



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299

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Email: staff@dovercoc.org

February 13, 2005

My Lines

By Micah Williams

The Authentic Jesus

Frequently our experiences of something are different from our expectations. The experience itself may be better or worse than expected; like a planned holiday, marriage, missionary encounters, etc.

When Jesus confronts the world, many of the world's expectations are destroyed.

Many were looking for a Messiah who would run the Romans out of Rome and have Israel the center of the world, where all would pay tribute. But not many focused much attention on the need for repentance. No one connected the suffering servant and the messianic king to be Jesus. The world's expectations turned out to be too *narrow*, too *partisan*, too *limited* and *just wrong*.

When Jesus confronts the world today, similar misconceptions must be cleared. Some may think Jesus is a spiritual "fix" worth trying – without raising the questions about sin, truth or obedience. Some circles teach that faith in Jesus is a step to local acceptability, always provided that religion is not taken too seriously. When someone of that persuasion first reads the Bible he or she is in for a real treat. When Jesus is confronted he is unforeseen, unpredictable, non-negotiable and unavoidable.

The authentic Jesus makes demands that are personal and costly. (Matthew 8:18-22) Two disciples promise some kind of allegiance to Jesus, and in some measure Jesus rebuffs them both.

The first is quick to promising: "Then a scribe came and said to Him, 'Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.' Jesus said, 'The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay His head.'" (8:19-20) Like the vow Ruth gave to Naomi. "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me." (Ruth 1:16-17) But Jesus detected less commitment and more like Peter, this response stresses not so much Jesus' poverty as His homelessness.

Apparently he detected the teacher of the Law envisioned a connection with Jesus that would secure stability, perhaps even privilege. Since Jesus was going to be the Messiah he wanted the inside track now. This example with Jesus entails counting the cost and coming to grips with the fact that loyalty to Jesus brings with it demands that may be costly.

The second is too slow to performing: (Matthew 8:21-22) The man's request seems honest enough, it was the Law. "The Levites shall then answer and say to all men of Israel with a loud voice, 'Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother.'" (Deut. 27:14, 16) Jesus makes a similar point later in Matthew 10:37-39. Jesus is not telling us not to attend funerals of relatives. Rather if the concern for parents becomes an excuse for not following Jesus, or delays following Him, then the concern is to be valued. No one is to come between the Lord . . . not friends or family. These verses teach us that the demands Jesus gives are often personal and costly. Paul

understood the cost of following Jesus. They may not be the same for every Christian, but for Him they involve shame, pain, suffering and rejection.

Jesus should work powerfully in our lives, so powerful that it transforms us, confronts our wills, and demands our devotion and allegiance, and calls us to our deepest commitment. The cost Christians pay are the same; dying to self, that can be painful.

The authentic Jesus is far more wonderful than even His most intimate followers suspect. (Matthew 8:23-27) Here Jesus rebukes the disciples' faith.

The proper faith would drive out fear. He rebukes the disciples because their fear has driven out faith. Clearly, they have enough faith that they turn to Him, but it is weak faith. Like a magician performing tricks – you know he is going to but you are astonished when he does. Sometimes in our prayers we cry out to God but when He answers them sometimes in great ways we are surprised. But the greatest error of their faith lay in the failure to realize who Jesus really was. Could the Messiah who is to die and be resurrected, be killed by a storm? Could the Creator of the world be destroyed by His creation? Their faith was weak in that they failed to realize who Jesus was.

Jesus is always better than our fears. Our faith will be most stable if we center it on who Jesus is.

Faith urgently needs to know, not so much what Jesus will do or what promises He may have made in situations, but WHO Jesus IS!

We must learn that knowing the "authentic Jesus" better is what strengthens faith the most.

Jesus is more wonderful than we anticipated!

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Our God is a loving God. He is also a forgiving God. We know that He also can be angry with us. ***“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.”*** (Psa. 103:8)

God became so angry with His chosen people that He was ready to destroy them. Moses told them, “. . . ***you provoked the Lord to wrath, so that the Lord was angry enough with you to have destroyed you.***” (Deut. 9:8) He had brought them out of slavery in Egypt and now was ready to destroy them because of their wickedness.

“God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day.” (Psa. 7:11) NKJV.

When we sin, when we are wicked, God becomes angry with us. He wants us to be righteous people, faithful, not complaining, loving and forgiving. From His Word we know that God loves us. From this same Word we know that He can become angry with us. His anger depends on us and our actions and choices.

Jesus also became angry with those who would try to accuse Him. The Pharisees were trying to trick Jesus because He was about to heal a man’s withered hand on the Sabbath. ***“And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, ‘stretch out your hand.’”*** (Mark 3:5) Mark tells us that Jesus was angry but he also says He grieved. Jesus was probably more consumed with the grief than He was His anger. The Pharisees should have been more concerned with the deformed man, but because of the hardness of their hearts, they only thought of themselves. Jesus could see into their hearts, their callousness.

Being a Christian allows us to be forgiven when we sin. I am happy about this because I **do not** want God to be angry with me every day!

“There was never a person who did anything worth doing that did not receive more than he gave.”

Remember Our Sick

Luella Bellomo - pancreatic cancer, receives our bulletin.

Donna Gail Brewer – Robert and Juanita Bird’s niece, following surgery diagnosed with ovarian cancer, starts chemo in 10 days.

Harriet Foot – Thelma Hatcher’s daughter had a heart-valve replacement and is recovering from a heart attack following the surgery.

Thelma Hatcher - second eye surgery rescheduled for February 14, 2005.

John Myers – diagnoses, lung cancer.

Faye Williams – Roxanna Shoptaw’s sister, biopsy February 7th.

Shut-ins: Needs your prayers and visits. All live in the Dover Area.

