

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: David Key

On the Table: Head - Eddy Dickinson
Servers - Ralph Burleson
Greg Lowery
Josh Berryhill

Closing Prayer: Charles Berryhill

Preparing the Lord's Supper Deborah Box

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Minister: Greg Lowery

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Welcome

PARTNERS 4 AFRICA



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Praying at night

By Barry Newton

According to Luke, Jesus had the habit of seeking solitary places for prayer (Luke 5:16). Throughout this Gospel, Luke highlights the importance of prayer in Jesus’ life. We get the impression that Jesus did not add prayer to his lifestyle, rather, prayer was at the center enabling each step along his journey.

At several important junctures within his retelling of the story, Luke draws our attention to the time Jesus spent in prayer. On two such occasions Jesus went without sleep in order to pray.

The first of these prayer night vigils occurs in Luke 6:12 which serves as part of a transitional stage in Jesus’ ministry. Up to this point, we have begun to learn what Jesus’ ministry means. Through his teachings and activities in Nazareth and Capernaum, Jesus revealed he had the authority to bring freedom for those oppressed by the devil and to announce good news. Equally clear is that his teachings and behavior had begun to bring him into conflict with the religious authorities.

After introducing us to Jesus’ ministry, Luke records, “he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent all night in prayer to God” (Luke 6:12). This detail that he spent the night in prayer is not just extraneous filler. Similarly, the dual mention of “prayer” draws our attention to its emphatic emphasis. What is significant about this segment of Jesus’ journey?

Having told us Jesus communed with God throughout the night, having focused our attention upon the solitary Christ pouring out his heart to God and beseeching God, Luke’s expression, “when day came” provides a segue to the result. “He called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles” (Luke 6:13). A divine impetus rested behind selecting twelve apostles and these particular persons to be those twelve. The story of Jesus is the story of God at work.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Maylene McWhirter: her blood gases are showing signs of myeloid leukemia, please be praying for her and her family

Jack Waldon: {Linda’s Brother-In-Law} is under hospice care, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Billy Lee: {Carolyn’s Brother} diagnosed with renal failure, please keep him in your prayers

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister}: is in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray that her health continues to improve

Arthur Ewing: has lung cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that can help him

Robeana Green: has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer can be defeated

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Billy Wayne Burleson: is improving from recent surgery, please pray that he continues to improve

Don Lawrence: met with doctors concerning blockage with kidneys and are going to wait until February before taking further steps, please continue to keep him your prayers

Winfred York: hip replacement surgery went well please keep him and Vertie Mae in your prayers

Upcoming Events

Today	Missionary Report {Dorian Flynn}	10:00 am
Today	Fellowship Meal	
Today	Bible Bowl {Tidwell Chapel}	2:00 pm

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Angie Ganey Gardner: has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Amy Weeks {Donna’s Niece}: has asked for prayers to help overcome addictions, please pray that she will turn to God for help and strength

Jeff Upton {Co-Worker of Donna} severe back problems waiting to have surgery, please keep him in your prayers

Paul Glen Davis: experienced severe burns and is in serious condition at UAB, please pray for him and his family

Buddy Frazier: undergoing cancer treatments, please keep him in your prayers

Wyatt Spann: is currently fighting a brain tumor, please pray that with medical help he can win this fight

Connie Autrey: has a brain aneurysm and is also fighting cancer, please being praying that doctors can help her with these serious problems

Don Sobrak: was sent home from UAB doctors unable to do anything at this time with an aneurysm on his aorta and has been diagnosed with lung cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

From this point on, Jesus’ ministry would take on an additional role. His actions and teachings would serve the additional function of training twelve “sent ones,” that is, apostles. What their role would be is not yet clear at this point in the Gospel. However, in the larger two volume work of Luke-Acts their significant function becomes obvious.

Jesus’ other prayer night vigil not only revealed his relationship with God, but offers us an indirect subtle opportunity to reflect upon our own hearts. On the Mount of Olives Jesus separated himself a short distance from his disciples and knelt down to pray. His heart spilled forth, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Yet not my will but yours be done.” Through prayer, Jesus’ resolution to embrace faithfulness to the divine will became galvanized. The story of Jesus is the story of God at work through him.

What should not escape our attention is that being fully aware of the spiritual reality of the evil one and his desire to destroy (Lk. 4:2; 22:31), Jesus had tried to prepare his disciples for that fateful evening. He had counseled, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation” (Lk. 22:40).

Just as Jesus would pray in the face of testing, so too should his disciples. Unfortunately, because they were exhausted from grief and fell asleep, the disciples did not prepare themselves with prayer. As we learn from the other Gospels, they crumbled under the ensuing pressure.

In seeking to bless our lives, Jesus emphasized the essential nature of prayer (Luke 18:1; 11:9). For Jesus, prayer was not an addition to his lifestyle. Rather, prayer was at the center enabling each step along his journey. We would do well to imitate Christ. We would do well to prayerfully prepare ourselves for each step.

Obtained at: www.forthright.net

Messengers of good

By Mike Brooks

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, ‘ Your God reigns’” (Isaiah 52:7 NKJV).

One great blessing to the modern missionary (or any traveler to remote places) is the capability of immediate communication almost everywhere. Thirty years ago I might be able to contact my family at home one time in a month. Now I can call or email almost as frequently as I choose, from nearly anywhere I might be, and do so at a fraction of the previous cost.

It is a modern truism, considered vital to almost any endeavor, that information is power. People throughout the world seek up to date and reliable news reports. The emergence of the internet has made the job of the tyrant much more difficult since he can no longer completely control the flow of information to his people. It may or may not be true that “the people have a right to know;” it is certainly true that people everywhere have both the need and desire to know the truth regarding all things which affect them.

News may be good or bad, encouraging or depressing. Messengers often receive differing responses depending upon the nature of their proclamation. Good news is greeted with joy and honor; bad news may result in punishment or death to the one reporting it.

In the story of Absalom’s death during his revolt against David, a young man named Ahimaaz begged for the privilege of carrying the news of David’s army’s victory back to the King. Joab advised him, “You shall not take the news this day, for you shall take the news another day, but today you shall take no news, because the King’s son is dead” (2 Samuel 18:20). Joab understood that the messenger would receive no thanks from David for the report of his beloved son’s death. In fact, he might be in danger of dishonor, or even death.

Preachers struggle with the question of message and reception. Today it is often believed that “negative preaching” (usually meaning an emphasis on sin and punishment) is unwelcome and counter-productive. Many pulpits feature only feel good topics which are designed to encourage the listener and produce confidence in one’s spiritual condition. No one seems to want to hear any warnings against sinful behavior, much less any suggestion that he or she may not be in a good relationship with God.

Have we reached the time of which Paul prophesied, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (2 Timothy 4:3-4)? Those words do seem to describe many audiences today, though the same may well be said about previous times also.

A friend once provided a better (more biblical) definition of negative preaching. He affirmed that it is not negative to proclaim “There is sin and therefore there will be punishment.” Rather it is negative when one says, “There is sin, you are guilty, and there is no way you can change it.” To urge people to recognize their need for forgiveness and to seek it is the very definition of Gospel preaching (as for example in Acts 2:22-39). If our audience has no guilt, why should we proclaim salvation?

The reality is that “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). The good news is that “If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 1:9; 2:1).

Fear of criticism is no excuse for failing to teach the whole counsel of God, including that God is just and a punisher of those who do not know him nor obey his Gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:8). But let us never cease to proclaim the good tidings of great joy that he sent his son to save us from our own bad decisions.

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