

Careful Obedience

The words "careful" and "care" appear 35 times in the book of Deuteronomy. As Moses prepared the people to go in and take possession of the land, he wanted them to practice careful obedience.

They were to be careful not to turn to the right hand or to the left (5:32).

They were to be careful with their children (6:1-3).

They were to be careful because God had loved them (7:8-11).

They were to be careful that it might go well with them in the land (8:1).

They were to be careful not to add to or take from the law (12:32).

They were to be careful to strictly obey the LORD (15:5).

They were to be careful because God had delivered them (16:12).

They were to be careful with all their heart and soul (26:16).

They were to be careful so they might be exalted above the nations (28:1).

They were to be careful because God's name is glorious and awesome (28:58). If this was true under the old covenant, how much more under the new? Should we not have this attitude seeing that we have been saved, "not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy... so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life"? (Titus 3:5, 7)

Indeed we should and we must! "The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works." (Titus 3:8)

~ David Maxson

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: (Beginning 03/01/2020)

Bill Gregory

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

Attendance 02/16 62

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution 02/16 \$2774.00

Feb. 23, 2020

Kennewick Church of Christ

Keeping Up Our Morale Going Into Battle

"So it shall be, when you are on the verge of battle, that the priest shall approach and speak to the people. And he shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them; for the Lord your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you'" (Deuteronomy 20:2-4).

Can you imagine what it would have been like to be an American soldier on June 6, 1944 landing on the first wave of attack on the beach code named Omaha? These soldiers faced a wall of lead fired from German machine guns and so many died that this beach became known as "Bloody Omaha".

As any soldier knows, going into battle is, understandably, a grave and fearful matter. To be able to face such a challenge, it is important for a soldier to have good morale and the confidence and that the generals above him have put together a plan for him to be successful if he does his part. General Dwight David Eisenhower said, "Morale is the greatest single factor in successful wars".

As Moses continues his farewell address to Israel shortly before they are going to cross the Jordan River, he gives instructions regarding conquering the various cities of the Promised Land. As the opening verses above indicate, because God understood the importance of the army of Israel having good morale, these instructions included allowing some to not fight in some of the upcoming battles.

Provisions were made to allow those who might weaken the morale of the army to be allowed to go home and not fight in the battle. Those who had recently built a house but had not dedicated it or had recently planted a vineyard but had not yet eaten of it were allowed to not have to participate in the fight (Deuteronomy 20:5-6). Those who had recently betrothed a wife but had not yet married her were allowed to go home (Deuteronomy 20:7). Even those who were simply fearful and fainthearted were dismissed from the battle (Deuteronomy 20:8).

The army that remained to fight against the cities they faced would not be full of cowards or those who were distracted by the cares of life. Instead, it would be an army of high morale that had confidence that they would be victorious against their enemies because they were not fighting their enemies by their own strength alone. As the opening verse above indicates, the priest reminded the soldiers that God Almighty Himself was leading them into battle!

As Christians we are engaged in a spiritual warfare (2 Corinthians 10:3-4). We face hardships as soldiers of Christ as we are persecuted for standing up for God and His Word (2 Timothy 2:3-4) and striving to remain faithful to God as we face many trials and temptations (Revelation 2:10).

While it is important for us to be properly equipped with the provisions God has given to us (Ephesians 6:10-18), it is also essential that we have outstanding morale in the army of God as we look to God as the One who leads us into battle and fights our battles with us and saves us. God doesn't expect us to rely on our strength alone to fight such battles. Like the apostle Paul, we need to rely on God's strength as we go into battle. Paul wrote, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Church of Christ

Keep These Dates in Mind	February Birthdays and Anniversaries	
02/02 First Sunday Potluck 02/08 Men's fellowship and breakfast 02/09 Open Congregational Meeting 5p 03/01 First Sunday Potluck 03/14 Men's fellowship and breakfast 03/15 Open Congregational Meeting 5p	Leland & Marilyn Davis 2/8 Linda Bills 2/14 Ron Stephens 2/14 Joe Botts 2/15 Wanda Danley 2/16	Al Lindsay 2/16 Danele & Kenneth Chapman 2/16 Rick Freitag 2/18 Jim Preston 2/22 Josh Mendoza 2/27

