

2001 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa. 61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the
Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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February 18th, 2001

HE DIDN'T MEAN TO PROPHECY!

by Gordon Wilson

Sometimes there is more wisdom in what one says than he himself realizes.

After Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council to decide what to do about Him. It was remarked that Jesus was performing many signs, and that by and by all of the people would believe on Him; this might lead to the Romans coming with force against the Jews. It was at this point that the high priest, Caiaphas, said: "Ye know nothing at all, nor do ye take account that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not." Sly old Caiaphas! What a clever idea he had --kill the Nazarene so that the nation could be spared. His cronies quickly caught the idea, and we are told: "So from that day forth they took counsel that they might put him to death."

The infinite counsel of God had drawn a plan for Jesus. That plan involved the sacrifice of the purest and most guiltless man who ever lived; it meant the offering up of the Son of God on the old rugged cross. Little did Caiaphas realize that his suggested conspiracy was in fact a prophecy of what the Most High had already decreed. The apostolic writer tells us: "Now this he said not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for the nation; and not for the nation only, but that he might also gather into one the children of God that are scattered abroad" (**John 11:51-52**)

It is very clear that the Jewish council, in seeking to put Christ to death, did not understand that in so doing they were working out the counsel of God. Had they known it, they would not have so acted. Their great guilt lies in their rejection of the Savior and their murder of Him; that by their wicked hands the plan of God was being fulfilled did not lessen their guilt by so much as a jot or tittle.

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[cont'd from page 1]

The apostle Peter was able later to tell the crowd gathered on Pentecost: "Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God unto you by mighty works and wonders and signs which God did by him in the midst of you, even as ye yourselves know; him, being delivered up by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye by the hands of lawless men did crucify and slay" (**Acts 2:22-23**). To the same point Paul could write: "But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, even the wisdom that hath been hidden, which God foreordained before the worlds unto our glory: which none of the rulers of this world hath known; for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (**1 Cor 2:7-8**).

Of course, there was more to God's plan than the death of Jesus. The death was to be, not the end, but the beginning. For in the eternal scheme there was to be a resurrection from the grave. So, Christ "was delivered up for our trespasses, and was raised for our justification" (**Rom 4:25**). In the thinking of Caiaphas, to kill Jesus would be to kill His influence. Instead, it furnished the occasion for the greatest act of God in all history and resulted in the influence of the Man of Galilee spreading to cover the earth.

And God's plan for the world may even yet be far beyond our capacity to see. His plan for my life and yours may be as yet unrealized. Our puny schemes, that to us seem so intelligent, may after all turn out far differently than we can anticipate. Perhaps we should learn to make our plans only after consulting the will of God; certainly we must never go to do evil, for the Lord knows how to overrule us for His eventual glory.

BE EXHORTED!

"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake." (**2 Cor 4:3-5**)

"We live in a world of invertebrate theology, jellyfish morality, seesaw religion, India rubber convictions, somersault philosophy, and a psychology that tells us what we already know in words which we do not understand." (From *Bread from Bellevue Oven*, by R.G. Lee, p. 9)

Paul said, *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."* (**2 Tim. 4:3-4**)

--David Riggs

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## **WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?**

1. Walk barefooted across a scorching desert
2. Say 1,001 prayers & wait till you hear God's voice
3. Donate your body to science – right now

**OR**

**Believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God**  
**Repent of your sins**  
**Confess your faith in Christ**  
**Be Baptized for remission of your sins**  
**Be Faithful until death**

**SERMON TONIGHT AT 6:00**

**Christianity I n The Workplace**

To Our Visitors

A SINCERE WELCOME

We're always glad to have you

We hope that every time you come you can say, "It was good to be here!" Although our policy is to please the LORD, rather than just trying to please our friends, we believe we can do both if we try hard enough! So, if there's any way we can make your visit more conducive to satisfying your spiritual needs please let us know. Please come back at every opportunity.

Our purpose in all our classes and sermons, as well as in our lives, is to present only those things authorized by the Bible. We do not claim perfect understanding of the scriptures, and even on some of the things we do understand we sometimes go awry, but our purpose is to try to please Him Who is our Creator. And we recognize that the best way to please Him is to go precisely by what He stipulates in His direct revelation to mankind – the Bible! We hope you join with us in our desire to put the Will of God above the desires of men!

