

Weatherly Weekly

July 9, 2023

2023 Edition, Number 28

Which Am I?

Michael W. McLemore

What happened to faith at Nazareth? Mark records the response of its citizens in the synagogue when Jesus returned and openly revealed His place and purpose in God's plan, *Mark 6:1-6*. Most readers center consideration upon Jesus' statement, "A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house," *6:4, KJV*. Focus instead upon a single word used by the Holy Spirit in this familiar recounting – *thaumazo*, (thou-mad'-zo, Gk.), "marveled." Jesus "marveled because of their unbelief."

The term is used two other times in the Gospels, *Matthew 8:10* and *Luke 7:9*, to describe Jesus' response to the faith of a Roman soldier, a Centurion, as he begged the Lord to heal his beloved servant — "Jesus marveled."

Note the contrast of two faiths: At Nazareth, a people who had grown up in nearness to Jesus, who had observed him, known him intimately, and heard his voice, knew almost nothing of

Him — Jesus "marveled." Another, a man who represented the pagan arm of domineering Tiberius, whose sole role was to keep the Jews under Tiberius' rule, and was altogether unassociated with Jesus, had greater faith than all of Israel; again "Jesus marveled."

The Centurion recognized the divine holiness in Jesus and sinfulness in himself. He knew he was not worthy of Jesus' presence. He further appreciated Jesus' authority, the power of His word to command all things, while those who all their lives lived in nearness to God's Word, were altogether oblivious to its implications for their lives. How sad.

The two uses of a single word ought to give God's people cause for pause. It is entirely possible for people to grow up with access, and yet be unimpressed with the Lord, and our faith to be surpassed by those who have known almost nothing of the Lord. We would do well to rethink our own "faith in Christ" and "the power of His word." We must ask, "Which am I?" □

Most of us know that excellence doesn't come through shortcuts or along the path of least resistance. By its nature, quality requires exacting standards and attention to detail.

mates and parents?

Research tells us that "till death do us part" has been laid aside as an archaic convention in wedding ceremonies of late. In its place are things like "for as long as our love shall last" or "until

"Till Death Do Us Part"

Michael W. McLemore

So premium products cost more. More has been invested in them, so their value goes up. We understand that about companies, products or services. But, isn't the same true with relationships?

A relationship maintained over time is costly. Not only does it take effort just to keep up with someone when both of you are building careers but it also requires even more to deal with personality quirks, misunderstandings, and slights. Lacking the willingness to pay attention and to invest emotional energy, friends become mere acquaintances – and eventually become strangers all over again.

Ever wonder why Scripture represents the church as the family of God? Why it pictures its members as sisters and brothers to one another? Maybe your cynical response is to say it is because we are so much like children fussing in the back seat in the family car. Granting that, the deeper truth is that we belong to one another in a significant way and are expected to look out for one another in a pinch, to take up for one another when the neighborhood bully (*i.e.*, Satan) comes calling with the sinister intent of doing real harm to one of us.

The most intimate of human relationships is the one between husbands and wives in our marital covenants. With sociologists telling us that about half of all first marriages are failing, something must be wrong with our thinking. Where is the "excellence" we are building into our roles as

our time together is over." How's that for being open-ended? For leaving a way out? For some people, what they call "love" doesn't last into the third month. Their "time together" is hardly enough to unpack.

"Make it easy on yourself" seems to be the rule of thumb for too many today. So in our culture relationships begin with low expectations. Where is the excellence? Among the people of God it must not be so! Have we become shallow in our faith, careless about our character, and weak in our commitments? May it never be! We must not betray our spiritual potential. How can we abandon the Divinely appointed path?

Paul charged, "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts," *Colossians 3:12-15*.

The world may abandon the divine pattern for marriage, but God's people must holdfast and not forsake our highest ideals. True enough, we may still fall short of our goals. But we will never achieve them on the path of minimal effort. For the children of God "till death do us part" is not just a goal, it is the divine pattern of God. □



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



Family Updates

Prayers:

Wes' s mom, **Louise Caudle**, is beginning her radiation treatments on Monday. She will be undergoing a 28 treatment regimen. Please remember her and Wes' dad in your prayers.

June Furlough's procedure on Wednesday went well. Please remember her in your prayers as they await pathology. We are trusting our Lord for her care.

Remember that **Bill McCord** will have knee replacement surgery on July 18th. Please say his name to the Father. This will take some time to get over. Rehab will follow his surgery.

Lara Ambrose appears to be setting land speed records in getting over her recent knee surgery. She is already moving faster than many of us on our best days. We are thankful for the Lord's watchful care of her.

Wanda Castleman remains on our prayer list. She is missed in our assembly.

