

I hope and pray that you are having a great week, and that the Lord is blessing you and keeping you as you strive to walk with Him.

The winter quarter classes are well underway by now, but I wanted to highlight them for those who may not know. In the Sunday morning auditorium class, we have begun a class called, "Background Bible Study," where we intend to study some historical, geographical and bibliographical facts that often lie in the background of our Bible reading and study. We have already covered the geography of the Bible lands and some lessons relative to the weather, and in the future, we plan to study such things as economics, languages, customs, the government and the Jewish sects. I really hope you find these lessons as interesting as I do! In the Wednesday night class, we are studying through the book of James (we are almost finished with the second chapter), and I challenged the class to read James every day for the next three months! If you are not already, please avail yourself of these classes, and I promise you that you will grow spiritually!

Again, remember the events that we have later this month, including preparing holiday gift baskets (Wednesday evening), our annual budget meeting (Thursday evening), our youth gift exchange (December 19), and New Year's Eve get-together (December 31). Moreover, this month has five Sunday's, which also has our fifth Sunday offering and the young men conducting the evening worship.

I am planning my sermons for 2019 this month, so if you would like to suggest a topic, please write it down and place in the box in the foyer.

Finally, if you would like to receive the bulletin via email, please give that to me.

—Sam

Compassion

The day after Jesus healed the sick servant of a centurion in Capernaum, Jesus traveled eighteen miles to a city called Nain, which is located on the northwestern edge of a mountain called Little Hermon, where the ground descended into the Plain of Esdraelon. On this day, Jesus performed one of His greatest miracles as Luke recorded in Luke 7:11-17. As Jesus began to enter the city, He met a funeral procession exiting the city gates, most likely, going to the sepulchral caves along the steep eastern approach from the plain. It is still the eastern custom to carry the dead out of the cities and villages, as they portrayed in this event. Jesus immediately surveyed what was taking place, and noted that this funeral is for the only son of a widow. Luke recorded, "*And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her*" (Luke 7:13), and raised her son from the dead.

This should not surprise us, since this was not the only time He showed compassion for those bereaved. When He saw those bereaving for Lazarus, "*Jesus wept*" (John 11:35). There were many times during the earthly life and ministry of Jesus that He had compassion for others (Matthew 9:36; 14:14). He showed compassion for those unfortunate, including two blind men on the road to Jericho (Matthew 20:34) and a leper (Mark 1:41). This also is representative of the compassion of God, since Jesus Himself is deity. God showed compassion on the Israelites when they were in Egyptian bondage (Exodus 3:7). Although Judah had become wicked, "*...the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place*" (2 Chronicles 36:15; cf. Psalm 78:38). Although His justice cried out to deliver them into captivity, God showed compassion on them by

promising to deliver them back to Israel again (Jeremiah 12:15). “*But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion*” (Psalm 86:15).

Therefore, it is no surprise to see the Son of God showing compassion in this situation. However, for all practical purposes, notice the response of the people: “*And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, ‘That a great prophet is risen up among us,’ and ‘That God hath visited his people’*” (Luke 7:16). Would not more people respond to the gospel if we showed more compassion as Jesus? The people of God are to be a people of compassion: “*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me*” (Matthew 25:40). “*But whoso hath this world’s goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*” (1 John 3:17).

Let us determine in 2019 to be a more compassionate people, seeking and saving “*that which was lost*” (Luke 19:10).

—Sam Willcut

Don’t Give Up!

Dag Hammarskjold once wrote, “*When the morning’s freshness has been replaced by the weariness of midday, when the leg muscles quiver under the strain, the climb seems endless, and suddenly nothing will go quite as you wish—it is then that you must not hesitate.*” I like that spirit—unwilling to give up, refusing to quit!

The successful life prescribed by Christ requires faithfulness until death: a hand to the plow not looking back, steadfast perseverance, racing hard for the finish line, and fighting the good fight of faith. The devil loves it when we simply relax our efforts. He has had a good day if we become discouraged.

There are temptations to overcome, disappointments to handle, personal sins that beset us, and burdens that oppress us. Satan is standing by urging that we quit trying, but wait—Christ is present. “*Consider him who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart*” (Hebrews 12:3).

Someone once asked James J. Corbett (at that time, he was heavyweight champion of the world) what was the most important thing a man must do to become champion. He replied, “Fight one more round.” The Duke of Wellington said that the British soldiers at the Battle of Waterloo were not any braver than Napoleon’s soldiers—but they were brave for five minutes longer.

That is about it for the Christian. A secret for success is to fight just one more round. Be brave for five more minutes. It is the difference between defeat and victory!

—Ronnie Parker

Wednesday (12/12)	60
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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 12—Prepare Holiday Gift Baskets
December 13—Annual Budget Meeting
December 19—Children’s Gift Exchange

Pantry Item: Canned Beans

READING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

01 Gal. 6;
 Eph. 1-2
 02 Eph. 3-6
 03 Phil. 1-4
 04 Col. 1-4
 05 I Thess. 1-2
 06 I Thess. 3-5
 07 II Thess. 1-3
 08 I Tim. 1-3
 09 I Tim. 4-6
 10 II Tim. 1-4
 11 Titus 1-3;
 Phil. 1
 12 Heb. 1-3
 13 Heb. 4-6
 14 Heb. 7-9
 15 Heb. 10-13
 16 Jam. 1-5
 17 I Pet 1-2
 18 I Pet. 3-5
 19 II Pet. 1-3
 20 I John 1-3
 21 I John. 4-5;
 II John 1
 22 III Jn. 1;
 Jude 1
 23 Rev. 1-3
 24 Rev. 4-6
 25 Rev. 7-9
 26 Rev. 10-12
 27 Rev. 13-15
 28 Rev. 16-18
 29 Rev. 19-21
 30 Rev. 22
 31 Pray