

The Messenger

October 29, 2015



MOMENT'S REFLECTION

"With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it."

-Mark 6:33

Disciples of Jesus were often frustrated because Jesus taught the mysteries of the Kingdom through parables.



"What is the Kingdom of God like? It's like a sower who goes out to sow." Or again, "The Kingdom is like a grain of mustard seed." Each parable was an object lesson drawn from ordinary elements of daily living to teach a deeper truth. But to understand, you had to listen carefully—not only to the words Jesus spoke, but to the intended meaning of the words he spoke. And this frustrated eager disciples of Jesus. They weren't hard of hearing. They could hear his words. But they had difficulty comprehending what those words had to do with the Kingdom. Jesus often had to interpret.

From a teaching standpoint, at first glance, you might be inclined to say that Jesus' teaching wasn't effective. He spoke but few understood. And yet for Jesus, the process of learning was just as critical as the answer itself. And this is why Jesus chose to teach in parables. Each parable was an invitation, a sort of intellectual irritant that provoked the mind to stop and listen and to understand. A good parable engaged the hearer to further thinking. The parable required sustained attention. You couldn't simply repeat what Jesus said and get it. You had to ponder it. And insofar as you took the time to ponder it, you got it. And once you got, you gained entrance into the deeper mysteries of God's kingdom.

It seems to me that our drive-through culture has little patience for parables. We prefer direct speech and sound-bite instructions. Let me illustrate with a couple of parables of my own.

Parable #1: I was at the doctor's office waiting to have some lab work done to complete my annual physical. It had been a long week. I was tired. My nerves were a little frayed. It was early morning and I relished the opportunity to simply sit and be. But it was hard to think a thought. The waiting room was filled with the noise of two loud TV monitors and the morning talk shows. When I finally got into the lab room, I said to the lab tech, "Thank goodness there aren't any TV monitors in here." She said, "You don't like to watch TV?" I said, "Yes. But not all the time." She said, "So if you couldn't watch TV while you waited what would you do?"

Parable #2: My older brother and I were watching an NBA game. Minnesota Timberwolves and LA Lakers. The Timberwolves' coach died recently. Flip Saunders. After the introduction of players the arena lights were turned down, a picture of Flip Saunders and the words, "1955-2015" were put on the screen. The PA announcer said, "The basketball world has lost a truly great man and coach. In memory of Flip Saunders will you please join me in a moment of silence?" Just as the PA announcer finished speaking, the TV station left the live broadcast and the silence and the pondering darkness and went back to the chatty light-ness of the studio in New York, stealing this would-be moment of silence to squeeze in a few more words of analysis.

You'll no doubt ask me what these parables have to do with the Kingdom. Simply this: It's hard to hear any deep truth of Christ if you can't at least sit still long enough to listen for it, devote a minute or two to ponder it. The Psalmist put it this way: "Be still and know that I am God." **-Dan**



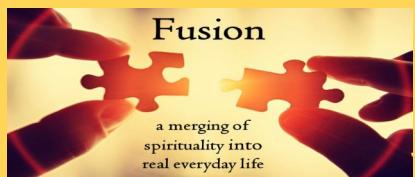
CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Contact Stan McGill if you are interested in joining.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS rehearsals are held on Sunday Evenings — **Youth Choir** (3rd Grade and up) meets from 4:00pm-5:00pm. **Children's Choir** (4 yrs old through 2nd grade) meets from 5:30pm-7pm. Contact Tammy Holcomb for more information.

HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSALS are held on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm. Contact Virginia McBee for more information.

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Our MOPS group meets from 5:00pm-7:00pm on the second and fourth Sundays most months. Next meeting is Sunday, November 8th. Always feel free to refer a mommy friend!



FUSION1- This gathering is for ALL adults (male, female, married, single, kid-less, with-child...). This group meets the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month at a designated location in the community. Next gathering is Wednesday, November 4th, 6:30-9:00pm at **Fuzzy's** in Rowlett. Childcare is available at the church with prior RSVP.

FUSION GUYS- The men gather the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, 6:30-9:00pm. They rotate meeting in one another's homes. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 11th, location TBD.

FUSION GALS- The women gather the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month, 7:00-9:00pm at the church. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 18th.

