



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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AND HE WAS ANGRY, AND WOULD NOT GO IN

Joshua Cantrell

When reading the book of Luke, chapter 15 certainly has been a chapter that we often use to bring many applicable truths. Jesus will give one parable, with three illustrations. The text begins with Jesus addressing the publicans and sinners. Luke records, "Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and Scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. (Luke. 15:1-2). Among the three illustrations, Jesus gives we want to focus our attention on the last one. The Prodigal son (Luke. 15:11-32).

The Father allowed his son to receive his inheritance, and he wasted it (Luke. 15:13-14). That son "comes to himself," and decided to return home (Luke. 15:17-18). The Father was excited, and the people are excited. Everyone is excited, except for the Elder brother (Luke. 15:25-27). As a result of that, the Father spends time putting his thoughts and attention on his other son.

THE ELDER BROTHER WAS... CURIOUS

The Bible records for us, "Now his elder son was in the field: and he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing." (Luke. 15:25). The Elder brother was in the field, doing what was required of him. Each step the older brother takes toward home the more confused he becomes. In his mind maybe he's saying "I did not know we were having a party. I did not know we had a celebration going on today." Luke records, "And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant." (Luke. 15:26). The brother did not expect to get the answer he got. Often being curious leads us to hear hard truths about ourselves, that we ultimately have to change.

The elder brother was a hard-working servant of the Father and must have felt betrayed and angry. The Father gave the younger son the place he should have belonged to him. Luke continues, "And he said unto him, Thy brother has come, and they father hath killed the fatted calf because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came to his father out, and intreated him." (Luke. 15:27-28). Often this attitude makes its way amongst the people of God. We wonder why one person is receiving so much attention, affection, and love. We feel left out, neglected, and rejected. We arrest ourselves with our thoughts, and God is entreating us to draw closer to him. We don't have to be angry outside of the house when we can be happy within the house.

The Father loves both of his sons so much that he goes looking for the older son. Throughout scripture how many times do we see our father pleading, calling, and looking for us? "And the LORD God called unto Adam and said unto him? Where art thou?" (Genesis. 3:9). When we are wrong, we see God goes looking for his children. How often do children hide from their parents because they have done the very thing their parents told them not to do? Yet, the parent goes looking for them. The elder brother was curious for all the wrong reasons.

THE ELDER BROTHER WAS... CALLOUS

Luke records, "And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends." (Luke. 15:29). To be callous is to be thick, or hard, for better terms it means to be stubborn. The elder brother is quoting Deuteronomy 6:14. He tells his father all my life I have kept your commandments, I have done everything you've asked me to do. How many people today do things with the wrong attitude?

How many are in local congregations feeling the same way the Elder brother is feeling? We have to be the first ones to welcome those back who have been away in the pig's pen of life.

When confronted with the fact that his father took his younger brother back he could not understand. He goes on to say, "But as soon as this thy son was come, which devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf." (Luke. 15:30). One of the worst things we can do is remind someone of whom they used to be. Especially when they are doing everything they can to make themselves better. We all have sinned and struggled (Romans. 3:23). We all need God's grace and forgiveness in our lives. The elder brother attacks his younger brother and his father as well. The elder brother did not understand the younger brother had been restored. The younger son went from "give me" to "Make me a servant." He came to himself, humbled himself, and went back to his father to make that right.

When a person is restored into the family of God, we have a great opportunity to make that person feel loved and welcomed. Our father in heaven does that for us, and we must do that for each other. Because the older brother was callous, his pride got in the world of doing what was right. It's often easy to notice the faults in others, but we have to be reminded we have our own. James would urge us to "look into the perfect law of liberty." (James. 1:25). By doing so we daily are being examined (2 Corinthians. 13:5).

THE ELDER BROTHER WAS... CENTERED ON HIMSELF

The Bible will tell us to deny ourselves, examine ourselves, and humble ourselves. Of others, it will say esteem them, prefer them, encourage them, consider them. When we only think about ourselves it leaves no room for others to be lifted. The older brother is outside upset and angry thinking only of himself but blaming his brother. I cannot fill myself with Jesus until I first empty myself of myself. If you are not a forgiving person, ask God to help you overcome that. Paul would say, "And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Eph. 4:32).

The father's final words in the account reveal for us primarily something about our God. Luke records, "And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this, thy brother was dead, and is alive again, and was lost, and is found." (Luke. 15:31-32). Would you have gone back in to encourage your brother? Would you go welcome them back into the family of God? How you answer those questions will not only reveal your heart but potentially where you will spend eternity. The Father welcomed the younger son back home, and God will do the same for us as well. On the other side of your repentance, you will find the forgiveness of God (1 John. 1:7-2:1).



