

# The Better Way

Volume XXXIX, Issue 27

June 30, 2024

## SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Spring, TX 77373

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### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.  
Worship.....10:00 a.m.  
Afternoon Worship.....1:00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.  
(via Zoom Meetings)

#### ELDERS

David P. Brown  
Ken Cohn  
John West

#### DEACONS

Bret Bailey  
J. D. Gunter  
Eric Paluka

#### EVANGELIST

David P. Brown

#### SECRETARY

Sonya West

## THE TEST OF FAITHFULNESS

(Luke 6:39-49)

J. C. Davidson

### INTRODUCTION

With the beatitudes begins Luke's parallel to the Sermon on the Mount, and the question arises whether he is reporting the same or a different sermon. At first sight the scene seems to appear different, and this is usually distinguished by calling it "The Sermon on the Plain"; for our Lord "**came down**" with the apostles from some height where He had been with them, "**and stood on a level place.**" But Kum Hattin, the hill to the west of the Sea of Galilee which is the traditional place of the Sermon on the Mount, may be the place of the Sermon on the Plain also; for between the two "horns" of the hill is a level place on the top of the hill sufficient to accommodate Christ's audience—a "plain" on a "mount." On the whole, the two sermons may be regarded either as reports of different discourses or as different versions of the same discourse. Doubtless Christ often repeated His sayings and parables, varying them to meet the needs of different audiences.

Our study today is a discussion of the conclusion of the great sermon as given by Luke.

### FAITHFULNESS VERSUS BLIND GUIDES

(Verses 39, 40)

Palestine was full of blind men, and sometimes a string of them might be led by one person who could see; but what a picture of inept misery if a blind man should undertake such a task! The one who is taught cannot be expected, even when his education is finished, to know more than the one who teaches him; then if his teacher is blind, how blind must be the pupil!

The spiritual blindness characteristic of our time is due directly to teachers who set aside the commandments of God for human tradition and masses of people who are willing to have it so. The apostle Paul warned of the time that would come when "**they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables**" (2 Tim. 4:3, 4).

Faithfulness is characterized by daily seeking the clear vision of a spirit-opened eye that comes through the study of and meditation upon the word of the Lord and prayer (Psa. 1:2, 3; 1 Tim. 4:15).

### FAITHFULNESS VERSUS HYPOCRISY

(Verses 41, 42)

In a charitable spirit toward the faults of others, faithfulness will also manifest itself. While we must never at any time condone the wrongs in

our fellowman, we will ever be aware of our faults and having rid our lives of them through the cleansing blood of Christ will then be in position, with meekness and with fear to restore those who are overtaken in faults. It is crass hypocrisy to seek to teach, correct, and guide another when our life is in far more urgent need of reform! What a sting was in Christ's condemnation, "**scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites**"! What a challenge for self-examination in His words, "**Physician, heal thyself.**"

This parable of the tree and its fruit, teaches very clearly that the results of a life cannot be different from the life itself.

### **FAITHFULNESS AND FRUIT-BEARING (Verses 43-45)**

Faithfulness to Christ and His kingdom will show itself in service rendered and souls saved. One can no more serve Christ and reap corruption of the flesh than he can sow to the flesh and reap the things of the spirit. "**By their fruits ye shall know them**" said Jesus. A true Christian who puts the kingdom of God and God's righteousness first in his life will see the consequent promised fulfilled (Mat. 6:33). By such living for God and His kingdom the Christian will wield an influence for much good such as will cause others to glorify God (Mat. 5:16). "**The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life**" (Pro. 11:30).

### **THE TWO BUILDERS (Verses 46-49)**

The only safe and enduring basis of a life is obedience to the commands of our Lord, Jesus Christ. What an adequate conclusion to this great sermon! It is not enough for one to call Him "**Lord**" while refusing to honor His word. The words of Jesus are worthy of the same reverence and respect as is His person. There was a tendency on the part of many during the life of Christ on the earth, and there are still many in the world today, who would profess a deeply pious attitude toward the *person* of God and Christ, but who want to have their own way in many things pertaining to religion, and are lacking in respect for the will and way of the Lord as revealed in His *word*. They are much influenced by the doctrines, commandments, and traditions of men, and as is characteristic of all such always, they are disposed to leave the commandment of the Lord, that they might keep their own tradition. Even in our own great brotherhood there is a strange sound be-

ing heard, "not on the *plan* but on the *man* is where our emphasis should be in preaching." All such would do well to read carefully Luke 6:46 of our text. In Luke 10:16, Jesus teaches that one cannot accept the person of God and reject either what He, or those sent by him, *taught* concerning God and His will. He who rejected the word of those who were sent by Christ, rejected Christ; and he who rejected Christ, rejected God who sent Christ. So it is today; they who reject the words of the apostles who were sent by Christ to make known His will, whose words are now recorded for all men in the New Testament, reject Christ Himself; and they who reject Christ, reject God who sent Him.

