

He Could Have, But He Didn't

Did you ever consider some things that Jesus could have done as He lived here on this earth, but that He didn't do? He could have become a political king. Some tried to force Him to do this. Being a carpenter, He could have had a fine house. He could have taken up a love offering when He healed. In each of these, and many more. He didn't do these things.

There is yet another thing He could have done but didn't. On the night He was betrayed, and after observing the Passover with the apostles, they all, except Judas, walked down into the Kidron Valley and a short way up the side of the Mount of Olives to Gethsemane. When I visited Gethsemane a few years back, I was struck with an amazing fact. While Jesus was in the Garden, He could have seen those who were coming to arrest Him as they made their way to the Garden also. John states that they "came there with lanterns, torches and weapons." He knew that they were coming, and He knew why they were coming. He could have run. He could have just gone further up the side of the hill and gone down toward Bethany. He could have just kept on going up into Galilee, but He didn't! He stayed, was given a mock trial, was scourged and was crucified when He could have escaped. Why? "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." How great is your love for him? ~Ernest S. Underwood

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Meeting times:

Sunday: Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday: Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm am

Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; ccbotts@hotmail.com
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

Open Congregational meeting – 2nd Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome

Attendance 05/12 NA | Budget \$2400.33 | Contribution 05/12 NA

May 18, 2019

Kennewick Church of Christ

God's Seven Water Tests

Those who ridicule God's command to be baptized in order to be forgiven would do well to consider at least seven occasions when God used water to separate those who followed Him from those who rejected Him. The first outstanding example is the flood. If one only read the Old Testament story, he could easily see that principle. It is made more certain, striking and significant when we read of it again in Hebrews 11:7 and especially in 1 Peter 3:20-21 where we are told in specific terms that the water saved them from the wicked world is a type of the baptism that saves us.

The second outstanding example of the use of water to separate God's people from others is in the story of Israel crossing the Red Sea. In Exodus 14:30 we find, "Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians and they saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore." Paul referred to this in 1 Corinthians 10:2 when he wrote, "They were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea."

The third example is in Judges 7 where God had Gideon's army to undergo a "water test." Those who were watchful and careful and lapped the water in their hands were separated from those who did not. There are many lessons we can get from that account, such as the fact that God does not need large numbers to do any job He wishes to do, but our lesson today is simply that He used water to choose His warriors. The others He rejected.

One of the most outstanding examples is that of Naaman, the leper, in 2 Kings 5. He was commanded to go and dip seven times in the Jordan to cure his leprosy. Many sermons could be preached on the necessity of doing what is commanded, where it is commanded and in the manner it is commanded. Those are all very important lessons. No river but Jordan would do. No use of water other than dipping would do. No number but seven times was proper. One could scoff at the whole process and call it "a water cure" or any other term he may choose. The simple fact is that although he was cured by God's grace when he accepted it in obedient faith, water was the point or place where the cleansing was done.

In John 9:7 when Jesus told the blind man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam, those who stood by might have scoffed and said, "Water cannot give sight. There is no power in the water, so forget it, or wait until you are cured to wash." It is clear for any who will read it honestly that washing in the pool of Siloam stood between the blind man and his recovery. Whether they or we can see any sense in it, an honest student cannot miss the fact that Jesus used water as a test of his faith and as a means by which he received sight. In John's baptism, we find another strong example of the use of water separating those who rejected God and those who received Him. Luke 7:29-30 says, "And all the people when they heard, and all the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected for themselves the counsel of God, being not baptized of Him."

The greatest and most significant water test God used is the one in Mark 16:16, where Jesus plainly says that baptism is for the remission of sins, to wash away sins, one can see that God is still using the water test to separate His people from those who reject Him. Have you passed God's water test? ~T. Pierce Brown

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3,4)

Keep These Dates in Mind	May Birthdays and Anniversaries	
05/05 First Sunday Potluck 05/11 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 05/18 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 05/24 Family Night 6:00p 06/02 First Sunday Potluck 06/08 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 06/09 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 06/21 Family Fun Night 6:00p	Lynette Jones 5/4 Gerald Funnell 5/5 Cathy Heston 5/6 Jared Bolt 5/7 Bill Lafferty 5/8 Barbara Goldsmith 5/16 Tom Gritzan 5/17 Dustin McCrickard 5/30	<i>And this is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works</i>
	Bible Studies <i>were evil.</i>	

Therefore, render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things That are God's.