Today's Speaker
Morning Worship
Joe Botts

Evening Worship
Video

Why the Church of Christ is Different
Alan Highers

Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes Sunday am.–Exodus Wed pm – Acts 13-28 (Paul's Journeys)	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Th. 10-11:30am
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Issues (ongoing): Karen McBurney, Shirley Childers, Marji Lindholm, Marilyn Davis, Eunice Petros, Tami Pennington, Helen Pierce, Lupe Mendoza

Pansy Caywood underwent electrical shock of her heart to address the issue of the afibrillation she has been dealing with. All appeared to go well and her heart is now beating normally.

Bill and Fran Gregory as they complete their move to the Tri-Cities and begin their work with our congregation.

All who have been struggling with the flu and all the other viruses that are making the rounds in the tri-city area this winter.

Don't forget to start collecting and setting aside items for the **Mountain States Children's Home**. The bi-annual collection will soon be upon us.

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)

What is Christ-Like?

Before the Sermon on the Mount begins in Matthew 5, we are told, “From that time, Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Matt. 4:17). He has called some disciples to follow Him (Matt. 4:17). He has called some disciples to follow Him (Matt 4:18-22) and has been teaching, healing and traveling all over Galilee (Matt. 4:23-25). News spread abroad into Syria, and great crowds are following Him to hear His teaching. Before Jesus preached this sermon, He had already begun to model the kind of lifestyle He would ask others to imitate.

People could see something in Jesus. He was not just another preacher with a cause. He had power to perform miracles. He had a message different from any other. He was not political in any sense. His message was spiritual and His life reflected those values.

People have been watching and they liked what they saw and heard from Jesus. This was obvious when fishermen dropped their nets, left their work and lifestyle to follow Him. This was obvious when people, even people who were not Jewish (from Syria and the area of the Decapolis) came to hear Him, too. There was something about the lifestyle of Jesus that appealed to people. He didn't just tell them how to live, He lived it in front of them and then asked them to follow his example.

To understand the sermon on the mount, we must see that it is not a new set of rules and regulations. It was not some sort of Old Testament 2.0, an updated version of a previous operating system for life. It was a whole new way of looking at life, at people and a whole new way of viewing God and responding to Him. Jesus lived an authentic life, and it made His sermon effective.

Once the of people had been exposed to the beginnings of Jesus' ministry of teaching and healing, they were drawn to Him. That is where this great sermon began. “When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them” (Matt. 5:1-2). Jesus climbs a hill, and the crowds people have to follow, climbing up the hill to hear Him. Surely speaking from the top of the hill helped carry His voice farther so that more people could hear Him. But , clearly, the people were eager to hear His message and made the effort.

For the sermon on the mount to have its impact on us, we may have to do some climbing as well. We may have to think more deeply and, perhaps, rethink some of the things we have come to believe about living the Christian life. The message of the sermon on the mount is challenging, demanding and expects a response from everyone who follows the Christ.

You can't just memorize this sermon and think you have its meaning. At some point you must put its principles into action, whether it is your prayer life that needs to change, or your worry about money, or your willingness to love your enemies. It is never easy to treat people with respect and love when they have been unkind, cruel or ugly toward you. Yet, all of this shows up in this sermon. A typical learning suggest you have to look at this message with a new perspective, and compel yourself to adapt to its principles, even if it feels awkward at first. In fact, much of this sermon cannot be understood until you pit it into action. The Lord asks us to go deep into this lesson, and that means opening our minds to its unchanging truths.

Sadly, we can reduce this great sermon to a bunch of rules to follow. We can treat it as just another set of guidelines from God. However, this sermon stands apart for many reasons. Matthew devotes three chapters to this one sermon. It has been described by some scholars as “the constitution of the church.” To understand this message we must go beyond learning its words to applying its meaning.

The disciples and others in the crowd followed Jesus up the hill because they could see that His life was different. They wanted to have that kind of lifestyle for themselves. So, they made the effort to follow. That needs to be our goal as we enter into our exploration of the sermon on the mount. We do not just want to learn the words, we want to imitate the Lord who speaks those words. ~David Thurman