

FROM THE PREACHERS DESK

Salvation Strategies?

In the long history of the Church, there is only one teaching strategy that I have ever approved of in order to lead others to salvation, which is, to teach salvation in the same manner as Jesus.

Jesus' teaching on salvation was not popular in His time and it certainly is not popular in our time. Why not? One reason is because His teaching regarding salvation often sounded like He was discouraging people to follow Him instead of encouraging them.

For instance, this week we'll be studying Matthew 19:16-22, which in most Bibles has the added heading, "The Rich Young Ruler."

Here is a guy that comes to Jesus and asks a question that many Christians would LOVE for someone to come and ask them, Matthew 19:16,

"Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?"

Have you ever had someone approach you and ask that question? I have, but I can count on one hand, and not use all of the fingers, the number of times it has happened.

What happens next would be shocking to modern day evangelists. Jesus *doesn't* make it easy! He doesn't give him a simplified step-by-step process to lead him to salvation. That's what people do today. They say, "Just do this and this and this and you're saved!"

Jesus never does that. Why? A couple of reasons. First, He won't teach anything other than God's standard for salvation and second, He won't allow someone to believe that they are saved when they are not. He didn't pay attention to attendance numbers and didn't measure success by conversion rates. If He would have, His statistics would have been dreadful. He could attract people by the thousands, but His conversion numbers were abysmal.

It should also be noted that He had a distinct advantage that we do not have. He had the ability to look into the hearts of men and women and see what mattered most to them. Since we do not have that ability, sometimes we believe some are saved that actually are not and we may judge that someone is not saved when they actually are.

The point is, because we can't know the hearts of people, we never know with complete certainty if a person is actually committed to God. Sure, we can see clues. Jesus taught us to look for **fruit** (Matthew 7:16) as clues to who is and who is not genuine, but some appear to be genuine and are not – those who believe they are working to earn their salvation do many good deeds.

(continued)

We are led to ask the question: Why did Jesus' teaching regarding salvation look so different that most preachers today? I think that it can be summarized best by simply stating, He didn't call people to simply believe and take part in some religious ceremonies. And don't get me wrong, He did call people to those things, and they are very important. But the point at which Jesus lost people is when He called them to *follow*.

You see, Jesus didn't want people to simply believe He was the Christ, He wanted and He called people to *follow* Him. And this is the point, even today, where people must decide whether or not they actually want to be Christians.

Many will, and do, reject this teaching, but I challenge you to read the New Testament for yourself and then tell me it isn't true. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 7:21,

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

Here's the part where many get messed up in their thinking. Those who reject this teaching do so believing that I am teaching that a person is saved by a means other than ***by grace...through faith*** (Ephesians 2:8).

That's not what I'm teaching at all, in fact, I hold to that teaching with all of my heart. But I also hold to the teaching of Ephesians 2:10, which goes on to explain that *after* we have been saved, ***we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.***

Being saved by grace, through faith includes trusting in *nothing* that I do and *everything* that Jesus did on the cross.

It is that same saving faith that causes men and women to ***...Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name*** (Acts 22:16). It is that same faith that leads me to follow Jesus as He leads me into the good works God prepared for me to walk in.

It's been made overly complicated, but it's truly a simple and beautiful thing. And none of it happens when I simply say that I'm a Christian defined by my own terms. Salvation is for all who will put their faith in Jesus and then follow Him. It's for none who will not.

Much Love!

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PRAYER LIST

George LeFlore—having surgery April 1st for a blocked tear duct on his right eye.

Marvin Kline—is in Saint Francis dealing with health issues.

Tom Kirkwood—is dealing with some health issues.

Others on the prayer list: Bob Brownlee, Connie Morris, Russell Day, Kendall Brundage, Shirley Stoner, Melinda Miller, Hailee Moyer

WOMEN WALKING WITH GOD CONFERENCE

WWWG will be held April 16-17 at the Hartman Arena in Park City. You can register at www.womenwalkingwithgod.org. You can attend this years conference onsite at Hartman Arena or virtual. The theme this year is "Arise."

