

2008 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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April 6th, 2008

The Path to Greatness

Jack Glover, Paden City, W. Virginia

Washed any feet lately? If I were to suggest that act as a path to greatness, would you think me foolish? Certainly, in our nation, foot washing does not denote the same thing that it did when Jesus lived, but He used the custom to teach a lesson about humility and greatness. In [John 13:4-17](#), shortly before His death, Jesus took the opportunity of the Last Supper to teach several lessons. After washing the feet of the disciples, he asked, "Know ye what I have done to you"?

The disciples were men with worldly emotions and desires. Like us, they needed guidance and instruction. Some even desired to be elevated to positions of prominence in the kingdom ([Mk 10:35-37](#)). What they failed to see, and what men still fail to see, is that Jesus' kingdom is different than any ruled by mere men.

To be elevated in it requires that we lower or abase ourselves, not seek the top positions ([Matt 20:25-28](#)). From the beginning Jesus discouraged performing actions for the purpose of self-reward. "Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly" ([Matt 6:2-4](#)).

THE PARABLE OF THE BLOWER

Pride always has been a problem for man and an instrument of temptation used by Satan. He used it on Eve (**Gen 3:6**) and uses it on us today with the same results (**Prov 16:18**). That is why Jesus asked, "Know ye what I have done to you"? In one of His final acts, He was trying to get his disciples to see that greatness in the kingdom (church) comes from serving others.

It does not come from titles (**Matt 23:9**). It does not come from works performed to impress others (**Matt 6:1**). Greatness in the kingdom comes from service to others, humbly performed, without seeking the praise of men. "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." (**Matt 23:11-12**).

The temptation to think of ourselves as better than others is present every day. Better jobs often come to those who will do anything to out maneuver others. Government leaders seek to humiliate their opponents by "digging up dirt." Our children face the problem in schools. And in the Lord's church men reject the commandments against gossip, holding grudges and resolving differences in love, instead choosing slanderous e-mails, articles and the proverbial friendly knife in the back.

All of us should heed Paul's warning in **Gal 5:15**: "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."

God's view of greatness is different than man's (**Matt 20:25**), so His requirement for greatness also is different (**Mk 10:43**). Let us seek to do what God requires, "for, behold, your reward is great in heaven" (**Lk 6:20-23**).

Behold a blower went forth to blow; and as he blew, some seeds of gossip fell by the wayside and the foul ear picked it up and devoured the good brother whom it concerned.

Some of the blower's seed fell to the "phony" and worthless Christian, and straightway he sprang up out of his chair and telephoned his neighbor, and when he hung up, his neighbor was scorched, and his love of the brother was withered away.

And the brother who fell among thorns, not knowing how the tale grew up, was choked, and Lo, he perished. But fortunately, a seed or two of the blower fell on the good man and brought forth pity, so he "squashed it" and he continued to gather the blessing an hundred fold.

Anyone who has ears, let him be careful in his hearing. But he that hath a blowing tongue for gossip, let him cease and desist ---Gospel Advertiser.

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We are told in the scriptures, that where there is no wood for the fire ~ it goes out, and where there is no bearer of a tale of gossip it ceases; let's not be a tale bearer or gossiper.

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My seven-year-old daughter wanted to take violin lessons, so I took her to a music store to rent an instrument. Hoping she would understand the importance of practicing, I explained that violin lessons were expensive so she would have to work hard.

"There may be times when you feel like giving up," I said, "but I want you to hang in there and keep on trying."

She nodded and then in her most serious voice said, "It will be just like marriage, right Mommy?"

--- Debra K. Johnson, via Christian Reader

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LEARNING WHEN TO QUIT

A retired gentleman spent most afternoons at the local golf course. Every day he would spend about three hours out on the course, playing a round by himself. When he would return to the club house, the resident pro would inquire about his score.

"Ed, how'd you shoot today?" to which the man would always reply, "Another perfect par."

The golf pro (being of average intelligence) knew that there was no way the old man was shooting straight par every day, but since he was a regular customer, he didn't want to insult the man by accusing him of lying.

