

White Oak Church of Christ

www.whiteoakchurchofchrist.org

First Century Christianity for the 21st Century

September 22, 2019

THE PARABLE OF TWO SONS

Rick Owens

Like most people, we refer to the parable in Luke 15 as the parable of the prodigal son; however, our Lord never gave such designation nor did Luke. In fact, the parable is not named at all, but a more accurate title would be *The Parable of Two Sons*, since there are two sons of which Jesus spoke. To properly understand the parable, the reader needs to be familiar with the background events, and the purpose behind the message. Luke set the scene by recording, *“Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them”* (Lk. 15:1-2).

Jesus was illustrating the difference in attitude between those sinners who had heard the message of God and repented, and the self-righteous Pharisees and scribes who refused to accept those who had humbled themselves before the Christ. The lost son represented the sinners who repented at the preaching of Jesus, and his elder brother represented the Pharisees and scribes.

Notice the differences between the two sons, and by implication, the sinners and Pharisees. The younger son, though he left home and wasted the inheritance his father had designated to him, had returned with a humble heart and a contrite demeanor. At the same time, the elder son was self-willed, he was self-righteous, he was self-centered, and simply stated, he was a selfish individual.

The Bible is clear when it comes to those very characteristics the elder son embodied. Paul demanded an elder to never be self-willed (Titus 1:7), but God also rejects the self-willed no matter the position they hold. Peter warned, *“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities”* (2 Pet. 2:9-10). The self-willed are inappropriate in their behavior and are often found speaking evil (better known as gossiping) about their brethren.

The self-willed are often self-righteous. The elder brother claimed to have never transgressed his father’s commandments at any time; however, it is clear he lied (Lk. 15:29)! Paul acknowledged, *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:23). Another well-known case of self-righteousness is the Pharisee who acted as if he was



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ASSEMBLY TIMES:

SUNDAY:

Bible Study: 9:30 A. M.
Worship: 10:30 A. M.
& 5:00 P. M.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Study: 7:00 P. M.

THURSDAY:

Bible Class: 11:00 A. M.

MINISTER: Rick Owens

SONG LEADERS:

Carl Puryear and Joe Weir

Come study the word of God with us.

Call us for an appointment for a
personal Bible study.



praying in the Temple. He looked down upon the publican and told God how lucky He was to have someone as upstanding and righteous as he (Lk. 18:10-14).

The self-willed and the self-righteous are, more often than not, self-centered. Instead of rejoicing in the fact his lost brother received what he desperately needed, the eldest brother complained to his father, “...*thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf*” (Lk. 15:29-30). God is clear when it comes to His desire for Christians to be centered on the needs of others, instead of being self-centered; Paul demanded, “*Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ*” (Phil. 6:2). He told those in Rome, “*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith*” (Rom. 12:3; emph. mine).



When one considers all those attributes, it becomes very clear, very quickly, that the elder brother was nothing but selfish. He did not want to share his material blessings with his brother (Lk. 15:31), but it goes beyond that; the elder brother did not want his younger brother to have the very thing he needed most. He did not care about the burden his brother carried; instead, he only cared about the minor inconvenience it was to him when his younger brother returned home. Isn't it a shame the elder brother viewed the assistance given to his younger brother as an inconvenience? He didn't care, he wanted what he wanted, no matter the impact it had on his brother.

What does God expect? Does He expect us to consider the burdens our brethren carry, or does He desire for us to focus on our own inconveniences? Is it often an inconvenience when it comes to fulfilling the law of Christ? Of course, it is!! But God expects the faithful to ignore personal inconvenience, as they help to lift the burdens from those who they are able to help. That is the hallmark of Christianity; and Jesus taught, “*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another*” (Jn. 13:34-35). Each Christian should ask the question, “Would those outside the church be able to identify me as a Christian, if that judgment was based on my behavior toward those of *“like precious faith”* (2 Pet. 1:1)?



FELLOWSHIP MEAL
SEPTEMBER 29TH!

Make plans to attend the fellowship meal just after morning services on **Sunday, September 29th**. Our P. M. worship service will be held directly after the meal at 1:30 P. M.

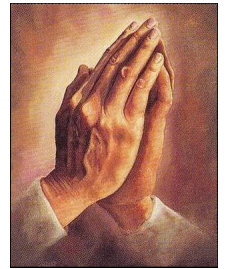


SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE
MOVING TO 1:30 P. M.

