



PREACHER-SHEPHERD
DR. JEFFERSON R. CARUTHERS



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COMMENTARY CORNER: DEVOTIONS IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK: A STUDY SERIES #7 *"WHEN SINNERS ARE PREFERRED GUESTS"* "And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said to his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Mark 2:16-17).

Jesus did try to reach out to his own. He came to them, but they did not receive him (John 1:11). He experienced what is witnessed throughout life: the very people expected to be his preferred crowd determined that Jesus did not offer what they needed. They felt like what he had to offer was beneath their expectations.

The scribes and Pharisees, the more religious people of Jesus' day, rejected the ministry of Jesus. The first thought would be that the people who focused so much attention on knowing the law, like the scribes; so much effort aimed at keeping the law, the DNA of the Pharisees, even extending beyond the most strict regulations; that these would welcome the ministry of Jesus.

What became evident was that these who appeared to be religious, donning religious robes, making broad their phylacteries, enlarging the borders of their garments, (Matthew 23:5) looking the part, these would not recognize a true child of God if they were given sight by her. These who penned every jot and tittle of the law, did not know how that law was to be fulfilled (Matthew 5:18; Luke 16:17). Do we not acknowledge that religious people can look the part and speak the part while not be able to live up to how they are dressed and how they speak?

The scribes and Pharisees did not walk alone in a group characterized by persons promoting one lifestyle and living another. One would certainly find in the crowd, the priest and the Levite. The teaching of Jesus found them as examples of persons observing laws related to sanctification to the extent that their compassion for others was missing. They lived within close proximity to the people of God, but did not know how to be neighbors (Luke 10:36-37). Col-

lectively, the main characters in these episodes of religious life: scribes, Pharisees, priests, and Levites, all failed the lesson asking what God required most. Their failed lessons would have written in red on their scrolls, "But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:13). More than once, the religious would be surprised to discover the preferred guests who sat eating and drinking with Jesus.

We understand the dynamics of such discomfiting scenarios. We are invited to the company get together of respected and valued employees. With great anticipation, and with unrestrained excitement, one prepares himself, or prepares herself to come to such a gathering and to receive the recognition he or she thought was well-deserved.

After all, it would be fitting to recognize this employee who never dared to be tardy, fought through torrential rains, white-out snow events, threatening tornadoes, and stifling heatwaves to never miss a day of work. This employee who rose to every challenging occasion, identified completely with the vision of the company, even added valuable insight so that great expectations were reached—this employee who was the poster child for a valuable employee, certainly this valued asset would be invited.

The arresting development, though, is when this employee arrives, what is witnessed and shockingly apparent is that there are a number of employees gathered reaching for the hors d'oeuvres, standing around the fruit punch bowl, and hobnobbing with company executives who had received employee notices for poor performance. There was the man who was late as

many times as there are days in a year. There is the woman who could never quite perform to standards, always asking help of others. There was the one who had told so many stories that no one knew when the truth was being told. There, too, was another suspected of stealing from the company. Then there was the woman who quickly rose to prominence suspected of charming every manager she ever had. How could these be invited to the same recognition ceremony as was the model employee?

How is it that the child who does not have the wherewithal to help with the needs of an aged mother, who even borrows money from her given by other siblings, who always has an excuse for failure; how is it that this is the child seemingly always experiencing deep love lavished upon him? How is it that the student demanding so much of the teachers' attention is chosen to run errands for the teacher?

In Jesus's time, what in heaven and on earth is going on when the anointed one is in the middle of the ruckus of a party whose guest lists includes notorious sinners and societal rejects? When is it appropriate to make sinners the preferred guests? The child of God cannot deny that Jesus accepted and approved, even commended what appeared to be an inappropriate proposition of gathered guests.

The casual reader of the word of God might believe that Jesus was being a little glib when he defended his attendance at a home where publicans and sinners were gathered. Jesus informed: "They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Mark 2:17).

~Continued



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

CHURCH LEADERS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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.



With Deepest Sympathy

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the following members and their families in the passing of their loved ones: brother and sister Curtis Conner in the passing of his aunt; and brother and sister Bernard Wallace in the loss of his sister. May God continue to be with them.

2 Corinthians 12:9

My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.



