

October 22, 2020

THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL CONVERSATION

It is easy for us to overlook the important role that personal conversation has in the conversion of the world. We look in **Acts 2**, on the day of Pentecost, when 3,000 people were baptized in Christ after one sermon and it makes us desire those days to come back. Many times we even wonder what it is that we are doing wrong that is not bringing forth that same response, but we are forgetting that was not the normal thing taking place as the church grew. We must never overlook how often lives were changed when Jesus and the apostles had one-on-one conversations with others. The world will always be saved by the preaching of the gospel, but most of that teaching involves private studies with others.

Take Jesus' examples. He met and changed the lives of so many people, but think of the fact of how often He personally talked with others. It is quite possible that He changed more lives by having personal contact with others than even in His public teaching. In **John 3**, we are introduced to a man named Nicodemus. Now, Nicodemus had obviously heard of Jesus before and that is why he came to visit Jesus at night. However, the change that Jesus desired of Nicodemus came about because of their personal conversation. When Jesus said in **John 3:5** "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." Nicodemus was being taught about a new birth that involved water and the Holy Spirit. It is easy for us to forget that the first person to hear of the importance of baptism was a man who came to Jesus at night and in secret. Not only did Nicodemus hear of baptism but he also was the first to hear one of the most powerful, life changing, statements ever made, that God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son. (**John 3:16**) Personal contacts are so important.

After all, the change in the life of Zacchaeus didn't come when Jesus spoke to him in the top of a sycamore tree. Instead, it came when Jesus went to his house and talked to him. There are so many who were changed by sitting around the kitchen table with Jesus. It was personal conversations like these that changed Mary, Martha, Lazarus, and Matthew along with countless others, from Pharisees to lepers. But it wasn't simply the kitchen table that these personal conversations took place. In **Luke 17:11-19**, we read

of ten lepers who met Jesus. They were cleansed, but only one returned to thank Jesus. That one man was a Samaritan. As he glorified God, Jesus talked to him about his faith and its place in salvation. We often overlook that it is usually in private teaching that one learns the true meaning of faith.

Jesus had individual conversations with Andrew and Peter (**John 1:41**); with Philip and Nathanael (**John 1:43, 45**); with John the Baptist about baptizing Jesus (**Matt. 3:14-15**); with the Samaritan woman at the well (**John 4:7**); with the woman taken in adultery (**John 8:4-11**); with the crippled man healed beside the pool, and Jesus later sought him out to teach him (**John 5:13-14**); and so many more!

After Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, His apostles carried out these personal conversations as well. It was Philip who studied with the Ethiopian Eunuch in **Acts 8:26-40**. It was Ananias who met Saul, in **Acts 9**, and by restoring his sight and explaining why the Lord appeared to him and how Saul would be a witness to many of Christ, baptized Saul in Christ and began Saul's journey as an apostle. Peter met with Cornelius, in **Acts 10**, and converted him along with his household. These are just some of the personal conversations that led to conversions. We see Lydia and her household converted (**Acts 16:15**); we see the Philippian jailer and his household converted (**Acts 16:33-34**); we see Crispus and his household converted (**Acts 18:8**). So many were saved through personal conversations.

What do we need to learn from this? It is very simple, private conversations often change the lives of others. I encourage you, this week and upcoming weeks, to pray that God will use you to privately talk to those around you and hopefully, through His Word, change their lives. Is there any week better than this week to begin doing this? Now, you might be wondering, how was it that Jesus was able to prepare His apostles for such a task as personal evangelism? He told them to, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (**Matthew 28:19-20**) Not only did Jesus tell them what to do and what to teach, He also told them that He would be with them through it all. That same promise is given to us as well. What will you do for Jesus today? Imagine the conversations and relationships you will gain through the sharing of the Gospel. **Andrew Spivey**

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday: Read **Genesis 48**
Wednesday: Read **Genesis 49**

FALL QUARTER BIBLE STUDY #7

Since we are not having children's Bible classes at this time, we will be putting the scriptures for their lessons in the bulletin each week. There will be two scriptures each week, one for Sunday and one for Wednesday, for your family to study together. Then the next week we will include questions for review about the previous week scriptures.

Questions for the Reading of week # 6-Genesis 46 & 47

1. What did God tell Jacob in a dream on his way to Egypt?
2. How many people went with Jacob to Egypt?
3. When Pharaoh asked the brothers what was their occupation, what did they say and where did they live?
4. What did the Egyptians trade with Joseph during the years of famine?
5. How long did Jacob live in Egypt ?

TRUNK OR TREAT

Our annual **Trunk or Treat** has been moved to **Tuesday, October 27th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** The children will be able to go from trunk to trunk for the treats. No food will be provided this year. If you would like to donate candy, please bring to the church office. Please let the office know if you would like to decorate your car and hand out candy during Trunk or Treat.