Issues (ongoing): Karen McBurney, Shirley Childers, Kaleb McCrickard, Sue Aldrich, Marji Lindholm, The Johnson family, Marilyn Davis, Randy Hargus, Eunice Petros, Tami Pennington, Amanda McCrickard's parents, Karen McBurney's father, Leland And Marilyn's daughter.

Don and Sheri Blackwell have moved from Roanoke Virginia to Atlanta Georgia. Don has asked for prayers. He is finding rehabilitation harder than he'd anticipated. He also wishes to thank all who sent cards and support to him.

Dustin and Amanda and family as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives in Missouri.
Our Elders as they begin to look for someone to work with our congregation.

Our Ministries

Mountain States Children's Home

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Peru Ministry – Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

Food Pantry - Our food pantry is located in the small room next to the library.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

Austin and Kennadie McCrickard – Bear Valley Bible Institute

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Blessed Is He That Readeth

"The studious perusal of the Sacred Volume will make better citizens, better fathers and better husbands" is a quote that has been attributed to Thomas Jefferson. That quote has come under attack by some as something someone heard him say, but not a direct quote of the former President. Whether Jefferson said it or not does not take away from the truth o the quote. Reading, studying and applying the Bible will always make mankind better! In giving the Revelation, Jesus reminded, "Bless is he that readeth.." (Revelation 1:3). While Bible reading is often encouraged among religious folks, many times newcomers to the Bible have no idea where to start. May I offer some suggestions in the reading of your Bible.

Firstly, read regularly. To become a proficient Bible reader, one must make the necessary time to read. God's Word is our spiritual food (1 Peter 2:2; Matthew 4:4; Job 23:12) that nourishes our thoughts, deeds and way of life. If we do not eat the proper food physically, our bodies suffer, and if we do not eat the proper food spiritually, our spirituality suffers. D.L. Moody was once told by a man that he just did not have time to read the Bible every day. Mr. Moody replied, "My friend, if you are too busy to read the Bible every day, then you are busier than Almighty God ever intended any human to be and you had better let some things go, and make the time!"

Secondly, read slowly. Sometimes the goal to "get through the Bible in a year" prohibits us from really understanding what we read. There are no prizes awarded by God for the most times we read the Bible in a year! Someone correctly said, "It does not matter how much of the Word of God you go through, but how much of the Word of God that goes through you."

Thirdly, read systematically. This may be the most common mistake made when it comes to reading the Bible. Once day a person is in Genesis, the next day in Matthew and the next day in Psalms. A good outline of the entire Bible will help in this process. For example, group the prophets together as to the time in which they wrote to to whom they wrote. Habakkuk, Zephaniah and Jeremiah all prophesied to Judah during the same time period; so reading these three books together gives one the true picture of God's Word. Many other examples could be given, but however you choose to read, to get the most out of the time spent, read systematically.

Fourthly, read inquiringly. As you read, keep three major questions in mind with a goal to answer those questions from your reading. "Who is the writer?" "To whom is he writing?" "What is the major reason for this writing?" For example, when one reads Colossians, if he or she comprehends certain elements, understanding will be much fuller. Paul was in prison while he wrote. The church at Colosse was being influenced by the world around it (e.g., idolatry, Judaism, et all.), and as such, Christ was taking a back seat. Thus, Paul wrote to magnify Christ and to show that in all things He must be first (Colossians 1:18). Seeking the answers to certain questions as one reads will make reading much more enjoyable and memorable.

Lastly, but certainly not least, read prayerfully. Spending time talking to God before He speaks to you will make your study much richer. Ask God for wisdom and understanding! A reverent talk with the Author will make the Book much sweeter!

Reading the Bible is such a daunting task if one seeks to understand what he reads. However, the blessing that come as a result from a serious study of God's Word cannot be matched. Bible readers are dealing with eternal things. Any else besides the Bible will one day be destroyed, but Gods Word lasts forever (Matt 24:35). Read it to be wise, believe it to be saved, and practice it to be holy! "Blessed is he that readeth..." ~Rodney Nulph