



PREACHER-SHEPHERD  
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### COMMENTARY CORNER: DEVOTIONS IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK: A STUDY

**SERIES #9 "FAITH'S TESTIMONY BEFORE FRIENDS, FOE, AND FAMILY"** "And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself. And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub and by the prince of the devils casteth out devils" (Mark 3:20-22).

Jesus enjoyed the advantage of knowing humanity. His apostle, John, records "But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man for he knew what was in man" (John 2:24-25). These words came on the heels of John writing that many at the feast believed on the name of Jesus when they saw the miracles he did (John 2:23). Let us make sure to appreciate this sequence; at a moment when people were believing in Jesus, ready to sing his praises, we are informed that Jesus could not commit to these because he knew what was in man.

If we understand this episode we should find similarities in what we experience in life, and what Jesus experienced at a more informed level. Are there any who do not understand that people can sing your praises one day and shout out your failures the next? Has anyone lived long enough or had enough experiences in life to know that all who can be friendly in the moment will not be friends for the long haul? Has any enough experience to understand that often it is difficult to separate the attitudes of friends from that of foes? Then there is the experience we all hate to admit, that is, that often time friends, foe, and family can all work against you; and this, while you are doing your best to serve God. All of these factors result in the all too familiar phrase, "It is difficult to know whom to trust."

The child of God must learn to appreciate and to take comfort in what Jesus demonstrated about life. And we should know that what Jesus experienced we are subject to experiencing. Jesus assured the apostles, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you" (John 15:18). He continued, "Remember the

word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also" (John 15:20).

These sayings of Jesus document a different record of what is involved in committing to the Lord than today's popular religious scripts. We have heard the lines from these modern day presentations of what is involved in being a child of God. Consider this one, "If you treat people right, they will treat you right." Then, "Show yourself friendly and people will be friendly to you." Another, "Family will be with you through thick and then." Still another, "When you serve Jesus all your problems disappear." These sayings so impact the thinking of would be followers of Christ that they cannot make sense of Jesus's words: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

Faith gives a believer the ability to follow Jesus when there are times of hate, when there is persecution, when there is a cross to bear. Faith is what helps one to maintain. The Apostle John wrote, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4). And this lesson in faith insists that we learn that though one follow Jesus, from time to time that person will have to endure the challenging words of friends, family, and foe.

Know that though we are children of God, our friends can present us with problems that challenge what God is doing in us. We may seek to show ourselves friendly, but because we serve God, foes will insist that we are really working with Satan. Know also that even family members will

seek to discourage when faith in Jesus contradicts what they believe about a child of God.

Jesus encountered these realities in our focus texts for this message. His friends worried about his overwhelming popularity, such popularity that people following him could not even find room to eat. Mark records, "And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him, for they said, He is beside himself" (Mark 3:21). Understand that your faith, your witness, your praise, your worship, your work can cause your friends to conclude that you are beside yourself. They will conclude that they need to lay hold on you.

The scribes were foes of Jesus. Perhaps we would expect discouragement from them above that of friends. And the foes of Jesus did not disappoint. They took their disdain for Jesus to a level of eternal condemnation. Mark records, "And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils" (Mark 3:22). Jesus responded by informing them that that they were really blaspheming against the Holy Ghost, having never forgiveness, but in danger of eternal damnation" (Mark 3:29). There is a woe for any foe of Jesus.

When all others fail, we expect that family would be in our corner, on our side, for our defense. As children of God we must be careful about this conclusion. We have stated that we should learn from the life of Jesus. We witness that his friends wanted to lay hold on him. We expected that his foes would blaspheme the work he did. We must also know that even family can be at odds with the child of God. Family sometimes does not understand the commitment faith manifests.

~Continued



**2020 THEME: "To Him Be Glory In The Church, By Christ Jesus..." (Ephesians 3:21)**

## CHURCH LEADERS

**PREACHER-SHEPHERD**  
JEFFERSON R. CARUTHERS JR.

**ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER**  
RICHARD JONES

**MINISTER EMERITUS**  
CLOYS R. CECIL SR.

**SHEPHERDS**  
JEFFERSON R. CARUTHERS JR.  
JOHN FOXWORTH  
ROY OLIPHANT  
WALTER WEATHERS, JR.

**ELDER EMERITUS**  
FRANK W. DULIN  
LEROY NELSON

**DEACONS**  
MICHEAL CURRY  
JAMES E. GADSON  
GEORGE MCNAIR  
BERNARD TERRY  
JOE WILSON

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
MARCELLA KENDALL

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## ZOOM MEETING

Our mid-week evening Bible study meets at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom. Please visit us on Facebook at Carver Road Church of Christ to find link to join in our bible study each Wednesday evenings. Bible lesson materials are made available through the church's website listed below. We look forward to seeing and meeting with you. [www.carverroadchurchofchrist.org](http://www.carverroadchurchofchrist.org).