THANK YOU NOTE

Thanks so much for your words of encouragement and all the prayers on my behalf. Hope it won't be long until we can feel safe to be back at church with you. In Christian Love, **Faye Britt**

SYMPATHY

Our Love and Sympathy to **Barry, Rachel & Anna Mayes** and **Cora Mayes-Barron** on the passing of Rachel's father, **Lester Sparks**, on Sunday, October 18th. Funeral will be October 27th at the Willow Avenue church of Christ in Cookeville.

Our Love and Sympathy to **Jim Huffman** on the passing of his friend, **Jimmye Fleetwood**, on Friday, October 16th.

ORDER OF SERVICES SUNDAY

October 25, 2020

9:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Johnson
 Song Leader.....Ben Hutson
 Opening Prayer.....Fate Evans
 Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
 Lord's Supper.....Jim Cherry
 Closing Prayer.....Tim Cummins

11:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Jerry Watson
 Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
 Opening Prayer.....David Thompson
 Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
 Lord's Supper.....Adam Williamson
 Closing Prayer.....Brent Smith

5:00 P.M. SERVICE

Welcome.....David Johnson
 Song Leader.....Ben Hutson
 Opening Prayer.....Bob Sever
 Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
 Lord's Supper.....Tim Strickland
 Closing Prayer.....Carl Newby

WEDNESDAY, October 28, 7:00 P.M.

Welcome.....Jerry Watson
 Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
 Opening Prayer.....Tony Butler
 Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
 Closing Prayer.....Eric Stephenson

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL

Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935
 Church Office.....615-452-3431

FACING TRIALS;

...you are angry;

"A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards" (**Proverbs 29:11**; also: **Proverbs 15:1**; **Ephesians 4:31**)

Nashville Road Church of Christ
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 Gallatin, TN 37066
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sun. Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. & Sun. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Wed. Evening Bible Class 7:00 • Tues. Ladies Bible Class 10:00 a.m. September-May

SICK LIST

Robert Williamson is now at NHC. **Bob Harris** has been placed on Hospice care. **Grace Bracey** is having significant health issues. **Diane Spitz** is recovering from a knee replacement. **Faye Britt** continues recovering from surgery and is doing well. **Donna Jennings** latest MRI shows no new growth of tumor. **Jim Sweeney** is home now on home health. **Cora Mayes-Barron**, daughter of Barry & Rachel Mayes has been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She has finished her second round of chemo. **Beth Smith**, wife of Kenneth Smith and sister-in-law to Bernice, Frances, Jean & Mary Ann, has been placed on Hospice Care. **Craig Sweeney**, son of James & Doris Sweeney, has been accepted into a new drug trial clinic. **John Arnold**, father of Brenda Veale is homebound and dealing with serious health issues.

CARE LINE: 615-452-2464



PRAYER LIST

Jan Fulford; Bob Harris; J.H & Frances Catron; Melba Hill; William Dunn; Jean Deaton; Ron & Anna Radish; Donna Holmes, daughter of Eva Petty; **Ida Lou Sherrill**, mother of Alex Sherrill; **Will Flowers**, brother-in-law of Grace Bracey. **Dana Loveless**, friend of Jim & Linda Cherry; **Danny Lowe** cousin of Linda Cherry; **Zachery Simmons**, grandson of Charles & Fay Simmons; **Elias Benjamin Simmons**, great grandson of Charles & Fay Simmons; **Debbie Sparks**, sister of Rachel Mayes; **Lawrence Redding**, son-in-law of Betty Melcher; **Taylor Lackford**, niece of Brenda Veale; **Dustin Lackford**, nephew of Brenda Veale; **Janice Haskins**, sister of Jim Cherry; **Larry Conley**, friend of Wanda Proctor; **Wayne Holt**, nephew of Grace Bracey;

(cont)

John Gregory, brother of Bob Gregory; **Pam Flory**, friend of Sherry Sever; **Harold Cole**, friend of Lena Baggett; **Bobbie Carter**, sister of Janice Johnson; **Betty Billingsley**, sister of Wanda Proctor; **Walter Wooten**, brother of Wanda Sherrill. **We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes.**

SHUT-INS

Ilene Kinney; Jane Hughes, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615; **Bill & Jane Dunn; Cathy Henderson; Penny Campbell**, The Village of Bellevue, Room 417, 8118 B Sawyer Brown Road, Nashville, TN 37221; **Dorothy Sullivan**, Front Porch Senior Living 115 Sunset Pl. Portland TN, 37148; **Jean Thurman**, mother-in-law of Myra Rasnick, Brookdale, Hendersonville.

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	N/A
Morning Worship 9am.....	68
Morning Worship 11am.	68
Sunday Evening.....	52
Wednesday Evening.....	56
Contributions.....	\$8,010.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$9,484.34

Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621
Jerry Watson.....	615-461-8137

Deacons

Carl Newby Brent Smith
 Ken Veale Adam Williamson



Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
 TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister