

Shenandoah

church of Christ

TRIUMPH

“Do you know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it” (1 Cor. 9:24)

Matthew 23 (2)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Render Unto Caesar!

Shepherd's Corner:

Finding Peace with Other People

Jesus acknowledged that someone special to God is not their status in life, rather their lowly stature. Jesus said in the context of the self-aggrandizement of Jewish leaders: “*But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted*” (11-12). This is a great lesson to be learned. Living in a world where people seek to promote their self-interests, Jesus aimed at debunking this thought process by promoting the Creator, the Father in heaven and Himself, Christ, their Master (9-10). These are to be worshipped and followed, but man, on the other hand, is frail and subject to decay. Therefore, it behooves mankind to give homage unto He who is greater than he; to humble himself in view of this fact.

When man begins to crown his self achievements in life, often he overlooks some important details: (1) He didn't create himself - his mind and energy to accomplish tasks on earth, (2) His social importance - his interconnections with man, (3) and finally, his morality. When a person humbles himself, he knows that Someone greater than himself is responsible for all he has and all he is; therefore, his outlook in life and his treatment of mankind will follow this pattern of thought and action. In doing

so, everything he does will be for the benefit of God and his fellowman. He'll respect God's will, which will lead him to respecting those he lives and interacts with. He'll begin to seek other people's best interests.

But when people begin to think of themselves more highly than they ought, this is when problems begin to occur. People begin to mistreat others by using them and their resources for their own profit and gain (e.g. 2 Tim. 6:3-10). Man should be in the business of seeking ways to help their fellowman, not abuse or take advantage of them. And this is exactly what began to occur with the Pharisees and scribes as they took advantage of people for their own gain. In the weeks to come we'll be looking at the ways the Pharisees and scribes misused people and make some present day applications.

It is our duty as man to help each other in life, and not to promote our self-interests. God has showed us through his example, that by creating us and giving us the opportunity to exist, that He wasn't merely thinking of Himself. and this was the same for Christ. Christ left heaven as God and became as a man. That was humility. The Godhead has demonstrated humility, now it's up to his creation to mimic his behavior. May God be praised!

Render Unto Caesar!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

Sister's Edna Wilks Funeral service is today at Castle Ridge Mortuary (8008 Military Drive West, 78227). Public viewing will start at 1:00 and services will be at 2:00. Burial will be on Monday at Resurrection Cemetery (11624 Culebra, 78253) at 10am.

The fellowship luncheon will be next Sunday, December 13, after the morning service. The menu is sandwiches and your favorite Christmas goodies (candy, cookies, etc.) Please bring enough of the candy, cookies, etc to share on Sunday and to put in goody bags for shy-ins and widows. Chips will be provided.

The Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting Fabric Softener sheets and Pie Filling. The truck will be here between December 15-17. As before, you can donate funds by giving it to one of our elders, memo your check for Sunny Glenn, or purchase these items on your own and place it in the library. The donated funds will be used to purchase the items in bulk from Sam's Club. Thank you.

YOUTH

Our youth devotional will be hosted by the Dorries and C. Harris on December 11th. More details to come later.

YOUNG ADULT

Our young adult Christmas party will be on December 18th. More details to come later.

AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings.

Many "Christians" feel compelled to effect a change in this world through physical force, yet our leader, Christ, never advocated for this. During the days Christ lived, Christ combatted this thought process, when the Jews were waiting for the right time to strike at the heart of the Romans and gain their prominence again in the world wide stage. Yet Christ had a different approach and philosophy, one that did not set well with Jewish leaders. So in order to make him look bad and allow the Jews to see him for what he was, the Pharisees "*took counsel how they might entangle his talk*" (Matt. 22:15). So they "*sent unto him their disciples with the Herodians (a political fascist group), saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teaches the way of God in truth, neither cares for any man: for thou regards not the person of men. Tell us therefore, what do think? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?*" (Matt. 22:16-17). Jesus quickly perceived their question as being disingenuous and they hoped to spark an enflamed response from the Jewish and Roman leaders, as well as the public, and said, "*Why test me, you hypocrites! Show me the money. And they brought him a penny. And he said unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They said unto him, Caesar's. Then he said, Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's*" (Matt. 22: 18-21).

Jesus' answer was clear, simple, and logical. Jesus did not call for a

rebellion against the Romans, but promoted peace within her, by submitting to the laws of the Romans, which in essence was the will of God (cf. 1 Peter 2: 13-17). Jesus understood that in order to defeat a nation, one's life would serve as the catalyst for change or destruction.

Since the real war is spiritual in nature (Matt. 15:18-19, cf. 2 Cor. 10:3-4), then it only made sense that in order to defeat a nation, a mental warfare would have to be the primary objective. But more importantly, in order to defeat evil, good would have to be summoned and practiced (Rom. 12:19-21). Therefore, Jesus response made sense. Jesus, as well as His followers, would make a change by pricking men's minds with good conduct and speech. But gaining favor with them, Christians would have a vantage point to change minds and actions. But when the mentality is to change minds through violence and anger, then all we do is create more problems and woes.