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Karissa Richmond—30th

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Teylin Wartick—4th

Jim Willson—5th

Loretta DeJarnett—9th

Alan Shields—15th

Journei Bales—18th

Jane Cole—19th

Madi Bradbury—23rd

Bryan Turner—27th

Ricky Bocanegra—5th

Lynette Turney—8th

Mack Colwell—9th

Brian Turney—16th

Addison Jenkins—19th

Jason Newberry—19th

Tanner Dillon—25th

Helen Norris—30th

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

Mar 28—Lynette Turney

April

Apr 04—Sara Bradbury

Apr 18—Linda Wartick

May

May 02—Helen Norris

May 16—Linda Wartick

May 30—Darlene Cooney

Apr 11—Lynette Turney

Apr 25—Kaylee Jenkins

May 09—Lynette Turney

May 23—Kaylee Jenkins

If you can volunteer, see Darlene Cooney!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Three things you cannot recover in life:
the WORD after it's said,
the MOMENT after it's missed,
the TIME after it's gone.
BE CAREFUL!!!



The Advanced Lessons, Part 10: Conversion
Matthew 19:16-22

General Outline:

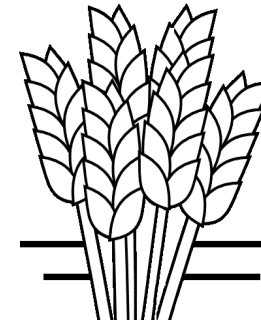
- A Man _____
- A _____ Is _____
- A _____ Is _____ With A _____
- A _____ Silence
- A _____ Answer
- A Follow-Up _____
- An Impossible _____
- A _____ of _____
- A Real _____

Notes:

THOSE WHO SERVE

SUNDAY A.M.	28-Mar 2021	04-Apr 2021	11-Apr 2021
Elder in Charge	E. Newberry	T. Norris	T. Norris
Opening Prayer	L. Lewis	D. Pierce	M. Neal
Song Leader	D. Pierce	W. Pierce	W. Pierce
Communion Prayer	M. Kline	E. Newberry	T. Norris
Contribution Prayer & Collection	L. Turney K. Dodds	N. Bradbury J. DeJarnett	N. Bradbury J. DeJarnett
Ushers	A. Hines P. Dodds	J. Rayl J. Willson	J. Rayl J. Willson
Closing Prayer	E. Newberry	T. Norris	T. Norris
Deacon in Charge	L. Lewis	M. Neal	M. Neal
SUNDAY A.M.	18-Apr 2021	25-Apr 2021	02-May 2021
Elder in Charge	T. Norris	T. Norris	R. Harris
Opening Prayer	L. Lewis	R. Harris	B. Turney
Song Leader	W. Pierce	W. Pierce	A. Shields
Communion Prayer	R. Harris	M. Kline	E. Newberry
Contribution Prayer & Collection	N. Bradbury J. DeJarnett	N. Bradbury J. DeJarnett	M. Neal P. Dodds
Ushers	J. Rayl J. Willson	J. Rayl J. Willson	A. Hines L. Helton
Closing Prayer	T. Norris	T. Norris	R. Harris
Deacon in Charge	M. Neal	M. Neal	D. Pierce

Note concerning COVID-19: We are now requiring adults to wear masks in services, unless performing a public speaking role in the service or partaking of communion. If you have a medical limitation, we are not asking you to wear a mask and disregard that limitation. We also ask anyone who is subject to quarantine to abide by those recommendations. If you have a cough or are feeling ill, please do not attend services in person. By taking these measures, we believe we can respond to Paul's instructions in Philippians 2, where he wrote—*“do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”*



“Reaching Inward, Outward
 Upward, Downward”

Wellington Church of Christ

217 W. 13th St. Wellington, KS 67152 620-326-7511

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 28, 2021

Call to Worship

Prayer

Song #96 “I Stand in Awe”

Song #490 “It Is Well with My Soul”

Song #313 “The Old Rugged Cross”

Communion Prayers

Contribution Prayer

Contribution Collection

Lesson

Song #662 “All to Jesus I Surrender”

Closing Prayer

ELDERS		DEACONS	
Rex Harris	Marvin Kline	Kevin Dodds	Aaron Hines
Ed Newberry	Tom Norris	Leroy Lewis	Mike Neal
		David Pierce	Alan Shields
MINISTER			
Wes LeFlore			