



BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Time of Services:

Sunday: 10:00 A.M. class, 11:00 A.M. worship, and 6:00 P.M. worship

Wednesday: 7:00 P.M. class

Preacher:

Larry Black (cell) 903-588-4253 email: lblk@peoplescom.net

Youth Leaders:

Heath & Carla Hines 903-717-1423 email: hhines@hotmail.com

Benevolence - Rick Toland: 903-220-9825

Evangelism - Heath Hines: 903-717-1423

Edification - H. L. Robertson: 903-856-5461

Building Maintenance - Mark Sharpin: 903-573-3993

Grounds & Van - John D. Porter: 903-563-5945

Finance - Larry Reynolds: 903-767-0742

Wednesday Devotional Speaker: John D. Porter



BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

PUTTING YOU ON THE RIGHT PATH

BLODGETT CHURCH of CHRIST Bulletin

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He Got Up and Followed Him

Think about this for a moment. Jesus passed by “... *he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.*” (Mark 2:14). What an impression Jesus must have already made on Levi (Matthew) to cause him to get up and follow like this! Why would anyone do this?

Jesus was careful with His choices. He knew what He wanted and who could serve Him well, so telling someone to follow Him was no little matter. But why Matthew? Why would He choose a tax collector whose reputation was that a swindler or a traitor? This must have been a shocking choice given all the other options He would have had before Him. Yet there is Jesus telling Levi to follow Him, and Levi got up and did it.

This must have taken a strong commitment on the part of Levi. To get up immediately and follow was risky. We see no evidence of hesitation on his part. He got up and followed Jesus, willing to pay the price and deal with the consequences. Why would he do this? Why would anyone do this? While we do not have all the reasons spelled out in the text, we can gather at least this much:

Levi would have seen the relative value of what he was leaving for what he was gaining. He knew it was worth the price he had to pay. Do we see the same? Compare what we give up with what we gain in Christ. Paul wrote, *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; (18) While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.* (2 Cor 4:17-18).

Levi would have recognized his need for what Jesus was giving. He had to come to grips with the fact that he was a sinner in need of repentance and forgiveness. Yet only

Jesus offered this. Jesus shows this very point in what happens next in the text (Mark 2:15-17).

Jesus was sitting and eating with “*many tax collectors and sinners,*” along with His disciples. The scribes and Pharisees wondered, “Why is He eating with tax collectors and sinners?” It made no sense to them. If Jesus was the Son of God, how can He associate with the sinful and unclean? No Messiah would do this! Yet this is where the problem lies. What kind of Messiah and Savior do we want and need? Jesus’ response here was on point: ***They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*** (Mark 2:17). This struck hard against the scribes and Pharisees. They thought they were righteous, and because of this, they did not see the need for what Jesus was offering. They already had what they thought they needed. Why would they need Jesus?

Again, Levi would have followed Jesus because he saw what Jesus was offering as needed. If Levi saw himself as righteous, he likely would not have followed. If we see ourselves as already righteous, in need of nothing, then we will not follow either. We need to see where we stand before God to know why we need what Jesus gives.

Following Jesus, then, starts with recognizing who Jesus is, what He offers, and what we are in relation to Him. If we see ourselves as good enough, we will not follow, and this seems to be the problem that we sometimes encounter. People in the world see themselves as good enough. They think they don’t need what Jesus offers. Why would they need to follow Jesus? We follow Jesus not because we think of ourselves as righteous, but because we realize we are sinners who are sick and in need of the Great Physician. We need to keep a proper perspective lest we find ourselves like the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:17: ***Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:***

Seeing ourselves for what we are as sinners is necessary to follow Jesus. He says, “*Follow Me.*” In these words, Jesus presents a crossroads in our decision-making. To deny Jesus here is to say that we don’t need Him, that we are good enough on our own. Such pride will destroy us.

Jesus came to call sinners to repentance. Will we, like Levi, get up and follow Jesus? Or will we be like the scribes and Pharisees? (adapted from Doy Moyer)

Family News

- **Jean Martin** had a change in medication which we hope will help her.
- Continue to remember Virginia, **Rick Toland's** mother, who recently had a stroke.
- **Paul Caldwell**, Frank’s brother, had heart surgery last week.
- **Pat Slone’s** cousin, Larry Vanhooze, is in need of prayers.
- **Bob Arnold**, well-known church member and elder at the South Side congregation in Mt. Pleasant, passed away.
- Our **VBS** will be June 17-21 from 6:30-8:00 pm. There will be classes for cradle roll through 6th grade as well as an adult class. VBS snacks needed are small can sodas, individual packs of chips, individual packs of cookies, individual packs of gummy snacks, and mini candy bars.
- There is a men’s meeting of area congregations on Friday, June 14 at Herschel’s in Mt. Pleasant at 9:00 AM.
- HRR pantry item for June is Bisquick.

SUBMIT YOUR BIBLE QUESTIONS IN THE BLACK BOX LOCATED IN THE FOYER.

“It’s an Odd Bank!”

What if you had a bank that credited your account with \$86,400 each morning? You may be answering, “That’s about the right amount for my weekly bills!”

But there’s a catch. If you don’t spend the money that day, no balance is carried over to the next day! So what you don’t spend that day is gone tomorrow.

So what would you do with a bank account like that? Obviously you would rush to the bank each morning and draw out every last cent so that you would lose none of it.

Well, do I have a surprise for you. You do have a bank like that. It’s the **TIME NATIONAL BANK**. Each and every morning of the world, it credits your life account with 86,400 seconds. And at closing time each day, there is no balance left. It has all been spent. If you invested your time well, that’s good. If you wasted it, it’s still the same result. All the time is gone. So make up your mind. You got a time deposit when you woke up this morning. It will all be gone in the dew of tomorrow morning.

The book of James gives us some insight about time. **James 4:14** ***Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*** Time is here and then it’s gone. Let’s use our time on earth wisely. Each day we have 86,400 seconds. How will you spend today? Written by Russell McLaughlin