Christian Senior Helpers Raffle Fundraiser



CSH will be selling raffle tickets for a \$100 Home Depot Gift Card to help raise funds to continue their incredible mission work in our community. You can buy one ticket for \$1 or 11 tickets for \$10. The drawing will be held at the Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 22nd. You can find the raffle station in the Fellowship Hall next to the lovely house cut-out that was painted by our children at the Fall Festival.

What is Christian Senior Helpers? CSH is a new mission initiative that FCCG started this past year. Our mission teams provide minor home repairs, maintenance and upkeep to local elderly individuals and families. These individuals are identified by the City of Garland Housing and Community Services Department as at-risk and in need. Many of the participants are unable to adequately provide the care for their homes that is needed due to low income, disability, or mobility and age limitations.

To date, we have completed three projects totaling a cost of over \$1000. Our hope is to continue this program with monthly projects; however, our funds are depleted and we

are in dire need of additional funds. This raffle will help start to raise some of these needed funds.

You can help by: *Buying raffle tickets *Offering additional monetary donations *Participating in the mission projects
Your support of CSH is greatly appreciated!

For more information, contact Don & Cyndy Smith, dray52@verizon.net or Rev. Casey Tanguay, casey@fccgarland.org.



FCCG HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR
 Saturday, December 5th, 9:00am—3:00pm
 Benefits Youth Mission Trip

FALL BIBLE STUDY

“Excellence: Learning to Run With the Horses”



Four Sunday Evenings Beginning October 11-November 8, 6:00pm-7:00pm (Cole Parlor); Dr. Dan Leading.

This 4-week study will be a meditation on the life of the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah encountered difficulty in being faithful to God. He was ready to give up. But God challenged him: *"If you have raced with men on foot, and they have worn you out, how will you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?"* (Jeremiah 12:5). This is a study to **answer the question:** “How can we live life courageously so as to run with the horses?”

November 1—Honest Prayer (Jeremiah 15:10-21)

November 8—Making the Best of It (Jeremiah 29:1-14)



GISD CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Sunday, November 15th
 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary



A big **THANK-YOU** is extended to all who brought school supply and backpack donations on Children’s Sabbath! We collected about 30 backpacks filled with supplies which were donated to the Refugee Services of Texas through their partnership with Disciples Home Missions and Church World Service. These backpacks and supplies will be greatly appreciated by local incoming refugee children. Information about the worldwide refugee crisis can be found at the UNHCR website: <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>

-Rev. Casey

CABINET and BOARD MEETINGS on Monday, November 9th

Cabinet Meeting at 6:45pm in the Parlor

Board Meeting at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

PRAYER REQUESTS

Circle of Fellowship

Faythe Armstrong
Tommie Potts
Virginia Yohe

Cup of Life

Jack Barger
Robbie Collister
Nicole Moore

God's Messengers

Charles Terry

Hands of Faith

Bobbie Caldwell
Savannah Caldwell
Gary Carroll
Mary Carroll
Glenda Lee
David Worden

The Grapevine

Judi Archibald
Keith Biffle
Joyce Witt Boyd
Dylan Godwin
Lynda Simpson
Tracey Williams

Elders-On-Call for November:

John Grasham (214.704.1934)
Kristen Nowlin (972.567.2132)



There are several items in the Church's ***Lost and Found*** box—eyeglasses, single earrings, a ring. Contact the Church Office if you're missing something.



Good Samaritans Needs Donations of Hygiene Kits for the Homeless of Garland



Need Travel Size Items—

Moist wipes	Washcloths
Razors/Shaving Cream	Deodorant
Toothpaste/Toothbrushes	Soap

Donation Box in Fellowship Hall

DWM November Circle Gatherings

Morning Circle

Monday, November 2nd at 9:30am

Evening Circle

Tuesday, November 3rd at 6:45pm

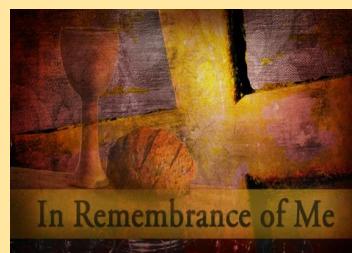
(childcare available at Evening Circle)



Contact: Cindy Kyle (cikyle7979@gmail.com)

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

is served on the first Sunday of each month by an Elder. If you would like to be served, please contact the Church Office.



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