



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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A Farmer Who Never Plowed a Field

By Allen Webster
House to House/Heart to Heart

When He visited earth, Jesus laid aside His regal purple to don the course dress of the common man.

When Jesus laid down the scepter, He picked up a hammer. He gave up stardust for sawdust. He exchanged the singing of angels for the pounding of nails. He went from framing worlds to framing houses. If you had shaken His hand, you would have felt the calluses put there by countless hours of physical toil. If you had overheard His conversation, it would have been about square feet, plumb lines and estimated dates of completion.

Yes, Jesus was a carpenter (Mark 6:3), but why? He could have been anything. Unlike us, He was not limited by natural talent or opportunity. Nothing was beyond His capability or beyond His control. He was a jack-of-all-trades, ten-talent man, a prodigy and a genius all rolled into one. He could have been born into any family circumstance He wanted or attended any educational institution He chose. He could have had any profession.

This line of reasoning presents some interesting possibilities.

Jesus did not choose to be a farmer, but He is the "Sower that went forth to sow." There would have been some logic in the Son of God coming as a farmer. He was the One who gave us, "... seedtime and harvest," in the first place (Genesis 8:22; John 1:3). He made the earth fertile, trees fruitful and vegetables edible. He invented the water cycle and gave the former and latter rain in time for harvest (Ecclesiastes 1:7; Jeremiah 5:24; Matthew 5:45). To be the provider for man's basic needs would be appropriate for the One who had given His people manna from heaven (Exodus 16), Israel a land that flowed with milk and honey (Exodus 3:8; 13:5), and Elijah and the widow a constantly full flour barrel and oil cruse (I Kings 17:14).

None the less, so far as we know Jesus never pushed a plow nor picked a tomato. He never

inhaled the scent of newly turned earth nor felt the sweat run down His back as He picked beans under a hot July sun. He never smiled as He saw the first bud breaking the ground in the spring, or sighed as the last wagonload of produce came out of the field in the fall.

This is all true, but He was still the "Sower that went forth to sow" (Matthew 13:3). His seed brought forth thirty fold, sixty fold and a hundred fold (Mark 4:8). He "... *filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.*" (Luke 1:53) And on Pentecost, He watched as His crop brought forth three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41)

What is involved in Jesus being the Sower?

Jesus Purchased a Farm: He has a big expensive farm – the whole world. (Psalm 24:1; Mark 16:15) Someone calculated there are 1,486,471,876,165 acres in the world. The average cost is about \$1,500.00/acre (in the U.S.), so using that as a base figure, one could theoretically purchase the surface of the earth for \$2,229,707,814,247,500. As much as a tad over two quadrillion is, it is not as much as the purchase price for Jesus' farm – it cost Him His own blood. (Acts 20:28)

Jesus Sows Seeds: The seed of the kingdom still possesses life-generating power (Luke 8:11; Mark 4:14). The Holy Spirit works through that Word in conversion (Ephesians 6:17).

Why is the Word compared to seed? Both seem insignificant but possess great power (Genesis 1:11; Romans 1:16). A small acorn looks harmless enough, but given the right conditions it can grow large enough to remove a house from its foundations. God's Word, like a seed, is "quick [living], and powerful" (Hebrews 4:12; Galatians 6:7-8; cf. II Timothy 4:2). Unlike men's written words, God's Word has life in it; and that life can be imparted to those who believe and obey it. It can generate new life. No other book can do that.

The seed only grows in one place: the human heart (Luke 8:15). There are four kinds of soil (hearts):

Wayside soil-the hardhearted hearer (Matthew 13:19; Luke 8:11-12. If a person continues in the hardened condition, he will never be saved (II

Corinthians 4:3). This is one reason it is important to reach young people before they become hardened in sin.

Shallow soil-the stony place hearer (Matthew 13:20; Luke 8:13). We are warned, "*Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*" (James 1:22)

Divided soil-the thorny place hearers (Matthew 13:22; Luke 8:14). Just as weeds grow in a field, weeds such as selfishness, lust, dishonesty, relativism, ungodly tolerance and immorality can grow in our hearts. We can ignore them and let them choke the Word or pull them out and save our souls.

