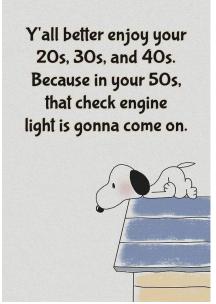
Family Matters

NEWS AND REMINDERS FOR THE TEHACHAPI CHURCH OF CHRIST FAMILY

March 23, 2025



We will see in today's lesson from John 8 that Jesus' enemies tried to lay a trap for him. One of the most interesting things that happened was something that seemed to be the result of a humility based on the years of life experience of those in the crowd.

It was when Jesus said, "Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone." Every person eventually walked away except the woman who was being used as bait in the trap. The oldest ones in the crowd left first! They seemed to be more aware of their own sin, and had more of that humility that is the key to faith.

It would have been even more impressive if they had never been a part of the scheme from the outset. We could call that "pre-emptive humility". That would be an ever-present sense of our need for mercy which would prevent us from pretending to be better than those who seem to lack any shame. We are guiltless, but only because we are forgiven through God's mercy. Let us extend mercy to every other person with humility and grace!

-Mark

Today's Lesson

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...**Believe it or Not...**Mercy Me! Mercy for Me!

John 8:1-11

What happened up front?

Way back during my first year living in Tehachapi, the elders approved the project that we just now finished! The idea was to put in the wall and door, and for me to use that as my study. As I began using the church office space, which had heating and cooling, that office was used only by Mike during Covid, when he was not allowed to go in to the school facilities, and also by Kyle Parks, when he did the internship that one summer. They were able to manage without a wall and door, so we never started on those.

So, why did we finish it now? For at least the rest of this calendar year, we will be hosting Cornerstone Center for Counseling and Discipleship. They have two Christian counselors, **Josh** and **John**, and they provide counseling for most issues, including a long-term drug and alcohol treatment outpatient program that has been very successful. As to the room, their certification requires the ability to lock their offices for the privacy of their clients. They were previously in a facility that was sold, and the new owners raised the lease payments beyond a reasonable rate, so they hope to find their own facilities within a goal of eight months. In the meantime, we welcome the opportunity to help their ministry continue, and if you or anyone that you know of might benefit from their services, you know where to find them!

You can read more about their five-year history in the most recent "Loop".

We can thank Ken for stepping up and doing his usual outstanding job with the renovations, which included the wall and door, the trim and painting, replacement of the cracked windows, trim on the outside door, replacement of the locks, and other details. Blair added an outlet in the new wall, and will be trouble-shooting the problem with one of the outlets that is dead.

Remember in Prayer:

Piper Carina Rivera, Corfman's granddaughter born on March 14th has a cephalohematoma under her scalp. It should be harmless and go away on its own.

Victoria Belizario is six-months pregnant, and has been suffering serious issues, and has been told that she will have to be induced. She was sent from Adventist in Tehachapi to Adventist in Bakersfield, then to Fresno., and she is still there.

Sandeep in India is recovering after a brutal attack by several enemies of his faith.

Vicki and Ken's daughter-in-law's mother, Priscilla, had her surgery on Thursday, in Portland, and is doing well! Pray for full healing from pancreatic cancer.

April Wilev asks for prayers for her husband.

Cindy's brother-in-law, **Randy**, is now being treated with a different cancer therapy, which is hoped to be very helpful, although not a cure.

Cindy's family has lost **Gene Studer**, the father of Cindy's son-in-law, Steven. Cindy's daughter Natausha was his nurse, and was very close to him. Pray for them all!

Minnie's brother **Nathan** remains in the hospital after his triple bypass surgery.

Minnie's sister-in-law, **Maria** had back surgery. Pray for her relief from pain!

Kayla has seen a new doctor who believes he can relieve her problem surgically, and she has been living without pain medications for a couple of months. Surgery has been approved by insurance, and could be soon.

Ruthie's nephew, Will Burgett, is now in the hospice hospital.

Melissa's friend, **Mark Martinez** is doing well after his hip surgery, but appreciates prayers for recovery.

Continue prayers for Maxine King, mother of Melissa.

Galina Gurova, a friend of Melissa, needs healing from lymphoma

In addition to his paralysis, **Kirk Stewart** has cancerous sores on his head, and now on his left ear. Removing it would risk paralysis of his face, so no treatment is planned.

Pray for health and healing for Bob Rivera.

Bob asks for prayers for his son, **Joseph** who is in Israel working security. **Karen's** friends, **Wolf**, **Jon** and **Wayne**, and colleagues, **Trish**, and **Tommy**, all have cancer.

Always Remember:

Those in the military, especially Joseph Budai, Gaylen Gibson, and Sheri Huckabay's nephew, Jason Adams, and Patty Johnson's grandson, Andrew Thompson.

The children and staff at Manuelito Navajo Children's Home

Those serving in other mission fields, including Blair's friend Sandeep in India

Pray for the homeless, and pray for Blair as he works to minister to them.

Those suffering in Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Gaza, and in other "hot spots" around the world.

Pray for those who have suffered so much loss of property and some who have lost loved ones in the tornadoes in the South and the Midwest.

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Schedule of Weekly Services and other meetings

Sunday

Worship - 10:30am

Monday

Al-Anon is meeting at 7:00pm*

Tuesday

Alcoholics Anonymous is meeting at 6:00pm*

Wednesday

Al-Anon is meeting at noon*

 $PM\ Bible\ Study-7:00pm$

Thursday

Al-Anon is meeting at 7:00pm*

Friday

Alcoholics Anonymous is meeting at 7:00pm*

Saturday

Men's AA meeting at 8:00am, and Women's AA meeting at 9:30am*

*Al-Anon and Alcoholics Anonymous are not direct ministries of the church, but their purposes are supported by the church, and they meet in our Fellowship Room.

Minister: Mark Bixler

Elders: Derek Demus & Bill Willingham

What plans might God have for your life?

Jesus personally intervened in the life of Saul on the road to Damascus. Saul had made it his mission to persecute followers of Jesus. A man named Ananias was sent to Saul to tell him that God had very different plans for his life. Ananias said to Saul, "...what are you waiting for?

Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:3-16)

If you might be on the wrong path, it would be our privilege to help you discover God's plans for your life! Ask for a personal Bible study on the Welcome Card, or contact Mark Bixler.

Mark Bixler's office hours by appointment

Call or text: 818-470-5793 Email: marklbixler@yahoo.com

Bible Class – 9:30am

Elder of the Month:

Bill Willingham