



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299

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Email: staff@dovercoc.org

August 21, 2005

MY LINES

Micah Williams

Who Is This Jesus?

We all experience let downs in life, maybe our kids, or jobs or our expectations.

Have you ever thought what it would have been like to watch Jesus in person and see His actions . . . maybe we would have a greater faith in Him, if we had been there?

There is a story of that happening with different results – John the Baptist.

John the Baptist was to prepare the way for Christ. *“Now in those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness, make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight!’ Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around Jordon; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordon River, as they confessed their sins.”* (Matthew 3:1-60)

He certainly did a great job convincing people they were sinners in need of a Savior. John led Israel to a great awakening, baptizing people by the hundreds. He began to have a following . . . preaching that the people were lost in their sins. John had such a following that people even thought he was the Christ. John was a celebrity. People

were fascinated by his preaching and probably his appearance.

Setting: John is in prison after questioning the marriage of Herod Antipas and his wife, calling it “illicit.”

What was John thinking: *“Now when John while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, ‘Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Go and report to John what you hear and see: the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.”* (Matthew 11:2-6) Who was John to question Jesus? What was wrong with John? Had prison got to him?

Confusion: *“The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, ‘Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, after me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’ I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.’ John testified saying, ‘I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.’ I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’ I myself have seen, and testified that this is the Son of God.”* (John 1:29-34) He had to know Jesus was the Son of God; he baptized Jesus, saw the dove descend from God and heard the Father praise the son, told others about Him, was sent

to preach about Him and yet he was confused?

It is not difficult to sympathize with John as he suffered in prison. He was a man of the desert, yet he was confined indoors. He was an active man, with a divine mandate to preach, yet he was silenced. He had announced judgment, yet judgment was slow in coming.

John was simply puzzled. He had prophesied such great things about Jesus and specifically he had spoken of judgment. But there was no sign of the judgment he expected (it would have been very human for John to have looked for judgment on those who had brought his ministry to a close and made him suffer so many things in jail.)

The cause of John’s confusion: Jesus was moving among ordinary people, teaching them about the things of God and healing their sick. Was this really what the Great One would do? What sort of Messiah was it that refrained from religious practices like fasting, hung out with irreligious characters and left His forerunner in prison?

What would you think? What do you do when Jesus turns out to be someone other than who you thought He was or hoped He would be?

John’s question, whether Jesus was the coming One, suggests that the reports John was receiving painted a different picture of Jesus than he expected.

We think we know who Jesus is, what He is doing and what He stands for, then we are forced, by experience, to review our understanding. Are You the One or should we look for another?

As we wait the coming of the Christ, what kind of person, what kind of ministry, what kind of relation to us are we anticipating?

Continued page 3, column 3

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

There is an old Swedish proverb that says, *“When a joy is shared with a friend, it’s doubled. When a sorrow is shared with a friend, it is halved.”*

When we think of sharing we usually think of sharing something good. When we have good news we want to share it right away. However, sharing bad news will help lighten our load. A good friend that will listen and help share the load is priceless.

Little children don’t like to share. They have to learn this. Sharing becomes an essential part of our spiritual life.

There are things we should not share, things of which we should not take part. We should not share in the sins of others, stealing, lying, gossiping, etc. If we take part in these, God will take away our share in the Book of Life. (Rev. 22:19)

Think about some happiness you have shared with a friend. It doubled! Think about some sorrow you shared with a friend. It was lessened, wasn’t it? It helps to share with an understanding friend, whether joy or sorrow. God made us this way. We are meant to help each other, be encouraging to others.

The best thing we can share in, is God’s grace.

We can share in some great blessings.

We can share in the glory of Christ, and share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. (Col. 1:12)

God made this possible through Jesus Christ.

“God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?”

Remember Our Sick

Myra Austin – Glen & Carolyn Austin’s daughter, diagnosed with cancer and had surgery. Last doctor’s appointment and check-up, favorable.

Dennis Boyd – Donna Walters’ friend, spinal cord stroke.

Jason Coulter – friend of Cailen & Kim Hon, diagnosed with lung cancer, age 34.

Mary Nell Gasaway – Bonnie Vinson’s sister, still in Baptist Re-hab in L.R., might get to come home this week.

Thula LaRue – Donna Walters’ friend, stroke.

Brian Holloway – Pat Holloway’s grandson, moved to Shepherd’s Hospital, Atlanta GA. Hopeful recovery from spinal injuries. Under-going a special experimental procedure called, Pro-Cord.

Gigi Lane has been diagnosed with cancer.

Emmy May – 6 month old daughter of Scott and Lorianne May, had heart valve surgery Friday, July 29th. Surgery did not correct the problem, will under-go heart surgery at a later date. Home temporarily with family.

Bill McAlister – had a serious fall, home recovering.

Brooke Morphis – had surgery Monday, August first. Kim Statler’s friend.

Kaitlyn Schwartz – 3 month old daughter of Stephen Schwartz (formerly of Dover, resides in Minnesota) had a tumor removed from her spine. Biopsy results; rare, malignant, Rhabdoid tumor. Will have to have chemo treatments. On the critical list – not doing well. Also the granddaughter of Sonja Brent, Russellville, AR.

