

NEWS

Frank White is having some serious problems with the bone in the leg that was amputated. And one option that has been suggested is to do another amputation above the knee—**Lisa Clements**, Meredith Bilbo's mother, fell Tuesday and broke her femur bone. She had surgery in Longview Thursday, the femur bone was repaired and also a hip replacement. She came through the surgery fine—**Troy Justice**, Charlyn Harrel's nephew, has been diagnosed with fourth stage cancer, and prayers are requested—**Kenny Ferguson** had a rash (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:

Bob Arnold 563-2977
Leon Goff 572-6809
Kendall Johnson 717-0265

DEACONS:

Ricky Davis 572-9428
Ken Ferguson 572-4135
Pat Marshall 572-9347

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Class 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

PREACHERS:

Drew Nelson 254-541-3815
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

July 7, 2019

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Terry Jordan

Shea Bilbo Paul Coffman
Bobby Burns Stuart Proctor

Sunday Evening

Shea Bilbo Paul Coffman

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Ken Johnson** (Opening)

—**Ricky Davis** (Closing)

PM—**Dale Rockett** (Opening)

—**Charles Davis** (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Ken Johnson**

P.M.—**Andrew Arnold**

(call Pat Marshall if unable to serve)

Think It Over—If you were to die today...Where would you spend eternity? To all who love God, and to those who do not, but should, to all who are weary and heavy laden; to all who are lonely and sad; to all who sin and need a Savior, and to whosoever will come a hearty welcome is extended.

Southside
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 242
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

1220 E. Ferguson Rd. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

(903) 572-2148

Website: www.thesouthsidechurch.com

Volume XXVI

June 30, 2019

Number 26

God Can't Win

By Jacob Hudgins

"They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep'" (Luke 7:32).

Sometimes we just won't be pleased. Jesus casts about for a word-picture to describe the people he is teaching: *"To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like?"* (Luke 7:31). He describes these children in a marketplace who are unhappy with whatever game is suggested. If someone wants to play wedding, they won't dance. If someone wants to play funeral, they won't weep. Nothing satisfies them.

He explains the reason for this unflattering comparison: *"For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'"* (Luke 7:33-34). If God's prophet is disciplined, he's too disciplined! If God's prophet is indulgent, he's too indulgent! God tries very different approaches, yet his people reject them both. God can't win!

Jesus is exposing a spirit that still thrives. We think that we always have a good reason to reject God and his message. We always find something to criticize. And we fail to see that we'll never be pleased.

Consider some areas in which (because of our stubbornness) God can't win:

> I don't pray when things are going well because I don't feel that I

need God's help. Then when things fall apart, I wonder where God is.

> If God exercises justice, then I say that he is bloodthirsty and unforgiving. But if God forgives, I say that there is no justice, God is not good and maybe he doesn't exist.

> If the gospels agree perfectly, then I say they might be copying each other and are untrustworthy. If they don't agree perfectly, then I say that they are too inconsistent to be believed.

> If God lets me live without boundaries, then I am miserable. But if he gives boundaries, I resent him and find him restrictive.

> I want God to accept me as I am, yet I don't like how I am. I want God to change me, but I want to be able to tell him how and in what ways.

> When my sins are exposed, I justify and excuse them. But when sin ruins my life, I ask how God could let this happen.

> I want God to reveal more of his will, yet I reject what he has revealed because I want more.

Jesus picture of children in the marketplace shows us *God is not really the problem. We are the problem.* If I won't be pleased, that's not God's fault. God has the

right to decide how he will act, rule and speak. I need the humility to accept God on his terms, not mine.

This is why when the Bible describes God's words, it often comments on the proper attitude that should accompany them. *"Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls"* (James 1:21). God's word must be received with meekness that respects his right to instruct. *"But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word"* (Isa. 66:2). Trembling reflects the fact that God's will and power are not subject to what I think about them.

This topic is also complicated by the rise of internet communication and social media. Words are so abundant in our time that they no longer represent careful thought and rarely deserve careful thought. We are not used to "trembling" at the words of anyone. We have little practice "receiving with meekness" anyone's instruction. Our custom is to evaluate other people's words and actions based on what we like and think. The problem is that we end up treating God as if he is the one who must please *us*—instead of the other way around.

With these thoughts about the danger of pride damaging our ability to accept and relate to God in mind, this paragraph from James takes on added urgency:

"Therefore it says, 'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you" (James 4:6-10). We have a series of choices we must make. Will we submit to God? Will we lower ourselves? Will we turn from our sins? Will we resist the devil? Suddenly, with such problems so close to home, the thought that I might criticize God for his words, actions, and choices seems ludicrously inappropriate. Could it even be that my criticism and complaining about God are an attempt to distract myself from my own failings and weaknesses? Am I throwing up a smokescreen to avoid mourning for my own sins?

Jesus' words expose the clear and present danger that we would think we have a very good reason to reject God and his word. Sometimes we just won't be pleased. Will we try to put him in a position where he can't win—or will we humble ourselves before him?

—Focus Online

We Press Toward the Goal

The apostle Paul wrote the following to the saints at Philippi, *"Brethren, I*

do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13-14).

It is encouraging to me to see the interest and faithfulness of the members at Southside. We have had several added to our number recently, Drew is delivering excellent sermon, and his Bible classes are very edifying. Bob is teaching an encouraging series on Sunday mornings. Let's continue to press toward heaven! -L. Goff

Pictures To Be Taken

Today and following Sundays Derinda Lambert will be taking pictures of all members. That can be done either Sunday mornings or evenings. All old pictures will be taken off of the board. We need a new picture of all members.

NEWS (continued from back page) which was first thought to be measles, but he had blood work done in order to know for sure—Remember **Shawna Waldrep, Kenny Ferguson, Marion Shurtleff, June Johnson, Randy Blackmon, Teresa Tate, Frank White, William and Yvonne White, Willie Don Davis, Judy Hinson, Catherine Moss, Deborah Brown, and Duane McGough's father**—Remember our **Shut-ins: Carlos Barnes, James Johnson, Betty Rust and Wanda Sikes.**