Make plans now for the permanent move of White Oak's Sunday afternoon service from 5:00 P. M. to 1:30 P. M. beginning on our fellowship meal **Sunday, September 29th**.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER!

- ◆ Gary Brewer, who has been having issues with fluctuating blood pressure and has been unable to be at services recently
- ◆ Shirley Crownover, who is in Life Care of East Ridge, room 134, following a light heart attack and multiple stint installation surgery
- ◆ Teena Edmondson, who has had health issues for some time
- ◆ Wade Jackson, who has serious ongoing health issues which often confines him at home
- ◆ Judy Parker, who is currently at Soddy Daisy Healthcare Center, room 222-B
- ◆ Ron Payne, who is recovering from shoulder surgery
- ◆ June Sims, who has been having severe back pain for some time
- ◆ Jeff Weaver, who likely has at least three damaged discs in his spine and will be having a surgical consultation on Oct. 1st
- ◆ Barbara Beard, wife of former local evangelist Edgar Beard, who has completed her radiation treatments, but is having painful side effects
- ◆ Belinda Bryant, daughter of Barbara Northcut, who has been hospitalized due to issues with swelling in the brain
- ◆ Carolyn Burton, sister of Margaret Brown, who is recovering from a broken wrist, a fractured cranium, and other injuries sustained in a bad fall
- ◆ Mason Cobble, 16-year-old friend of Kane Vail (Martin Roberson's grandson), who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor and is taking daily treatments
- ◆ Joe Crownover, son of Shirley Crownover, who needs prayers of encouragement during his mother's illness
- ◆ Micheal Douglas, Sr., husband of Ruby Douglas, who is recovering from colon cancer surgery and doing well
- ◆ Joyce Goodwin, former White Oak member, who is recovering from a fractured sacrum
- ◆ Walter Hillis, former White Oak member, who is having serious health issues
- ◆ Carol Massey, good friend of Effie Lasater, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer
- ◆ Lexie Owens, granddaughter-in-law of Foster & Ann Owens, who has been diagnosed with a rare but very serious cancer; she is scheduled for kidney surgery on Nov. 13th
- ◆ Geraldine Parrish, good friend of Ann Owens, who has been diagnosed with cancer
- ◆ Hudson Pickett, great nephew of Carl Puryear, who is home, but has several surgeries to go
- ◆ Amy Pittman, wife of Michael Pittman, who is recovering from another hip labrum surgery
- ◆ Lavada Sisemore, Rocky Sisemore's mother, who is having serious health issues
- ◆ Paul Weaver, son of Betty Weaver and brother of Jeff Weaver and Julie Wood, who is having serious health issues
- ◆ Also remember David Aaron, Waymon Brown, Ed Clark, Emma Davenport, June Gannaway, Billy Ed Garner, Tom Gentry, Mary Goldston, Bill Greer, Elizabeth Greer, Susie Hargis, Judy Harvey, Roy Headrick, Jim Hubbard, Ernest Jackson, Duane Lee, Maggie Leonard, Mae Martin, Connie Mayhew, Jewell McAdams, Alden & Cybil Miller, Barbara Northcut, Foster Owens, Ruth Patten, Wilma Pittman, Judy Poe, Marion Randolph, Jerry Shepard, Holly Shull, Rocky Sisemore, Andrea Weaver, Betty Weaver, Duane Weaver, Roy Whited, Norma Wright, those serving in the military, and faithful missionaries the world over



Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Sept. 1: Ezk. 17-19
 Sept. 2: Ezk. 20-21
 Sept. 3: Ezk. 22-23
 Sept. 4: Ezk. 24-26
 Sept. 5: Ezk. 27-28
 Sept. 6: Ezk. 29-31
 Sept. 7: Ezk. 32-33
 Sept. 8: Ezk. 34-36
 Sept. 9: Ezk. 37-38
 Sept. 10: Ezk. 39-40
 Sept. 11: Ezk. 41-43
 Sept. 12: Ezk. 44-45
 Sept. 13: Ezk. 46-48
 Sept. 14: Dan. 1-2
 Sept. 15: Dan. 3-4
 Sept. 16: Dan. 5-6
 Sept. 17: Dan. 7-8
 Sept. 18: Dan. 9-10
 Sept. 19: Dan. 11-12
 Sept. 20: Hosea 1-7
 Sept. 21: Hosea 8-14
 Sept. 22: Joel 1-3
 Sept. 23: Amos 1-5
 Sept. 24: Amos 6-9
 Obad.
 Sept. 25: Jonah 1-4
 Micah 1-2
 Sept. 26: Micah 3-7
 Sept. 27: Nahum/Hab.
 Sept. 28: Zeph./Hag.
 Sept. 29: Zech. 1-6
 Sept. 30: Zech. 7-10



