



The Love of God

God loves His people! God's love is something we should all be confident of.

I think the opening chapters of Jeremiah shows us the love that God has for his people. Often throughout Jeremiah God refers to Israel as His bride. In 2:2 God speaks to Israel saying, *"I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me..."* Israel is described as a God's *bride* and God's *beloved*. God is described as the husband. So throughout the book marriage imagery is used.

The problem with this marriage is that the bride (Israel) has not been faithful. Israel has not had just one affair, but has been found to have had many affairs. They had given in to the worship of many false gods. God says they *"have lived as a prostitute with many lovers"* (3:1). Using the imagery of marriage, their marriage with God was in shambles.

It is in this context that we find the true heart of God, and realize how much he loves his people. God asks in 3:1, *"If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him and marries another man, should he return to her again?"* Every Israelite would have known the obvious answer to this rhetorical question because it was part of the law given to them in Deuteronomy (21:1-4). The answer is "No!" God's law says that a husband cannot take back his first wife because it would be detestable in the eyes of the Lord. So again, the obvious answer is no - if Israel has left God to be with others, God cannot take her back.

This is where God's love for his people can truly be seen. A couple of verses after asking the rhetorical question He says, *"Return, faithless Israel. I will frown on you no longer, for I am faithful. I will not be angry forever... Return, faithless people, for I am your husband"* (3:12, 14). Return? The law says that is not possible. God knows the law - He wrote it! Yet, God's love surpasses His own law! At the risk of defiling the land He asks His first bride to come back to Him.

This passage in Jeremiah is just one of the many reminder that God loves his people. Over and over again the Bible proclaims the message, *"For God so loved the world..."*

-Gilbert

Making Clean

This Sunday, Gilbert talked about the need to take care of the "underbird" -- those in society who others deem unworthy, unclean, or uncool. This is something Jesus does constantly throughout his ministry.

In Mark 6:53-7:4 we see what happens when Jesus and the Pharisees go through the market-place. First, we see Jesus: "Wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed" (6:56).

This is a cool story, but it really finds its power when we imagine what the Pharisees do in the marketplace. In 7:4 it says, "When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash." The type of washing done here is a ceremonial washing, in order to make oneself clean after being defiled. So here we have Jesus walking through the marketplace, touching and healing these unclean people (unclean because of their diseases). And these are the very types of people who the Pharisees believe make them unclean just by being in the same marketplace. One can almost imagine a Pharisees going through the marketplace dodging about, trying not to touch anyone that might taint them- the same people that Jesus went about healing (and thus making clean).

The Pharisees believed that their interaction with the world made them unclean, while Jesus' interaction with the world brought about change in the world itself.

When you interact with the world, are you changing it, or is it changing you?

-Phil



David Brutans, son-in-law of Shirley Farmer, will have surgery on October 26 to remove part of his liver. He has cancer of the colon and the liver....**Ted Holderfield** is recuperating and receiving daily rehab for double knee replacement surgery....

Beth Holt has hand surgery on October 29....**Jim Kiefner**, Jack & Georgia Guthrie's grandfather, has cancer. He lives in Indianapolis.... Continue praying for **Penny Stafford, Jeanette Tidrick, Sara Postlethwait, Kaden Koebeke, Roger Birky, Thelma Hoyt, Delores Hill, Clifford & Betty Farner, Annie**

Crowder, Diann Doty, Jan Lucas, Charles Moore, Hattie Coffel, Mary Tavana, Dorothy Walters, Edith McCoy, Eugene Zinn, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, and Minnie Scott.

An update on former Elmwood member, **Bud Darby**: he has numerous physical problems and is confined to a nursing home in Wetumpka, Alabama. He has suffered a series of strokes and a broken hip. If you would like to send him a card, his address is: Junior Darby, Room 220, Wetumpka Health & Rehabilitation, 1825 Holtville Road, Wetumpka, AL 36092.

In the military: **Joe Newman** (*Naval training*), and **Brent Kaufman** is serving in Iraq. **Josh Martin** will be in the states (in Texas) soon, after serving in Iraq.