As true Christians, we render unto Caesar (any government) what is theirs, so long as out does not violate God's will. But we do so, with good conduct and character, yielding unto God a life that is about changing other people's outlook in life. Unfortunately, we have many with the old Jewish mindset, that in order to effect change we must get aggressive and take it by force. Christ demonstrated that one can defeat any nation with wisdom and application. May God be praised!

WHAT SAITH THE LORD?

Nearly two thousand years ago an important question was raised before the Apostles after they had delivered the good news of Jesus's life, death, burial, and resurrection (Acts 2:21-36). The hearer's conscience were pricked of sinful conduct (2 Cor. 7: 10-11) and asked: "*Men and brethren, what shall we do* (in order to be saved)? (Acts 2:37). Without hesitation, Peter elevated his voice and proclaimed: "*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 2:38).

Upon hearing the words of Peter, the people obeyed. This demonstrated their belief in Christ (Jn. 8:24). Hence, they repented of sin and confessed allegiance to the name of Christ (Matt. 10:32-33). Afterwards, the people were baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:41, cf. Mrk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

The people's submission to the words of salvation granted them a relationship with God the Father by accessing citizenship into the church of Christ (Acts 2:47, cf. Matt. 16:18; Mrk. 9:1; Acts. 2:1-4). As a member of Christ's body (Acts 8:4) the people were then encouraged to live faithful unto death by conquering sin in their lives (Rev. 2:10; Rom. 6: 4-12; 2 Tim. 4: 6-8). We then await for the coming day in which all men shall be judged the word of God (Jn 12:48; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:10). Will we be ready?

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

Finding Peace With Other People

The psalmist exclaimed, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psa. 133:1). Ever since "Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him" (Gen. 4:8), man has been seeking ways to be at peace with his fellow-man. When trouble arose over the grazing rights of Abraham and Lot, the former said, "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between thee and me, for we be brethren" (Gen. 13:8). When the apostle Paul found strife in the church at Corinth, he wrote, "Let there be no divisions among you" (1 Cor. 1:10).

We can never have peace with those around us while ignoring the principles of peace which are set forth by the Prince of Peace. Jesus said, "As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye also likewise unto them...Love thy neighbor as thyself...Turn the other cheek. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive" (Matt. 7:12; 22:39; 5:39; 6:12). Following these principles will certainly change us, but it also will change those with whom we deal every day! When we "serve one another" (1 Pet. 5:5) and "bear ye one another's burdens" (Gal. 6:2), it will change the way people respond to us.

It isn't only what we do, but how we react to what is done to us, that makes for peace. Jesus, hanging on the cross, prayed for those who put Him there: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Lk. 23:34). When the world is moved by that kind of spirit, man will be at peace with his fellows. Jesus tells us to "love one another, even as I have loved you" (Jno. 13:34). The apostle Paul explains that "love suffers long and is kind...seeketh not her own, is not puffed up...taketh not account of evil" (1 Cor. 13:4-5). That is the real peace formula: seeking the good of the others while refusing to be offended. That will make peace in our time: in our families, in our communities, in our nation and in our world.

Bro. W. Holmes

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

BISHOPS/SHEPHERDS/ELDERS

(1 Tim. 3: 1-6)

Brother Elwyn Hipp (830) 510-6311,
Brother Wayne Holmes (210) 696-8597

DEACON

(Acts 6: 1-5; 1
Tim. 3: 7-12)

Brother Raul Baltierra
(210) 843-9730

GOSPEL PREACHER

(1 Cor. 9:1-16; 1 Tim.
4:6; 2 Tim. 4: 2-5)

Brother Gabriel Rodriguez
(210)315-4453



November 29

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mora; G. Rodriguez; B. Dorries; E. Hipp*

Scripture: *Matt. 27:45-54*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mokry*
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; R. Baltierra, Jr.*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *M. de la Garza*

After Greeter: *P. White*
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr.*
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes
 Juanita Mahan
 Richard Rodriguez
 Rina White
 Joe Guillen
 Sarah Cannon
 Olga (Joe's mother-in-law)
 Ina Dial
 David Sudhoff
 Elijah Sudhoff
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)
 Caral O'Banon

BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes Johna Dorries
 Abigail Reyes Graciola Anderson
 Lydia Cowan George Jackson
 Briana Nieves Sonny Cary
 Elwyn Hipp Gwen Parker

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Mary Louese Hughes
 Dazel Ball
 Mildred Geest

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan); Joe and Nadia Guillen; Celia Empett; Mayces

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES DECEMBER

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
P. White

Preparing Lord's Supper:
Moras

Auditorium Service Duties:
Open

Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room
Open

Brother in charge of services:
J. Guillen

AM Theme:

"Praising God" - A Study in the book of Psalms

PM Theme:

Setting the Church in Order - A Study in the books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus

AM Sermon:

Psalm 30

PM Sermon:

Congregational Singing

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

November 25: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

December 2: *T. Mayces*

December 9: *A. Maldonado*

FOR THE RECORD

November 22

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 43
 Sunday AM Worship 61
 Sunday PM Worship 25
 Wednesday Bible Study 35
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$2,284.20**

Weekly Bible Readers: 4/15 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Church email Address:

shenandoah@shenandoahcofc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sunday: Bible Study at 9:30 am; Worship at 10:30 am;
 Worship at 5:00 pm.

Wednesday: Bible Study at 7:00 pm