Faye and Tom Williams – (Roxanna Shoptaw’s sister), son (Ryan) is home from the hospital with a serious, rare infection, doing better. Will be on round-the-clock antibiotics four to six weeks with more tests first of August.

Shut-ins: Needs your prayers and visits.

Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**
Louise Killer
Mae Vanzandt

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:
Thelma Hatcher
Esther Sparks

My Lines

Micah Williams

(Continued from page one)

Jesus’ final statement in this scene, *“Blessed is anyone who takes no offense at Me,”* speaks to all who discover that Jesus is not fulfilling their expectations.

Blessed are those who do not reject Jesus, even though He turns out to be someone different from what they had expected, imagined or hoped He would be.

Anyone who has made a serious commitment to follow God is going to run into situations in which they will say, *“God, this is not what I expected.”*

We have to respond on the basis of what we hear and see Jesus is in effect saying to John, *“John, don’t stumble over my willingness to heal, forgive and have compassion on people. There will be a time for judgment but now is the time for grace.”*

That says a lot about what our mood and method of ministry ought to be.

Those who do not yet know Jesus do not just need to know they are sinners; they need to know there is hope!

We need to know Christ is enough.

He alone offers the forgiveness of sin ,through His death on the cross, for our sins because of His great love for us.

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Ruby Boley, Susie Boley, Donna Brewer, Bernice Brown, Jamie Churchill, Jeff Davis, Wanda Dickerson, Bennie Drewry, Ronda Fields, Kevin Gibson, Laura Lammar, Carl Lawley Family, Bob and Rose Lee, Jerry Martin, Debbie Meyer, John and Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Nolan Passmore, Teresa Phillips, Tanya Smith, Harold and Mildred Turner, and Betty Walters.

Expectant Mothers: Kristen Loper Nordin, Shelley (Parker) Culwell.

Special Children: (Birth Defects) – Zachary Shelton, Gabriel Ross Finlayson, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Military: Jon Allen, Darus Brown, Greg Davis, Randall Nixon and Cole Wetzel.

Events

“In Search of the Lord’s Way”

Now 24/7

The Search Program can be accessed at any time on its website:

www.searchtv.org

Mack Lyon’s weekly lessons can be seen and heard any time in this area on KATV, Channel 4 on Sundays at 8:00 AM.

Prayers and Sympathy

For the family of Thelma Hall who passed away Sunday, August 7, 2005, in Russellville, AR. Memorial services and interment will be Thursday, in West Helena, AR. She was the mother of Pat Melton and the Grandmother to Tabatha Turner.

Decisions can take you out of God’s will but never out of His reach.

If we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot disown Himself.” (II Timothy 2:13 NIV)

Mark Your Calendars

Lawn Care

Friday, August 26th

Allen Veasman
William Boley

August 25th

Dover Church of Christ will have a special collection

INDIA EVANGELISM

Joe Rowe, Coordinator
4900 Finch Road
Paragould, AR 72450
and
T.V. Samson, Director
P.O. Box 51
Hyderabad 500 004
India

A drowning man does not complain about the size of a life preserver.
“Do all things without grumbling or disputing.” (Philippians 2:14 NASB)

AUGUST Birthdays

- 01 Jacob Boley
Connor Chance
- 02 Ana Marie Lawley
John Meyers
- 03 Frances Kennedy
- 05 Pauline Dale
Kimberly Hon
- 06 Josh Pennington
- 10 Karen Womack
- 13 Blake Forehand
- 14 Russell Boley
Carolyn Clark
- 15 Lacey Hon
- 19 Drew Walters
Creek Jackson
- 20 Makyah Bushea
- 21 Lois Boley
Donny Forehand
Merrell Shoptaw
- 25 Corey Hottinger
Jana McGuire
- 27 Shirlye Chadwick
- 28 Steve Pennington
- 29 Troy Curtis
- 31 Dennis Whiteside
Matthew Roberts

If we missed your birthday, *please* let us know so it won’t happen again.

Singles’ Breakfast
Every Saturday
9:00 AM
Dwayne’s
Dover, AR

THOSE TO SERVE

August 21, 2005

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

John Myers
Lawrence Boley

Communion

Podium: Alan Boatright

Serve: Troy Curtis
William Boley
Doug Wilson
Robert Bird

Scripture Reading

Blake Walters

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Sid Womack
Marion Helton

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Alan and Sandra Boatright

Communion to Shut-Ins

Marion Helton
Merrell Shoptaw

Greeters

Jim and JoAnn Killer

Wednesday Night Devotional

August 24, 2005

John Myers

Meeting Times

Sunday Morning Bible Classes

9:45 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45 A.M.

Sunday Evening Worship

6:00 P.M.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Classes

7:00 P.M.

Minister: Micah Williams
Church Office: 479-331-3428
Or Cell: 479-264-9244

Elders:

William Boley 858-7131
Jim Killer 331-2802
Allen Veasman 331-2156

Deacons:

Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Joe Miller

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: Charlene Clark
Cara Williams

Sunday Service: Leigh Anne Forehand

Wednesday Class: Pat McAlister

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Dover Church of Christ
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