This congregation is a loving community

We understand that the best way to show we are whom we claim – the "people of God" – is to do it the way the Lord Himself said in John 13:34-35- "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." Furthermore, we like to imitate Jesus in showing love also to those who may not yet be a part of this congregation – but who soon may be! Please understand that our only motive is to spread the "good news" (*gospel*) of Jesus Christ to all whom we can, in order to help bring them into an acceptable relationship with the Lord!

Home Studies are Available

If you'd like a more definitive study of the Bible and things relating to our relationship with the Lord we would welcome the opportunity to set up a convenient time and place. We have several different members here who are willing to get together to spread the "good news" (*gospel*) with others! We also have some correspondence material we'd be happy to share with you. Just speak with one of the members here or call 483-9318 during the week with your request..

[--Vern Wilson]



SERVICES HERE:

[Note Time change On Wednesday]

SUNDAY:

Classes 9:00 AM  
Worship 9:55 AM  
Eve Worship 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY:

Classes 7:00 PM

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PLEASE BE BUSY PRAYING FOR  
AND SERVING ONE ANOTHER

THE SICK:

William & Helen Gray Evie Westphal  
Sue & Truman Claiborne Willa Lockett  
Josie Steadman Rena Shultz Rick Saccone  
Sarah Weber Chuck Ries

THE TRAVELLERS:

Oliver Sasse is in Pleasanton  
Maxine Wilson is in Oakland today  
Jessica Sadler is still in Oregon  
Thank you for your prayers and ministering efforts to those who are ill or traveling. May God bless all of our serving!

***There is a Difference!***  
There is a vast difference between a person with a vision and a visionary person. The person with a vision talks little but does much. The person who is a visionary talks much but does nothing.  
- Selected

***To be Effective***  
The really effective teacher of God's word must grasp certain key thoughts: the greatness of God; the destructiveness of sin; the lost-ness of mankind; and the effectiveness of the Scriptures to do something about all this.

*Today's lesson begins a series of seven that concern the last week of Jesus up to and including His glorious resurrection from the dead. The thread that runs throughout these studies that go until Easter Sunday is the statement of Jesus: "FOR THIS REASON I CAME."*

## **"O JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM"**

**Luke 19:28-44**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. Dreams for a glorious future die hard, especially when they are coupled with stories of past accomplishments. The Passover journey and feast always seemed to rekindle the dreams of those Jews in first century Jerusalem. The shame of slavery followed by the glory of freedom was **RELIVED EVERY YEAR!**
- B. Such stories fired their hearts, because the talons of the Roman eagle was embedded in God's people. Could this finally be time for the son of David? Can't the Messiah be near? Every year they were praying, "**Lord, let this be the year of our freedom!**"

### **I. AND NOW, THE ENTRANCE OF THE MESSIAH ON THE SCENE~**

- A. What Jesus proclaimed was provocative, though somewhat ambiguous, in that it was often understandable in more than one way.
  - 1. Jesus comes with the symbols of prophecy fulfilled and accepts the praises of the people, but He always stops short of answering if He were the Messiah.
  - 2. A GREAT ENTRY into the city would have been a general in a chariot, or astride a war-horse leading his soldiers, but here comes Jesus – sitting on a young donkey.
  - 3. **This was far from being accidental! Gal.4:4-5.**

### **II. THE WEEPING OF THE MESSIAH**

- A. Jesus knew well the hearts of the people. Their dream for freedom from Rome was understandable, but it wasn't the freedom He came to give. **Matt 23:37-39.**
- B. For the Son of God, this was to be His enthronement, **nailed to a cross with the charge "KING OF THE JEWS" written upon it.**

### **III. HE LEADS US IN TRIUMPH**

- A. Paul knew what it meant to follow the Lord in triumph. **2 Cor 4:7-11**
- B. In the midst of rejection and suffering Paul affirms victory in Christ. **2 Cor 2:14ff**
- C. Some today have longed for the world to flock to their religious embrace, like that would justify their existence.
- D. The greatest power we have in winning others is when we're weakest, depending on the Lord, following His plan and not our own!

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. **IT IS TO THAT KING OF GLORY THAT WE CALL YOU** – to Him who **CAME IN TRIUMPH**; to Him who **ROSE IN TRIUMPH**; and to Him who'll **RETURN IN TRIUMPH!**
- B. It is the promise of a resting place in New Jerusalem that we urge you to receive.
- C. You can embrace the crucified risen Lord in your humility of faith and obedience.