**FACEBOOK:** Take a moment to "like" and "follow" us on Facebook. Search for Carver Road Church of Christ. When sermons and virtual events announcements, and even our live Sunday services are posted and broadcasted live on our page, please be sure to comment as well as share on your personal page.

**YOUTUBE:** Be sure to visit our YouTube page, Carver Road Church of Christ to view past sermons. To subscribe to our page, simply create a free account on YouTube.

## CONNECTING

### BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

**MONTH:** Today has been set aside to wear pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month. Please be sure to stop by the table located in the lobby for materials regarding breast cancer awareness. Submitted by the Sunshine Ministry.

### Hebrews 13:8

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."



## WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We wish to express our heartfelt sympathy to the following members and their families in the passing of their loved ones: brother and sister Jefferson R. Caruthers Jr. and family in the passing of his two aunts; April Brown and family in the passing of her mother, sister Gloria Brown and to sister Nikki Bray-Mayo and family in this loss as well of her aunt and the March family; brother and sister John Foxworth and family in the loss of a cousin; and also to brother and sister Bernard Wallace in the loss of their son-in-law. May God continue to comfort each member and their families during this time.



### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4th James Covington, Diane Foxworth;  
5th Felecia Caruthers; 13th Micheal Curry; 15th Linda Burgess, Wanda Jones; 17th Lillie Alford; 18th Ollie Carpenter; 19th Anita Terry-McNair; 23rd Roy Oliphant; 24th Tameka Grimes; 25th Anthony Washington; 30th Veronica Black; 31st Amber Reaves, Artis Rucker



(39 years) John & Diane Foxworth — 3rd  
(7 years) William & Regina Scott — 11th  
(6 years) Joshua & Jasmine Caruthers — 17th  
(24 years) Juan & Tamah Williams — 17th  
(21 years) Ron & Fran Thomas — 23rd



*All Visitors!  
You Are Our  
Honored Guests!*





**Our Shut-ins**

**OUR SICK AND SHUT-IN**

sis. Beverly Crim, bro. Frank W. Dulin,  
bro. Alvin Eaton, sis. Paula Evans, sis.  
Magdalene Fleming, bro. Barry Harper,  
sis. Dorris Jones, bro. Amos Lewis, bro.  
Leroy Nelson, sis. Delores Reaves, sis.  
Martha Reynolds, sis. Mattie Richard-  
son, sis. Bobby Robinson, sis. Carol Weathers

**RESPONSIVE READING**

**Revelation 3:1-6**

**READER:** And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

**CHURCH:** Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

**READER:** Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

**CHURCH:** Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

**READER:** He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

**UNISON:** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

**PRAYER**

Father in heaven, keep us for the blessing of being clothed in white raiment. Preserve our names in the book of life. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen

**PRAYER REQUEST**

sis. Shagail Reed, sis. Trena Wilson  
sis. Carol McDowell, bro. John Foxworth  
sis. Lillie Alford, sis. Rosalyn Evans, sis. Jewel Johnson  
bro. Jefferson R. Caruthers Jr., bro. William Scott



**SHEPHERD ON CALL FOR OCTOBER**

Brother Roy Oliphant  
(336) 765-3105

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**



**8:00 A.M.**

SONG LEADER  
SERMON

Adolphus Coplin  
*Jefferson R. Caruthers Jr.*

**10:00 A.M.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
INVOCATION  
SONG DIRECTOR  
SCRIPTURE  
RESPONSIVE READING  
PRAYER  
**SERMON**  
OFFERING  
LORD'S SUPPER  
CLOSING PRAYER  
GUESTS PRESENTATION

Walter Weathers Jr.  
Todd Woods  
Adolphus Coplin  
Javar Jones  
George McNair  
Artis Rucker  
*Jefferson R. Caruthers Jr.*  
Bernard Terry  
Reginald Nichols  
James Gadson  
Roy Oliphant

**COMMUNION REFLECTION**

**(JOHN 10:40)**

And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.