Finally, one day, the pro decided to accompany the old man on his daily round, just to see for himself. On the first tee, the older gentleman sliced the ball way off into the rough. He found his ball, but his second shot was even worse. Finally putting it into the first hole (a par 4) took him 8 swings. The golf pro thought to himself, "I knew it. This old geezer's been lying all this time. There is no way he is gonna shoot anywhere near par."

They continued on, and the old man's game stayed the same, never once getting a par on any one hole. After almost 3 hours, they teed off on the 13th hole. The old man actually hit it straight down the middle -- it was the best shot he had made all day! He promptly walked down the fairway to his ball, picked it up, and began walking back to the clubhouse.

The pro was confused. "Hey, that was a great shot. Where are you going now?"

"Oh, I'm done," the old man replied with a smile, "That shot was number 72...another perfect par!"

I'll have to try that sometime (of course, I'd never find out what the back nine looks like! (: -) I guess the moral of the story above is: If you know when to quit, you can shoot par every time! As Christians, it's also important for us to know when to quit (and what to quit!).

"But now also put these things out of your life: anger, bad temper, doing or saying things to hurt others, and using evil words when you talk. Do not lie to each other. You have left your old sinful life and the things you did before. You have begun to live the new life, in which you are being made new and are becoming like the One who made you...." (**Col. 3:8-10a**, NCV)

If you're having trouble "shooting par" in your Christian life (our goal is to become like Christ), maybe you just need to learn when to quit those mundane things of life and figure out how to stay focused on the things that will assure your eternal abode with the Lord!

---Alan Smith, Fayetteville, NC

GOSPEL MEETING IN CARMICHAEL

August 3-5, 2008

DON TRUEX

From Tampa, Florida

Preaching

(Please plan your summer schedule accordingly, so you can attend every service of the meeting.)

I MUST GO SHOPPING!

One of these days I must go shopping. I am completely out of Self-respect. I want to exchange some self-righteousness I picked up the other day for a bit of Humility, which they say is less expensive and wears better.

I want to check on some Tolerance, which is being used for wraps this season. Someone showed me some pretty samples of Peace. We are getting a little low on that, and one can never have too much of it.

And, by the way, I must try to match some Patience, like my neighbor wears. It is very becoming to her, and I think it might look good on me too.

I might try on that little garment of Long-suffering they are displaying. I never thought I'd want to wear it, but I feel myself coming to it.

Also, I must not forget to have my Sense of Appreciation mended, and look around for some in-expensive every day Goodness. It is surprising how quickly one's stock of Goodness is depleted. --Prison Missions.

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Jason & Marie & Cayna Anderson
Edith Ayers
Frank & Tina Ayers
Jamie Ayers
Jack & Dorothy Bailey
Margie Buchanan
Ed Brouillette
Bill Cain
Karen Daly
Robert Erickson
Min Fox
Helen Gray
Chris Heffelfinger
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
Donna Lee & Amber
Jean McCarty
Martha McCurdy
Kiley Pace
R.B. & June Rankin
Wendell & Irma Rapier
Berniece Raven & Sharon Collamore
Rosie Reagan
LaurieAnn Reagan
Eli & the Roadman family
Caleb & Jacob Robertson
Taylor Romine
Ray Rude
Bill & Rena Schultz
Troy Shadman
The Brad Shuck Family
Ron & Terry Stewart & Caleb
Ola Thornburg
Nancy Valine
Shirley Watkins
Clair & Ellie Williams
Kathy Wilson (**Folsom**)
Gordon Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Karen Daly
Aaron Robertson
Gordon Wilson

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson
David Lovett
Aaron Robertson
Trent Walsh

SINGING SCHOOL → FOLSOM

Praising God in Song

Lessons on Singing by Tim Stevens

Monday to Wednesday

April 14-16, 2008

7:30 PM = MON ~ TUE ~ WED

Come and Praise God in Song at the

Folsom Point church of Christ

900 E. Natoma, Folsom, CA 95630