Welcome
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

*All Visitors!
You Are Our
Honored Guests!*

Growing In Faith



Reading Safari

Who's Reading



Keep Reading! For any additional information please contact sister Felecia Caruthers at (336) 575-2972.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3rd Timothy Pilson; 7th James Samuel, Mellany Scott; 8th Kim Littlejohn; 10th Tabatha Burgess; 12th Constance Rumph, D'Asia Williams; 13th Lillie Holmes, Edwena Kirby; 15th D'Onna Williams; 17th Claudette Eldridge; 20th William Holmes; 22nd Hazel Gordon, Treva Loyd; 23rd Wendy Thomas; 25th Tara Floyd, Thomasina Williams; 28th Angela Horton, Dollean Johnson, Michael Terry; 29th Mikey Mash; 30th Leah Adkins



(53 years) Leroy & Lillie Nelson—2nd
(46 years) Ronald & Rosalyn Evans— 28th
(18 years) Michael & D'Tondja Foster—28th



Our Shut-ins

OUR SICK AND SHUT-IN

sis. Gloria Brown, 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, sis. Lillie Nelson, bro. Leroy Nelson, sis. Delores Reaves, sis. Martha Reynolds, sis. Mattie Richardson, sis. Bobby Robinson, sis. Carol Weathers

SHEPHERD ON CALL FOR SEPTEMBER

Brother Walter Weathers Jr.
(336) 785-2520

RESPONSIVE READING

Revelation 1:20—2:5

READER: The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

CHURCH: Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

READER: I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

CHURCH: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

READER: Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

UNISON: Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, we are thankful that You strengthened us to have patience and to labor. Empower us Father to return to our first love. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

PRAYER REQUEST

sis. Linda Burgess, sis. Rashunda Richardson, sis. Athenia Pouncey, sis. Annette Nichols, sis. Diane Foxworth, bro. George McNair, bro. Braxton King, sis. Beverly Wallace, sis. Carol McDowell, bro. Reginald Nichols, bro. Walter Weathers Jr., bro. & sis. Curtis Conner



ORDER OF WORSHIP



8:00 A.M.

SONG LEADER
SERMON

Roy Oliphant
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

Joseph Wilson
Artis Rucker
Adolphus Coplin
Juan Williams
George McNair
Walter Weathers Jr.
Jefferson R. Caruthers Jr.
Isiah Black
Bernard Terry
Ollie Carpenter

COMMUNION REFLECTION

(JOHN 10:35)

If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;



USHERS

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

EVENING USHERS

Braxton King Kobe Williams
Tahjmel Brim A. J. Crim

COMMENTARY CORNER

Scribes and Pharisees, priests and Levites failed in their understanding of why Jesus came. They questioned his teachings, convinced that they knew better than he. And there were others. During the last days of Jesus before his passion, Jesus taught in the temple. Matthew recorded that the leading priests and elders came and asked, "By what authority doest thou these things? And who gave this authority" (Matthew 21:23)? Jesus understood, however, that sometimes people are asking questions of others because they have not asked the right questions of themselves. (We should all practice asking ourselves questions before we question others.)

Jesus stated, "I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men" (Matthew 21:24-25)? These were afraid

to answer. They knew that the people believed that John was a prophet, and if they believed John was from God, they would have to answer why they did not believe that God authorized Jesus (Matthew 21:25).

Jesus then refused to answer the leading priests and elders. He extended beyond his refusal to teach them that in the end, what is important are not words assuring obedience to God, but deeds of obedience (Matthew 21:28-31). He then explained when sinners were preferred guests, beginning with this assurance: "Verily I say unto you, the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him" (Matthew 21:31-32).

What we learn from the gospel writers is

that invitation to be with Jesus is not based upon our measuring up to the righteousness God empowers us to manifest. And we understand that there is none righteous before him (Romans 3:10). What lands one of the preferred list of guests to be with Jesus is the realization that Jesus alone can provide the remedy for the separation we experience from God, a separation resulting from our sin infection.

There is no one to whom we can go, but Jesus. And far from the misunderstanding of scribes and Pharisees, priests and Levites, leading priests and elders, we all need him. We all need repentance. Then, we all are invited to share in the hors d'oeuvres and the punch bowl.

We are all sinners. We become preferred guests by acknowledging that we are sinners in need of healing, in need of forgiveness, in need of salvation.

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 SEPTEMBER
BROTHER WALTER WEATHERS JR.



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

6th Diane Foxworth/Michelle Conner
13th Centrece Kendall/Marcella Kendall
20th Tamah Williams/D'Asia Williams
27th Chanel Foxworth/Leah Adkins

NURSERY DUTY

Not Scheduled

GREETERS

Mary Terry

COMMUNION PREPARERS

Mary Terry

BAPTISMAL COMMITTEE

Diane Foxworth/Diane Blakely
Wendy Thomas



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)