

Seeds of Grace

For nearly four decades, a man in India has worked to bring a scorched, sandy wasteland back to life. Seeing how erosion and changing ecosystems had destroyed the river island he loved, he began to plant one tree at a time, bamboo then cotton. Now, lush forests and abundant wildlife fill more than 1,300 acres. However, the man insists the rebirth was not something he made happen. Acknowledging the amazing way the natural world is designed, he marvels at how seeds are carried to fertile ground by the wind. Birds and animals participate in sowing them as well, and rivers also contribute in helping plants and trees flourish.

Creation works in ways we can't comprehend or control. According to Jesus, this same principle applies to the kingdom of God. "This is what the kingdom of God is like," Jesus said. "A man scatters seed on the ground . . . the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how" (Mark 4:26-27). God brings life and healing into the world as pure gifts, without our manipulation. We do whatever God asks us of us, and then we watch life emerge. We know that everything flows from His grace.

It's tempting to believe we're responsible to change someone's heart or ensure results for our faithful efforts. However, we need not live under that exhausting pressure. God makes all our seeds grow.
~Winn Collier

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Meeting Times:: :

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Elders:

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

Minister:

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

Attendance 10/20 86

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 10/20 \$2987.50

October 27, 2019

Kennewick Church of Christ



Worshipping Jesus In His Absence

In Matthew 2, wise men came to Jerusalem seeking "the King" and ultimately found him in a home in the city of Bethlehem. They found Jesus as a child, less than two years old, and the Bible says that they "fell down and worshiped Him" (Matt. 2:11). This was the first time that men worshiped Jesus in His very presence. What a sight!

As you read through the life of Jesus, there were at least nine other occasions when individuals worshiped Jesus in His very presence. "A leper came and worshiped Him" (Matt. 8:2). A man of the Gadarenes, demon-possessed by Legion, "when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him" (Mark 5:6). Jairus, one of the rulers of the synagogue near Capernaum, "came and worshiped Him" (Matt. 9:18). After walking on the water to rescue and comfort His apostles, Jesus got into the boat and the apostles "came and worshiped Him" (Matt. 14:33). A Canaanite woman, whose daughter was severely demon-possessed, having found Jesus in the region of Tyre and Sidon, "came and worshiped Him" (Matt. 15:25). Jesus restored the sight of a man who was blind from birth, and with a heart of faith and gratitude, the man came and "worshiped Him" (John 9:38). The wife of Zebedee and mother of James and John came to Jesus, "worshiping Him" (Matt. 20:20). On His resurrection morning, when Jesus met and greeted the women who came to the tomb, "they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him" (Matt. 28:9). Then, when the eleven disciples went to Galilee as Jesus had instructed, "they saw Him" and "worshiped Him" (Matt. 28:17).

From the time He was a child until the time of His resurrection, men and women were able to worship Jesus in His very presence. What an experience that must have been! Then, on the eastern slopes of the Mount of Olives, over against Bethany, Jesus "parted from them and was carried up into heaven" (Luke 24:50-51). What would the disciples do now? Jesus was gone; He was no longer in their presence. The very next verse states, "They worshiped Him" (Luke 24:52).

The disciples did the same thing in Jesus' absence as they had done in His presence—they worshiped Him! They were still full of awe! They were still full on wonder and amazement! They were still full of thanksgiving! They were still full of humility! They were still driven to honor and praise their King and their Savior! They could not but fall down and worship Him, as if He was still present, for in reality, true worshipers are still in His presence!

We may think that Jesus is not present today, but such a thought could not be further from the truth! He is here! Are you full of awe, wonder, thanksgiving and humility toward your Savior? Let us worship Him...in His presence! ~David Sproule

²⁹Lord, now you are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word.

³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹which you have prepared before the face of all peoples.

³²A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. (Luke 2:29-32)

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| Keep These Dates in Mind | November Birthdays and Anniversaries | | | Give without remembering receive without forgetting |
| 10/12 Men's breakfast and fellowship 10/13 Open Congregational Meeting 5p 10/20 Meet & Greet Potluck with Randy Sparks 11/03 First Sunday Potluck 11/09 Men's breakfast and fellowship 11/10 Open Congregational Meeting 5p | Pat Lindsay 11/1 Sallie Winstead 11/7 Gary & Linda Bills 11/10 Holly Preston 11/29 Connie Stecker 11/30 | | | |
| | Bible Studies | | | |
| Today's Speaker: Leonard Peters Tonight's Video: Has the Bible Been Corrupted – Dave Miller | Adult Bible Classes Sunday am.–Exodus Wed pm – Fruits of the Spirit/Works of the Flesh | Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room | Ladies Class Th. 10-11:30am | |

Issues (ongoing): Karen McBurney, Shirley Childers, Marji Lindholm, Marilyn Davis, Eunice Petros, Tami Pennington, Karen McBurney

Continue to pray for those who are recovering from various surgeries and illnesses. Keep the elders in your prayers as they search for a minister to work with our congregation.

Remember Daylight saving's time ends next Sunday at 2:00am. Adjust you clocks accordingly.



But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

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)

Petu 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)

Just Make It Through the Wilderness

It would be an understatement to say that the Bible was beautifully written. A more accurate statement is that godly men were moved by inspiration to pen the very words that God would have them to write (2 Pet. 1:20-21). Those words contain a very sober and challenging warning with relation to our time on this earth.

"So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience" (Heb. 4:9-11). The writer of Hebrews uses the example of the Israelite nation declining to conquer Canaan because they thought it would be too hard for them. So, the writer makes reference to their, "example of disobedience." In 1 Corinthians chapter 10, Paul broadens the analogy to encompass the entire time of the wilderness wandering by the Israelites as an example of how not to follow God. "Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (1 Cor. 10:11).

So, the challenge to us is to just make it through the wilderness. Don't follow the example of those that failed because of disobedience, lack of faith in God, lack of courage and deficiency in moral character. If the people had been obedient and fully trusting in God, as Joshua and Caleb had been, the story would be quite different. They would have been in the wilderness for less than a year. They would have gone in and conquered the indigenous peoples. They would have established a kingdom with God as their king. They would have rested, and they would have been better examples to us today.

It is easy for us to assume that we would have done better. After all, they were able to hear God's voice on the mountain. They were also able to see the power of God in the plagues. They could see the presence of God in the form of a cloud or fire. The Holy Spirit anticipates that reaction in the reader and had Paul pen these words, "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall" (1 Cor. 10:12). How are you doing with the challenge laid before you?

The Bible clearly teaches that we are just pilgrims passing through (Heb. 11:13; 1 Pet. 2:11). Will your path be a direct one? Straight to the gates of rest that lay beyond this life (Matt. 7:14)? Or will you be denied entrance to the place of rest because of disbelief and lack of conviction? Let us rise to the challenge that is laid before us. Let us labor together and be diligent to enter into that rest that has been prepared for us. Do not be forever lost in the wilderness of sin. ~Josh Blackmer