**USHERS**

Andrew Jackson	Bernard Wallace
Javar Jones	Sean Penn
Curtis Conner	Todd Woods
Tahjmel Brim	James Cherry

**EVENING USHERS**

Braxton King      Kobe Williams  
Tahjmel Brim      A. J. Crim

## COMMENTARY CORNER

In the same context documenting the actions of the friends and foes of Jesus, Mark also records the reactions of the family of Jesus. Mark writes, "There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without sent unto him" (Mark 3:31). One must cause some level of concern in his or her life when it gets so bad that family sends for you. The response of Jesus is informative and instructive.

When those who sat around him told him his brethren and mother stood without, Jesus asked, "Who is my mother, or my brethren?" (Mark 3:33). Then Mark records, "And he looked about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do

the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother" (Mark 3:34-35). Jesus makes clear that more important than family, even, are those who do the will of God. We are thankful that his mother and brethren eventually trusted God's work in Jesus. But let us not neglect to acknowledge the distinction Jesus gives some who followed him.

Three groups have accosted Jesus with words and actions. His friends came to lay hold on him believing that he was beside himself. His foes accused him of being a partner with Satan. And his family thought that it should send for him, perhaps take him off and reason with him. Through all of this, however, there were some who continued to follow, who continued to listen, who continued to sit at his feet. Jesus cer-

tainly had reference to these type of persons when he assures that his mother, brother, and sister are those who do the will of God, with emphasis on what a person does.

We acknowledge that what a person does often speaks louder than what a person says. Jesus knew this. It is why momentary belief in him because of miracle gazing did not impress him. He knew what was in man. He did not need for anyone to tell him about man. We must learn to live like he lived and live what he lived.

Let us conclude that sometimes being accused of being beside oneself is not a bad thing. Causing havoc for the devil and exposing demons does not make one demonic. And even when family cannot understand faith, keep the faith. Faith instructs friends, foe, and family.

### SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

#### SUNDAY

Early Morning Worship.....	8 A.M.
Bible School.....	9 A.M.
Morning Worship.....	10 A.M.
Evening Worship.....	6:30 P.M.

#### WEDNESDAY-MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

11 A.M. & 7 P.M.

#### MENS' & LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

5 P.M. (2nd & 4th Sunday)  
(September-May)

#### MEETINGS & MINISTRIES

Teachers' Meeting.....	9 A.M.
(1st Saturday)	
Clothing Bank.....	10 A.M.-12 P.M.
(1st Saturday)	
Youth Fellowship Meeting.....	10 A.M.
(2nd Saturday)	
Husbands & Fathers' Support Group... ..	10 A.M.
(3rd Saturday)	
Young Adult Ministry.....	6:30 P.M.
(3rd Friday)	

### WORSHIP TO THE SICK & SHUT-IN

FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER  
BROTHER BERNARD TERRY



#### BAPTISMAL TEAM

Bro. Anthony Clinton  
Bro. George McNair  
Bro. Walter Weathers. Jr.

### Radio Broadcast Stations



Sundays @ 7:30 A.M.  
Thursdays @ 3 P.M.  
1340 AM  
1400 AM  
103.5 FM

### YOU CAN BE SAVED TODAY!

To be saved today, you must hear the gospel (Romans 10:17; Acts 15:7). You must believe the gospel that assures us salvation through Jesus who is the risen Lord (Romans 10:9, 10). You must be willing to turn your life over to God through repentance (Acts 17:30; Romans 2:4). Those willing to live for God through repentance are ready for confession (Romans 10:9, 10).

The person who confesses is baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3, 4; Galatians 3:27). In baptism, the believer is washed, sanctified, and justified (1 Corinthians 6:11). Christ saves the baptized person in baptism (1 Peter 3:21).

If you believe that Jesus died for you and was resurrected, if you will repent and confess, then you can be baptized into Christ and be saved. Come to Jesus today!



### CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

*Will resume in 2021*



### NURSERY DUTY

Not Scheduled

### GREETERS

Mary Terry

### COMMUNION PREPARERS

Mary Terry

### BAPTISMAL COMMITTEE

Rosalyn Evans/Shirlene Murray  
Sherri Pilson



### ZONES

ZONE #1 Capt. Bro. J. Wilson (661-1312)  
ZONE #4 Co-Capt. Bro. B. Terry (720-9694)  
ZONE #5 Capt. Bro. J. Gadson (650-9693)  
Co-Capt. Bro. A. Rucker (924-5696)  
ZONE #7 Capt. Bro. J. Foxworth (924-5029)  
Co-Capt. Bro. R. Oliphant (765-3105)  
ZONE #8 Capt. Bro. R. March (727-0052)