, I thought that people might need some happiness in their lives, and since I didn't have anything to do today, I thought I'd sit out here and tell people jokes to make them laugh. Would you like to hear a joke?"

He opened one of the three joke books he had beside his chair. In the grass. In the middle of the yard. Dressed as a taco.

"Sure," I said.

And he told me a joke. And I laughed. And he thanked me for letting him tell me a joke. And I thanked him for telling me a joke. And I continued on my walk. Smiling the whole way. Maybe there's hope for us after all.







Mailing:

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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:



Sermon archive or live stream during all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

 Tommy Hill
 256 883-0010

 Will Starks
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Evangelist

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

Weatherly's Deacons

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



These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, January 30 Sunday, February 6

Welcome:Will StarksTommy HillSong Leader:Hill RobertsMel AmbroseOpening Prayer:Alex ThompsonWill StarksLord's Table Lead:Marty HuntCollis Terry

Nehemiah 9:17 Acts 8:9-24
Mike McLemore Mike McLemore

Rubble to Restoration Fighting Heart Disease

Closing Prayer: Bill McCord Kirk Hatcher

Evening Worship Evening Worship

Bible Skillz CANCELLED CANCELLED

Songs Leader:

Sermon:

Opening Prayer: Virtual Devotion on ZOOM Virtual Devotion on ZOOM

Closing Prayer:

Wednesday, February 2 Wednesday, February 9

Songs Leader:Phil FurloughDavid JacksInvitation:Mike McLemoreMike McLemoreClosing Prayer:Phil ShaverBobby Wright

2022 Lectures TBA

Quarterly Adult Classes
January – March 2022

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Divided We Fall **Mike McLemore**

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

First Corinthians *Mike McLemore*

Serving in February

Serving on the Lord's

Table AM** Collis Terry (2-6), Bill Thompson (2-13),** OverseerPhil Furlough (2-20), Steve Hagewood (2-27)

Lord's Supper PM **

Communion Prep Building Lockup

TBA