DID YOU KNOW ?



The digital bulletin is available via email or online at the White Oak website:

www.whiteoakchurchofchrist.org

HEAR SERMONS ONLINE

White Oak sermons are available online at:

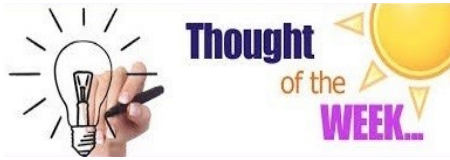
sermonshare.net/wococ

also, at I-tunes:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/white-oak-church-of-christ/id413729334>

and on a link from our website.

Sermon CDs are available upon request.



TELL THEM SO!

If you hear a kind word spoken
 Of some worthy soul you know,
 It may fill their heart with sunshine
 If you only tell them so.

If a deed, however humble,
 Helps you on your way to go,
 Seek out the one whose hand helped
 Seek them out and tell them so.

If your heart is touched and tender
 Toward a sinner, lost and low,
 It might help them to do better
 If you only tell them so.

Oh, my sisters, oh, my brothers,
 As o'er life's rough path you go
 If God's love has saved and kept you,
 Do not fail to tell them so.

—PROGRAMS TO WATCH—

Fabric of Family

Sunday, 7:00 A. M., WFLI-TV, Ch. 53
 (Comcast & EPB 6)

Good News Today

Sunday, 7:30 A. M., WFLI-TV, Ch. 53
 (Comcast & EPB 6)

and on

GBN—EPB Ch. 152:
 various times

Also, on the web at www.gnttv.org

In Search of the Lord's Way

Sunday, 8:00 A. M., WDEF Ch. 12
 (Comcast 13 & EPB 12)

Book, Chapter, and Verse

Sunday, 9:00 A. M.
 Tuesday, 6:30 P. M.
 WTNB, Cleveland, TN
 (Comcast 210)

Arise to Truth

www.arisetotruth.com and airs live
 Tuesdays & Thursdays at 2:00 P. M.

Preaching the Gospel

GBN—EPB Ch. 152:
 various times



Sunday, September 15, 2019:

A. M. Bible Class 37
 A. M. Worship 54
 P. M. Worship 35

Assignments

SEPTEMBER ASSIGNMENTS

If you are unable to serve, please call Jeff Weaver at 423-838-1032.

Leading Prayer for Sunday, Sept. 22nd:

A. M. First Prayer: Clay Brown
 A. M. Closing Prayer: Chase Shull
 P. M. First Prayer: Jeff Weaver
 P. M. Closing Prayer: Gary Brewer

Leading Prayer for Wed., Sept. 25th:

First Prayer: Rocky Sisemore
 Closing Prayer: Richard Goldston

Announcements: Ron Payne

Lord's Table South Side:

Jeff Weaver, Zach Rauchle, and Waymon Brown

Lord's Table North Side:

Sam Coffelt, Ronnie Brewer, and Bert Phillips

Lord's Table, Sunday P. M. Service:

Jeff Weaver and Sam Coffelt



On The Calendar!

Sept. 27-29: Gospel Meeting at Pleasant Grove in Trion, GA with Brad Harrub.

Sept. 29th: Homecoming at Chattanooga Valley, Flintstone, GA, with Donnie Iversen.

Oct. 11th: Gospel Singing at Magby Gap in Trenton, GA, 7:00 P. M. with refreshments provided.

Oct. 12th: Ladies' Day at Mt. View in Rossville, GA with Janis Dearman, 9:30 A. M.—12:00 P. M., with lunch provided.

Oct. 13-16: Gospel Meeting at St. Elmo in Chattanooga, with David R. Pharr.