Women's Ministry News...

Barb Newberry is hosting a get-together for women at her home on Friday, **October 30, at 6:00 PM.** **Requirements:** bring your own 6" sub sandwich and a drink. She will furnish the rest of the food. Also, a **must:** come dressed in "Halloween attire." **We need those who plan to attend to sign up on the women's bulletin board or call Barb by Wednesday, October 28, so she can plan for enough food.**



A baby shower for **Angela Loy** and their new baby, **Ramsey Scott**, is being planned for **Sunday, November 8, from 2 o'clock until 4 o'clock** in the afternoon. Scheryl Gaylor is hosting it at her home, 4524 Bur Oak Lane, Lafayette. Angela Asbill and Vicki Vaught are the hostesses. Donations will be accepted by them for a group gift, or suggestions for a gift: older outfits and diapers.



Elmwood's 2nd annual Trunk or Treat is planned for Saturday, October 31, from 1:30 until 3:30 PM (setup is at 12:30). The theme this year is GAMES! Think board and card games. The reason we have chosen to assign a theme is so we can help all the participants become less overwhelmed with too many possibilities. Each participating vehicle can host a game, which is optional, but welcome. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. Here are a few ideas: Bozo buckets, Mystery object(s) hidden under a cloth or in a container, plastic horseshoes, velcro darts, etc. We hope to have at least one vehicle per LIFE group. We need donations for candy, decorations, crafts and photos for the visitors. Questions? See Dana Miller, Rachel Ravellette, Katy Travis or Angela Asbill.



Congratulations to **Willie & Calvin Batts** as they celebrate their **61st** wedding anniversary on **October 23!**



Men, mark your calendars for the upcoming men's breakfast on **Saturday, November 7, at 7:43 AM until 8:59 AM.** Bring a friend, son, grandson, or neighbor.



Dear Elmwood family,

Thanks so much for the lovely flowers, and especially your kind words and prayers.

Also, thanks for the wonderful dinner after the funeral. We appreciate so much your help and thoughtfulness.

-Judy Hollis & Kathy Turner

Thank you so much for your calls, cards, and especially for the prayers. I know the prayers have made it all go so well.

-Ted & Gloria Holderfield

Thanks to everyone for your heartfelt prayers, cards, and food. They were gratefully appreciated during my time of recovery. Thank you, our family!

-Penny Stafford

October 18, 2009

Class: 175 Worship: 283

Contribution: \$6,755

ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST newsletter (USPS 758-630) is published weekly, except the week of Christmas, by the Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette 47904. Periodical postage paid at Lafayette, IN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904.



Who?

I am really enjoying – more than that appreciating and benefiting from Gilbert’s “Who?” series of lessons on Sunday morning and the Sunday night LIFE Group follow up. One of the things I am finding really helpful is the fresh look he is giving each character. Some of the people we have discussed (or will) are so familiar to us, in our own minds, that we think we know everything there is about them. I think we are learning, “Not so!”

This week as Gilbert and we talked about Zacchaeus, I have to admit that I haven’t always felt he was the evil little man that many made him out to be. Even though Gilbert painted him in a similar fashion, I have learned that we can be enlightened to listen to views that don’t line up with our own. I actually found myself wanting to defend Zacchaeus. Don’t misunderstand, I’m not at odds with Gilbert or anyone else over this, but I was encouraged to hear that others (at LIFE Group) had similar thoughts to mine.

Think about a few things we know about Zach. 1) He went looking for Jesus. Is it possible that he was one of those listed in “Even tax collectors came to be baptized.” (Luke 3:12) Is it possible he heard John say, “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance” (Luke 3:8) and that helped him to say, “Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount” (Luke 19:8). If he was a bad guy formerly, it appears to me he took the repentance concept pretty seriously.