Receptive soil-the good ground hearers (Matthew 13:23; Luke 8:15)

The seeds in the parable are all of the same nature, sown from the same bag by the same sower. The only variable is the type of soil they encounter.

Jesus Prunes Vines: "*I am the true vine, any my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit He taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*" Jesus stays involved in the lives of His followers, operating through His providence to better prepare us for the transplanting into the heavenly garden.

Jesus Harvests Fruit: Jesus wants to pick you and me as choice fruit and store us forever in His celestial barn (Matthew 13:30). In the Parable of the Tares, Jesus pictures the end of the world as a harvest when weeds and wheat are separated. The tares (representing the ungodly) will be bundled and burned (be lost in the lake of fire). The wheat will be gathered, "... *into my barn*" –heaven (Matthew 13:30).

Foe someone who never plowed a field, Jesus surely has done a lot of farming.

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

This is what the Lord says, *“Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,”* declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NIV)

One of the six things that God hates, seven are detestable to Him, is a proud or haughty look. (Proverbs 6:17) *“Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin.”* (21:4)

When we become boastful and arrogant we leave God out of the picture. We aren't giving Him the credit for our blessings. The Scriptures tell us this is sin.

Without Him I could do nothing;
Without Him I'd be enslaved.
Without Him I would be drifting
Like a ship without a sail.

Without Him I would be dying;
Without Him I'd be enslaved.
Without Him life would be hope-less,
But with Jesus, thank God I'm saved.
Mylon R. LeFavre

The accomplishments we make are because we have been blessed with talents, given to us by God. We should not boast about our wisdom, our strength or our riches. If God has granted any, or all, of these to us, we should be thankful and humble. God tells us in Jeremiah that He delights if we should boast about knowing Him! This is something to boast about.

“He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.” (Proverbs 28:26 NIV)

No one wants to be a fool. Trusting in ourselves is foolish indeed. We may have wisdom, strength or riches, but it could all disappear in a minute. Only by the grace of God are we allowed to keep what we might have accomplished. And those accomplishments have been through Him, who has blessed us richly.

Remember Our Sick

Bob Bennett –home, doing well.

Lynn Dils – mother of Chuck Dils, moved to Baptist Hospital.

Rose Lee – carpal-tunnel surgery, both hands, October 15th.

Janette Litch – blood clot in leg, having more chemo..

Jeff Myers – had epidural injection. Some better.

Gerald Simoneaux – Sonia Williams' father, critically ill.

Earl Whitted – surgery re-scheduled for a later date.

Jim Wisbrock – shingles of the throat, some better.

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: Evelyn Burton

Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:

Joyce Austin

Helen Brown

Evelyn Driver

Lorene McNutt

Stella Manor: Louise Killer

Janice Brashear

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Iris Bates, Carolyn Bennett, Susie Boley, James/Shirlie Chadwick, Frankie Colvin, Troy/Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Melvin Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Jim Dempsey, Charles Ensey, Larry/Rhonda Freeman, Carol Graham, Sue Griffin, Joe Kline, Jim Lackey, Daniel Loper, Cindy Martin, Linda Melton, Julie Moss, BJ/Don Sheeran, Christine Sheeran, Gary & Doreen Shinn, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Carolyn Statler, Juanita Townsend and Judy Will.

Special Children: Zeke Church, Garrett Hogan, Tiffany Knight, Elysia Lee, Keith Martin, Zackary Shelton, Cody Tackett and Noah Williams.

Our Military: prayers for D. J. Bandy, Jr., Travis Coe, Byron Lee, April Morgan, Billy Joe Ralston and others serving our nation.

Prepare to Meet God

Why Should One Prepare?