Evelyn Burton

Louise Killer

Mae Vanzandt

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Walter Arcynski, Lawrence Boley, William and Susie Boley, Bernice Brown, John Clark, Jeff Davis, Barbara Dawson, Evelyn Driver, Charles and Leota Hickey, Bob and Rose Lee, Bill McAlister, Jerry Martin, Debbie Meyer, Joe Miller, Sandra Mooney, Shirley Pavatt, Teresa Phillips, Henry and Edna Smith, Esther Sparks, Gordon Roughton, Juanita Townsend, Pauline Whorton, Harold and Mildred Turner, David and Betty Walters, and Donald Walters.

Expectant Mothers: Melissa Jackson.

Military: John Allen, Jeremy Carter, Greg Davis, Paul Holt, Randall Nixon, Chris Pearson, Tom Pickle, Terry Robinson, Adam Schrepfer and Rudy Will.

Special Children: Zachary Shelton, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Dover Church of Christ

“Doug’s Kids” Will do Sunday evening services February 27th

“Harmful To Your Health”

By: Ruel D. Catlett

Guest Editorial Volume One

A teacher employed by a prominent theological seminary was recently quoted as warning the “forgive and forget” method of managing relational conflicts could be very “harmful to your health!”

If that’s true, it’s reasonable to suppose that those who have employed this life-principle most faithfully were emotionally damaged by their experiences. Were they? Take Samuel, for example. After years of faithful service as Israel’s minister, they fired him! How did he respond? ***“God forbid that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you.”*** How about Paul, who was slandered by some who owed their salvation to him. He said, ***“I will all the more gladly spend and be spent for you, though the more I love, the less I be loved.”*** Then there was Jesus abused and rejected as no other has ever been, saying from the cross, ***“Forgive them.”***

To be fair, perhaps the intention of this warning was to avoid suppression of anger. Still, we must deal with the fact that the world’s most wholesome personalities have lived by the “forgive and forget” philosophy.

The truth is that managing personal hurts COULD be harmful to your health! If our “normal” tendency toward self-preservation has not been replaced by the deeper conviction of security in God; if “normal” tendencies toward seeking justice and redress of grievance have not been overruled by a stronger sense of mercy; if drives of selfish ambition have not been subordinated to love and a positive satisfaction in ministry, then quite likely, the attempt to “forgive and forget” will result in brooding resentment.

Jesus’ ethics cannot be successfully adopted as a formula for living by those motivations, values, and security systems have not been transformed by His Spirit residing within. To minister happily, avoiding ego damage and threat to our security, we must rest in the knowledge that our lives are truly “hid with Christ in God.” Only then can yielding result in a sense of victory, rather than defeat!

Events

“WINGS”

(Ladies from West Side Church of Christ)

February 17th
thru
May 5th, 2005

Every Thursday
9:00 – 11:30 AM

Beth Moore Series -
“Seeking a heart like God
through the study of David”

Devotional Scrapbooking Class

Started January 18th

Will Meet Every Tuesday,
6:30 – 8:30 PM,
Ending April 12th

Dover Church of Christ

Theme: “Fruits of
The Spirit”

Still time to make reservations
and catch-up!

For more info see:
Karen Womack

Mark Your Calendars

The Dover Church
Of Christ is invited
To Celebrate
Bernice Brown’s
90th Birthday!!
February 20th
From 2:00 to 4:30PM
Fellowship Hall

MEALS ON WHEELS

Dover Church of Christ
February 21 thru 25th
Monday thru Friday

Workshop

“Holding to Traditions”
February 26, 2005

Judsonia Church of Christ
392 Jackson Avenue
Judsonia AR
Web Site:

www.judsoniachurchofchrist.org

Host of speakers and panel members

CHRISTeens

West Side Church of Christ
February 25th thru 27th
Wsyouth.org

February Birthdays

03 Mildred Turner
Jon David Vance
04 Andrew Land
08 Mary McAlister
Dylan Williams
09 Juanita Whitted
11 Kristen Nordin
12 Shawn Bates
Emily Straight
16 Rachel Curtis
19 Carolyn Bennett
Tyler Mullins
20 Kaci Statler
21 Julie Moss
22 Eugene Davis
Keri Letson
Troy Meadows
23 Bernice Brown
Pat McAlister
Linda Vance
Herron
24 Earl Kennedy
26 Suzanne Land
27 Caleb Chance
John Clark

If we missed your birthday *please*
let us know so that it will not
happen again.

Dover Church of Christ LADIES NITE

February 17th
Thursday, 7:00 PM

Hostess:
Pat McAlister

THOSE TO SERVE

February 13, 2005

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

1st: Sid Womack
2nd: Doug Wilson

Communion

Podium: Chris Loper
Serve: John Myers
Lawrence Boley
Marion Helton
Mike Creel

Scripture Reading

Rex McDaniel

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Robert Bird
Alan Boatright

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

John and Carrie Clark

Communion to Shut-Ins

Dennis Whiteside
Chris Ramirez

Greeters

James and Shirlie Chadwick

Wednesday Night Devotional

February 16, 2005

Merrell Shoptaw

Meeting Times

Sunday Morning Bible Classes

9:45 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45 A.M.

Sunday Evening Worship

6:00 P.M.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Classes

7:00 P.M.

Minister: Micah Williams
Church Office: 479-331-3428
Or Cell: 479-264-9244

Elders:

William Boley 858-7131
Jim Killer 331-2802
Allen Veasman 331-2156

Deacons:

Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Joe Miller

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: Charlene Clark
Patsy Wisbrock

Sunday Service: Patsy Wisbrock

Wednesday Class: Joan Vance

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Dover Church of Christ
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