

Clay's Corner

I read every day. I read to study, to prepare, and as a source of comfort and guidance. As I was perusing various blogs this week, I came across this one. And I share it with you today as a source of wisdom and comfort in those times when it seems like no matter what you do, you just can't please those who mean the most to you. There is no discouragement like the discouragement from those closest to you. And it happens. It happened to Jesus. It will happen to us. - Clay

And as they were going out from Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, hearing that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" And the multitude sternly told them to be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" And Jesus stopped and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Lord, we want our eyes to be opened." And moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him. - Matthew 20:29-34

There is no discouragement quite as powerful as that from people who are led by a misguided sense of righteousness. We expect discouragements from people who do not believe in Jesus. We expect discouragements from people who fundamentally disagree with Jesus. We expect discouragements from people led by values opposing to the Bible. When such discouragements arise, believers are not surprised. However, discouragement from people supposedly dedicated to Jesus shocks us.

Jesus was then close to Jerusalem. The crowd following him grew. Two blind men sat by the road as the noisy throng approached. The curious blind men asked, "Who is coming?" They were told, "Jesus." They shouted to Jesus to show them mercy. The crowd tried to hush them. They shouted louder.

Jesus stopped and asked for them. He asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" They answered, "We want to see." Moved with compassion, he healed them. They became immediate followers.

Note some things. (1) Why did the crowd try to hush the men? Did they not understand this was the type of person Jesus often helped? Why would they consider the men's plea for mercy inappropriate? (2) The men knew who Jesus was. Though they had never "seen" a Jesus' miracle, they had confidence in his ability to help them. They asked for mercy—they understood they did not merit his attention. Though blind, they understood he was King David's descendant—(a Messianic declaration?). (3) They refused to let the non-blind crowd discourage them. They were not intimidated! They refused to feel inferior! They sought Jesus' attention, not the crowd's approval. (4) Jesus' motive was compassion. The motive was disadvantaged people's need, NOT the opportune moment to impress the crowd.

Suggestion for reflection: Do you let others decide your willingness to follow Jesus?
(Read Acts 9:10-19.)

PRAYER LIST

- Donnie and Danielle Babb (Zach's brother and sister-in-law)
- John Beiler (health)
- Brooke Bertling (Haley Ratliff's friend—breast cancer)
- Bertling and Gonzalez families
- Jane Brady, Elsie Clements, and Jorja Clements
- Dawn Clarke (Shirley Kuchynka's daughter)
- Betty Cox (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound, rheumatoid arthritis)
- Dixie (Debbie Faires's mother—Alzheimer's)
- Bill Ellison
- Leon Giesecke (Jan Moerbe's father—throat cancer)
- Herbert and Nelle Hahn (health)
- Sandra Jetton (health)
- Debbie Jalufka
- Edward Jungbauer (Moerbes' friend—health)
- Jimmy Linehan (Chestly Gobar's grandfather—health)
- Jason, Lizzie and Luke Klinger (Sarah Weaver's cousins—Luke, 4 mos old, cancer)
- Junior and Ada Powell (Sharron Mason's brother-in-law and sister—health)
- Jocelyn Seals (Hallettsville—cancer)
- David Taylor (Cody Chrismon's uncle—cancer)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org.

PRAYER UPDATES

Lauren Babb's spinal pressure was too low, so she went to the ER on Wednesday and they kept her overnight. On Thursday, a spinal tap confirmed the pressure was low, so she had surgery to clamp off the tube on the shunt so it will not drain anymore. Lauren was able to return home on Friday.

Herb Hahn will have additional medical testing to see if he is a candidate for heart surgery.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers Needed: Wednesday Night Meals

Volunteers are needed to prepare the entrée for meals on Wednesday evenings. **If you signed up to prepare a meal, please send your menu to Victoria by Wednesday the week before your turn.**

Youth & Family Outing: Victoria Generals

Next Sunday, July 10 we will again attend Faith and Family Night at the Victoria Generals Baseball game. Pre-game activities kick-off at 6 p.m. and the game starts at 7 p.m. Transportation is available. We will leave the church at 4 p.m. and stop for dinner in Victoria prior to the game.

Standard ticket pricing is \$6. If we have 12 or more attending, tickets will be \$4. Please sign up in the foyer TODAY if you will attend, so that we can lock in group pricing.

July 5th-Sunday Fellowship

Volunteers are needed to host July's 5th-Sunday Fellowship on **July 31**. Please contact Victoria Johnson if you would like to host this event.

Bob Smiley

Murray Street Church of Christ in Rockdale, TX is sponsoring a performance by Christian-comedian Bob Smiley at Rockdale High School on **Saturday, July 23 at 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$10 per person, or groups of four or more can purchase tickets for \$8 each.

Tuesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

Ladies Bible Class

Ladies Bible Class will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday morning at the building. We will continue our War Room Bible study.

Sunday Night Small Group

There is a small group that meets in the annex each Sunday evening from 6-7 p.m. The Lord's Supper is available.

Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study

Please join us at **5:15 p.m. this Wednesday** for dinner in the annex. This week's entrée is chicken spaghetti. Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides to share, but please do not let that prevent you joining us. Classes for all ages follow at 6 p.m.

Volunteers Needed: Communion Prep

Volunteers are needed to help prepare communion in the coming months. Please sign up on the large bulletin board in the foyer.



YOUTH ZONE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6
CHESS CLUB, 4 P.M.
(MOULTON CITY PARK PAVILION)



Cooper Faires—Moulton Chess Club