

He Also Ran to Meet the Prodigal

By Dan Jenkins

When we read the story of the prodigal son, we are so impressed that the father ran to meet him and immediately gave him such blessings. Have you considered that when Jesus lived on this earth, He showed the same kind of love for the wayward? He was Immanuel, God with us, and to see Him was to see the Father (John 14:9).

Those in the first century had their own ideas about those who would be part of the kingdom. When Jesus talked about how it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for those who trusted riches to enter into the kingdom, His disciples asked, "Who then can be saved" (Matt. 19:25)? The disciples had the rich at the top of their list, but Jesus' list was so different. He came to seek and save the lost, but like the father of the prodigal understood, prodigals would be part of the kingdom.

When He chose His apostles, He chose ignorant and unlearned fishermen (Acts 4:13). He chose a tax collector—the most despised occupation among the Jews (Luke 5:27). He chose a Zealot—a Jewish "terrorist" (Luke 6:15). He surrounded Himself with men whom He knew would all forsake Him in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:31, 56). Why? Because His heart was like the heart of the father of the prodigal. The prodigal turned completely away from the father and these apostles all fled from Jesus at His darkest hour. Yet, He longed for their return. He never rebuked them for this after His resurrection. He did not rebuke, He received. We must never overlook the message He gave to the women at the tomb, "Go tell My disciples to meet Me in Galilee" (Matt. 28:7).

Look at His life and see how He treated people so differently. He received and defended the woman taken in adultery (John 8:3-11). He accepted the thief on the cross, who at first blasphemed Him, and gave Him entrance that same hour to Paradise (Matt. 27:43-44; Luke 23:43). That thief had mocked Jesus by saying that Jesus was worthy of death and questioned that even God would not accept Jesus—yet Jesus, like the father of the prodigal, received Him.

Read the story of His life. He exemplified the heart of God who had said, "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at My word" (Isa. 66:2). Jesus was like His Father and always "ran" to prodigals who sought Him.

Can I add one other person to those who Jesus so readily received when they sought Him? We sometimes overlook this person in the list of those whom He received. You already know that person. That person is you! Think about this.

Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	March 26, 2023 AM	March 26, 2023 PM	April 2, 2023 AM
Greeter	Tom Muter	Jason Bang	Dustin DeSarro
Announcements	Owen Whittington	John McGiffin	Jerry Thompson
Song Leading	Duane Kemp	Owen Whittington	John McGiffin
Opening Prayer/Usher Left	Owen Whittington	Jerry Thompson	Seth Arrell
Lord's Supper Comments	Tim Bang	Tom Muter	Duane Kemp
Scripture Reading	Seth Arrell	Tim Bang	Tom Muter
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin	Richard Melson
Closing Prayer/Usher Right	Tom Muter	Brennan Arrell	Tim Bang

Things you should know about...

We would like to send donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. Our last contribution was \$1,050.00. If you want to contribute, mark it as "DRF" or give the money to Jason.

The next donation will be sent after the end of March.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Doug Seiber 3/26

Judah Gasper 4/7

Rosalee Yoder 3/30

Waylon Wilson 4/9

Carter Buckingham 4/1

Seth Arrell 4/11

Daniel Hittle 4/2

Chelsea Wilson 4/14

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Happy Anniversary!

Greg & Michelle Buckingham 4/14

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Ladies Bible Study - The God of All Comfort

THIS Thursday, March 30th @ 6:45pm

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Family & Friends Day April 2nd

Speaker: Richard Melson, Needmore Church of Christ

Invite your family and friends to enjoy the teachings on The Family of God.

Please remember that evening service will be following at 2:00.

We will be having our potluck after AM Services... there is a list for what every one plans to bring on the back tables. Our egg hunt will be before lunch.

If you would like to donate items (such as candy/small toys/bubbles/books) for the egg hunt, please bring them by tonight.

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Men's Meeting April 15th @ 9am

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This year's Family Campout at the Thompson's is scheduled for May 5th-6th.

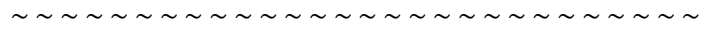
More details to come...

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Please call or email John (jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you have for the congregation.

This week's Bible Verse

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed;
Save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise." Jeremiah 17:14



Lord's Supper Reflection

To Purify our Consciences

"For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Heb 9:13-14

Offering Meditation

Your Gift to God is to be Done Cheerfully

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.... Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God..." 2 Corinthians 9:6-12



Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Country & leaders
- *Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
- *Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- *Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- *Larry Bey - Parkinson's
- *Orville Thompson (Jerry Thompson's dad) - health, has an upcoming MRI
- *Sally Westover (Carrie Thompson's mom) - health
- *Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - having issues with her vision
- *Debby Braefield (Alena Brown's Aunt) - health
- *Caroline Stine - has been sick this past week
- *Phil Garber (friend of Tim Bang) - recovering from heart valve replacement surgery
- *Josiah (Alena Brown's brother) - has heart issues
- *Jonie Pettit (Sharon DeSarro's grandmother) - at home recovering from a fall this past week
- *Rosalee Yoder - having tests on her neck/shoulder

- *Rick Ferris - recovering from surgery to put stints in
- *John Rush (Marjorie Seiber's son-in-law) - has tremors and is having surgery for them
- *Doug Hoff - recovering from a recent procedure
- *Nellie Hoff - recovering from a fall, has an appt with a neurologist
- *Tim Petty (friend of Duane Kemp) - having Bible studies with Duane & dealing with complications of diabetes
- *Brennan Arrell - juggling multiple jobs and classes

How can we be praying for YOU?



Attendance and Contribution Record

Sunday, March 19		Wednesday, March 22	
Bible Classes	30	Bible Classes	13
AM Attendance	40		
PM Attendance	19	Contribution	\$1,735.50

Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



March 26, 2023

Worship Times:

- Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am
- Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am
- Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd
Greenville, OH 45331

www.greenvillecoc.org

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us today!
If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.