Shelia Hagewood's mom, **Pat Gamble** is back in rehab. We are praying that she will make a full and complete recovery. Your prayers for both **brother & sister Gamble** are appreciated. It's been pretty hard on Sheila's dad, too.

Elaine Dorris is slowly getting better. We are grateful for her progress and the Lord's care of her.

Harold Smith was with us Sunday. It's always encouraging to see him in our assembly.

Silvia Henderson's sister-in-law, **Ann Henderson**, remains on our prayer list. Please continue to remember her to the Lord.

Pray for **Susan Watson's** mother, **Janie**

Cheatham. She is doing well considering.

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

Ciera Elledge, Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, remains on our prayer list. She will be undergoing a PET scan in a few weeks.

Susan Woodard, Steve's wife, has been diagnosed with cancer. Pray for her.

Pray for these. Each has their own particular health challenge. — **Peggy Monroe, Jim Risner, Lane Roberts, Glenda Cavender, Edith Turner, Melvin Godette, Maragem Harbin, Betty Dubose & Harold Smith.**

Could you do me a favor? Would you please pray for our young men who are among us regularly. This world is a hard place and they are a great encouragement to each of us.

This Week at Weatherly

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE class meets at 9:30. **Tommy Hill** is continuing his study, **Building Strong Homes**. Please see Mike McLemore if you have not picked up your copy of the material being used for this class. Everyone needs their own book.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10. **Mike** is continuing series "When God is Silent." Today's lesson, **Serious Silence**, is taken from **Leviticus 10:1-7**.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP begins at 6. **Mike** will lead us in a devotion. We hope you will plan to gather with us.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY begins at 7. **Mike** will continue his verse by verse study of the **Gospel of Mark**. See you then. ☐

JULY BIRTHDAYS



7-10	Will Patrick	7-14	Barry Slaton
7-19	Jim Ehl	7-19	Peggy Shelton
7-27	Donna Godette	7-29	Mike McLemore
7-31	Phillip Dill		

Wasting Words?

Adapted

When Jesus invited his disciples to breakfast, John inserted a very strange comment: "Now none of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord," *John 21:12*. What an odd thing to say! They didn't recognize him?

Yes, they did, but not because of his voice or appearance. What clued them in to who this was? The fish! When John saw the nets fill with fish, it hit him: "It is the Lord!" *John 21:7*. John doesn't elaborate at all on why Jesus was hard to recognize. So why is it important?

Let me give one reason: the disciples' experience of not recognizing Jesus corroborates other independent post-resurrection reports, *i.e.* the two on the road to Emmaus, *Luke 24:13-35*.

What happened in John 21 is similar. The seven disciples didn't recognize Jesus until he revealed himself in a familiar act: filling empty fishnets. They are two independent, different reports that corroborate testimonies, increasing the credibility of both reports.

We would do well to pay attention to the oddities in the Bible. Seemingly extraneous things are not extraneous at all. What they have to say is important because God chose to include them. Tonsils, appendices, and "junk DNA" are not anatomical nonessentials. God doesn't waste words. ☐

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 6:00 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

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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, July 9th

Welcome: **Will Starks**
Song Leader: **Mel Ambrose**
Opening Prayer: **Phil Shaver**
Lord's Table Lead: **Phil Shaver**
Leviticus 10:1-7
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Serious Silence
Closing Prayer: **Kirk Hatcher**

Sunday, July 16th

Welcome: **Tommy Hill**
Song Leader: **David Jacks**
Opening Prayer: **Collis Terry**
Lord's Table Lead: **Steve Hagewood**
Hebrews 7:11-14
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
What? A Priest from Judah?
Closing Prayer: **Will Starks**

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz **Mike McLemore**
Songs Leader: **Mel Ambrose**
Opening Prayer: **WD Patrick**
Closing Prayer: **Mel Ambrose**

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore
Songs Leader: **David Jacks**
Opening Prayer: **Jim Ehl**
Closing Prayer: **Dwight Ivey**

Wednesday, July 12th

Songs Leader: **Bill Thompson**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **Jim Ehl**

Wednesday, July 19th

Songs Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **Bobby Wright**

Weatherly Heights Singing August 11th

Tim Stevens, Jim Deason
Lane Alexander

Quarterly Adult Classes April – June 2023

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Building Strong Homes
Tommy Hill

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
The Gospel of Mark
Mike McLemore

Serving in July

Serving on the Lord's Table AM & PM
** Overseer

** Ed Dill (7-2), Phil Shaver (7-9), Steve Hagewood (7-16), Tommy Hill (7-23), Marty Hunt (7-30)

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

Phil Furlough