Why defend Zacchaeus? It is confession time. I am one of those that is very guilty of buying the stereotypes. As in all lawyers are..., all car salesmen..., you can’t trust a _____. You know what I mean. I am often guilty of not giving people the same chance that Jesus would. I’m sorry, I’m ashamed, and I really want to do better. I do understand we are all sinners and I know that there are times we have to keep our guard up, but if Jesus hadn’t come to “seek and save the lost,” you and I would be in deep trouble. My prayer for me (and you) is that we will begin to see others with lenses stained with Jesus’ blood. He died for all so that all might have the chance at eternal life. I don’t want to be one of those “religious people” that is offended that Jesus went to “those people.” I pray that we will all realize our need for a doctor and that we will embrace His healing touch with open arms. A cool thing that happens when someone who knows they are/have been really spiritually lost comes to Christ is that they share Him with everyone they know. We don’t know the details, but I am pretty sure that dinner at Zacchaeus’ house was not a small affair...I imagine the house was full!

Just one final thought for you and me, “WHO are we leaving out?”

- Lee



October Prayer Focus: The Spirit Within Us

Pray that we will not quench the spirit within us, but that we will allow the spirit to work within us.



Meet at the Casteel Casa

The 20-somethings group is hosting a Bonfire for the Youth Group this **Saturday, October 24, at 6:00**. It will be at Shaun (765-414-2378) and Danae (765-269-7092) Casteel’s home, 1000 Potomac Ave., Lafayette. Food and refreshments will be provided. Boys are asked to bring a 2-liter beverage, and the girls bring a bag of chips.

Shults-Lewis



Milk Money Contribution

One of the ways Elmwood members have of showing their gratitude for God’s bounty all year is through our willingness to provide milk for the children of Shults-Lewis Home in Valparaiso, Indiana. That collection will be **Sunday, November 8**. That day **Ray Crowder**, the Shults-Lewis director, will speak to the combined adult classes at 9:30.



Christmas Hang-ups

Elmwood’s Christmas Musical, **Christmas Hang-ups**, will begin rehearsals this **Wednesday, October 21, 6:20 PM** for children in **Pre-K through 6th grade**.



October 21, 7 PM...Bible classes for all

October 30, 6:00 PM...Women are invited to Barb Newberry’s home for Halloween fun and fellowship

November 7, 7:43 AM...Men’s Breakfast at Elmwood

November 8...Shults-Lewis Milk Money contribution;

December 12...Christmas For Everyone distribution day

Read:
Ezekiel 1-21; John 9-11

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 45: November 2-8

WWJD?

Last week at Jefferson High School, as locker doors were slamming shut and students were scurrying in the halls to avoid being tardy to class, a student showed me his bracelet and asked me if I knew what the letters on the bracelet meant. I read the letters "WWJD." I looked him in the eye, smiled, and said, "Sure. What would Jesus do?" He grinned, the bell rang signaling the start of class, and we jumped into the biology lesson of the day.

Chapter 10 of John's gospel beautifully illustrates and summarizes not only what Jesus *would* do, but what he *has done*, and *continues to do* for all those who believe in him. If I were banished to a desert island (*the thought makes me shudder because I can't stand coconuts*) and only allowed to take with me one chapter from the Bible, I think John chapter 10 would be the one I would request. What does that chapter tell us about Jesus? I encourage you to read it slowly and meditate on its words. You will find that:

1. Jesus is the great shepherd, willing to die for us.
2. He knows us, and we know him.
3. He protects us from evil (*life won't always be easy and free of trouble, but he will always protect us from the evil one*).
4. He lays (*has laid!*) down his life for us.
5. Through him we have eternal life.
6. He and God the Father are one.
7. **HE DOES WHAT THE FATHER DOES.**

1 John 4:8 reminds us that "God is love." It's no wonder that all the things Jesus said and did were demonstrations of selfless love. When we ask the question, "What would Jesus do?" aren't we also asking "What would God do?" May we be ever mindful of and alert to daily opportunities to be like Jesus and to reflect God's love.

- Joe Ruhl

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Joe Ruhl 463-6822 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653 Staff Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 Office Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774

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