**Sunday
October
30**

**Free
Candy**

**TRUNK
or
TREAT**

following evening worship (around 7:00 p.m.)

Please do not wear costumes to worship.

There will be time to change afterward.

The Widow's Two Mites

One time, a little boy was given two coins from his mother. She gave him a dime for his allowance and a quarter to put into the collection. When the collection plate was passed, his mother saw him put the dime in the basket and keep back the quarter. Later, she asked him why he did not do as he was told and he responded, "The man said during the prayer to give with a cheerful heart. My heart was happier giving the dime than the quarter." While the young boy may have missed the point a little it does reveal the main issue when it comes to giving, our heart. To this Luke recorded a scene when Jesus was in the temple. He and His disciples were watching people put money in the treasury. Some were very rich people, putting in large sums of money. But Jesus noted the giving of a little widow who gave two pennies (Luke 21:1-4). You might be confused about why Jesus commended her, but He said, "This poor widow has put in more than all, she out of her poverty put in all that she had." Though she did not have much money to give, she willingly gave it all. When we place God first in our lives it shows up first in our hearts. The widow with the two mites put God first, so she gave all she had. Thus, she is an example that we should follow. It is not about how much or how little money we have, but it is about how much love we have for God. When we say we want Jesus to be Lord of our lives that means we need to make Him Lord over our hearts, and it certainly means we make him Lord of our money, too.

-Vince

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Jim Turner - health
 Brian Smith - heart health
 Debbie Bush - struggles
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Wayne Shearer - health
 Geny Johnson - health
 Sophia Smith- in TICU @ LRMCC

PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Annett Phillip - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Brenda Mask - health
 Bitsy Thomas - injury

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board. Please let the office know if someone's status on that list needs to be updated or if a person needs to be removed from the list

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason

Brothers, pray for us. 1 Thessalonians 5:25



*Our deepest sympathies
 are extended to the family of Rex Long,
 Bill and Carlene Long's son.
 Our thoughts and prayers are with
 the family during this difficult time.*

Disaster Relief Supplies

There is a list in the foyer of the supplies we are collecting for those affected by Hurricane Ian. Please place any supplies on the desk in the back hall, next to the library door. Thank you!

If you would like to donate money, please earmark your funds "disaster relief", and the elders will make sure they get sent to a local congregation near those affected.

5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be **October 30, 2022.**

if you would like to give additional funds at other times, please mail or bring them to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the Building Fund. It will be collected by the elders.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

SEPTEMBER

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/prayer Kyle Faneuf
 Devo Vince Daugherty
 Closing Prayer David Deal

Sunday, October 9th, 2022

10:30 A.M.

True Commitment ... Josh Cantrell
 Luke 14:26-27

6:00 P.M.

Do I Become Your Enemy Because of Truth? ... Josh Cantrell
 Galatians 4:15-16

10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before class Frank Hamby
 Announcements Jimmy Sweeney
 A.M. Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
 Scripture reading/Prayer Kyle Bingle
 Lord's Table Josh Estridge
 Closing Prayer David Williams
 Open/Close bldg (both) B. Sheumaker
 Greeters E. & C. Smith
 Attendance cards (both) Colby/ Ellis

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Wayne Shearer
 Lord's Table Josh Estridge
 Closing Prayer Phil Fife
 Greeters Sweeney

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Announcements Brian Kenyon
 Song Leader/Prayer..... Andre Medley
 Devo Josh Cantrell
 Closing Prayer George Davis

Upcoming Events

October

9 - Elders, Deacons, & Preachers' Meeting
 9-13 - Eagle Lake Gospel Meeting
 21 - Fiesta Friday
 27 - Ladies' Night Out
 30 - Trunk or Treat

November

11-13- WWCC Fall Family Camp
 13- Elders, Deacons, & Preachers' Meeting
 13-16- Fall gospel meeting



~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Sep 18	\$5,357.80
Sep 25	\$5,629.00
Oct 2	\$8,876.00
Contribution Average	\$6,620.93
Weekly budget	\$7,663.43

*There's no me without you
 I didn't just appear from out of the blue
 There's no me without you
 I can never deny it because it's true
 There's no me without you
 Your word has transformed me and made me new
 There's no me without you
 Thank you, God, for all you do
 There's no me without you
 All praises and honor belong to you.*

Inspired by Psalm 71:5-7

Without God we are nothing! He is our maker and sustainer!

Verses of Hope

This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"
 Lamentations 3:21-24

My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word.
 Psalm 119:81

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 Romans 15:13

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.
 Hebrews 10:23

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com
 Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
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Return Service Requested

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Galatians 5:13



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.