Because meeting God is inevitable: *“We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, ‘As I live,’ saith the Lord, ‘every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”* (Romans 14:10-12) Meeting God is just as certain as death. (Hebrews 9:27)

Because heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people: *“I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”* (John 14:2-3)

How Should One Prepare? We are not left to wonder what one must do to be prepared to meet God. God has, “. . . given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.” (II Peter 1:3)

Preparing to meet God involves hearing (Acts 10:33) believing (Acts 16:31; Hebrews 11:6); repenting of sins (Luke 13:3, Acts 2:38); confessing faith in Christ as the Son of God (Matthew 10:32, Acts 8:37); being baptized (Mark 16:15-16); adding Christian graces (II Peter 1:5-8); and being faithful unto death (Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2:10).

When Should One Prepare? The time to prepare is now, in this life. “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (II Corinthians 6:2).

Once the rich man died and was in torment, it was too late for him to prepare (Luke 16:19-31).

Preparation must be made while one has opportunity (Matthew 25:1-13).

Salvation does not just happen. One must prepare, and one must prepare according to the why, the how and the when that God has put forth.

By Kevin D. Smith
Anniston, Alabama

Heart to Heart/House to House

Events

Dover Church of Christ Children's Church

Every Sunday
11:15 - 12:00 Noon
Ages 4 thru 8
Bible Story and
Activities
Ages 1 thru 3
Nursery Class

Dover Lawn Care
Saturday,
October 24th
Chris Besterfeldt
Mike Creel

Dover Ladies Night
3rd Thursday
October 15th, 7 PM
(Note change in Hostess!)
Hostess: Charlene Clark
Church Fellowship Hall

Dover Ladies
CCSC Noon Luncheon
Wednesday,
November 4, 2009

GIFTS & GUARDS
Dover Church of Christ
Will Meet Sunday
October 18th, 4 PM

Mark Your Calendars

Area Wide Youth Devo
Sunday, October 18, 2009
Hosted by Dover Church
of Christ at Camp Caudle
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Bring Food Sunday
Morning Church Service
More Details see Lee or
Andrea Henson

Dover Church of Christ
Fall Festival
October 24th
Saturday, 5 PM
Camp Caudle
See Amanda Besterfeldt
for details

Dover Men's Devo
Re-Scheduled
4th Thursday, October 22nd
Donny Forehand's, 7
PM

"In Search of the
Lord's Way"
The Search Program
can now be accessed
any time on website:
www.searchtv.org
Mack Lyon's Weekly
Lesson can be heard
and seen on
KARK, Channel 4
Sunday, 7:30 AM

October Birthdays

- 01 Rose Lee
Shannon Nicole
- 09 Jason Clark
- 12 Susie Boley
- 13 Kelley Chance
Cyndie Loper
- 14 Janie McQueen
- 15 Heath Forehand
- 16 Bonnie Vinson
- 19 Robert Lee
- 22 Kelsi Hottinger
Emma Letson
- 23 Blake Walters
- 27 Carin Vaughn

If we missed your birthday,
Please let us know so it won't
happen again.

DAYLIGHT SAVING
TIME ENDS
Sunday, November 1st!

A Bee Sting Home Remedy!

For immediate relief from a
bee sting, try this home
remedy:

Moisten an Alka-Seltzer
tablet and place it on the
stung area. The ingredients
of baking soda and aspirin
help to reduce inflammation
and pain.

THOSE TO SERVE

October 18, 2009

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Brent Hottinger
Blake Walters

Communion

Podium: Chris Loper
Serve: Jim Killer
Kevin Nordin
Larry Mahan
Lee Henson

Scripture Reading

Marion Helton

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Alan Boatright
Allen Veasman

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Allen & Marilyn Veasman

Communion to Shut-Ins

Merrell Shoptaw

Greeters

The Elders

Wednesday Night Devotional

October 21, 2009

Merrell Shoptaw

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

6:30 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
Sid Womack 967-2367

Deacons:

Chris Besterfeldt
Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Chris Moss

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: JoAnn Killer
Sunday Church: Pat McAlister
Kaeli Miller

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