True faithfulness will manifest itself in the life of one who loves Christ and will be found striving to do His will. To accomplish this one must study the word of God, for faith comes no other way (Rom. 10:17), and then make application of its teachings. Hearing the word and failing to obey is the highest kind of folly. Such a person is "**like unto a man that beholdeth his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was**" (Jam. 1:23, 24).

Hearing and obeying the will of God are the highest manifestations of wisdom for, "**blessed are they that do this commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates of the city**" (Rev. 22:14).

**Deceased**

## **VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

[www.churchesofchrist.com](http://www.churchesofchrist.com)

- . Live broadcast
- . Sermon videos
- . Articles
- . Lectureship videos
- . Debates
- . Bible Study Course
- . Bible Reading Schedule
- . Links to Faithful works



# Vacation Bible School

## PARABLES OF JESUS # 1

July 15-17, 2024

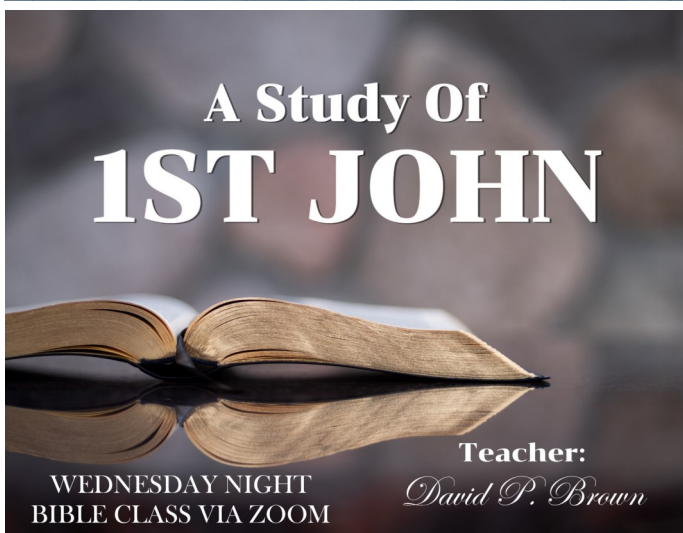
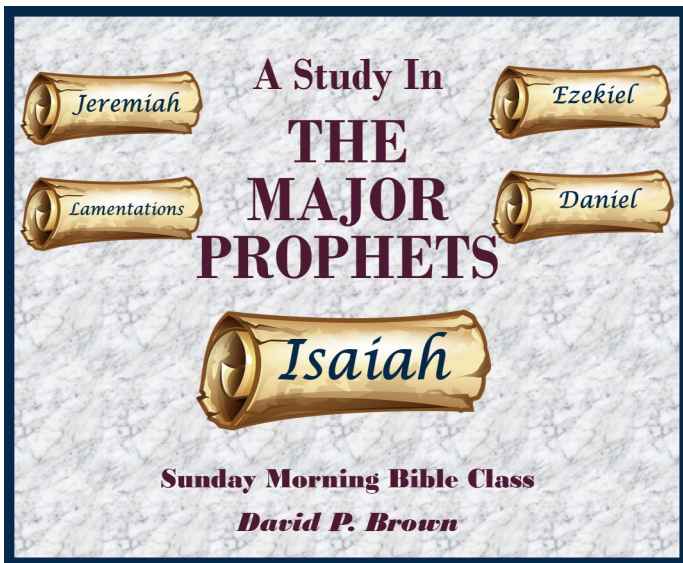
Monday-Wednesday

9:00 am—11:00 am

Spring Church of Christ

1327 Spring Cypress Road, Spring, TX 77373

281-353-2707 ~ [springcoc@gmail.com](mailto:springcoc@gmail.com)



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Today:** Monthly meal & afternoon singing service.
- **Mon-Wed, July 15th-17th:** VBS at Spring. Theme: "Parables Of Jesus."
- **Sunday, July 28th:** Monthly meal & afternoon singing service.
- **Tuesday, July 30th:** Ladies' Bible Class. Lauren Paluka will be presenting a lesson on the "Joy of Affliction."
- **Saturday, September 28th:** Fall Fellowship at Walker County Fairgrounds, Huntsville, TX.
- **Saturday, October 26th:** Fish Hatchery Road Lectureship. "James: Practical Christianity Part 3."
- **Saturday, November (TBA):** Chili Cook-off at Burroughs Park.

## THOSE TO SERVE

**SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024**

**Announcements** John West  
**Scripture Reading** Steven Johnson  
*Rev. 17:7-18*

**Song Leader** Jonathan West  
**Prayer** David Brown/John West (AM)  
Zack Nero/Steven Johnson (PM)

**Speaker** Eric Paluka

**Lord's Table (AM)**  
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

J.D. Gunter Andrew Paluka  
Steven Johnson Gary Blasingame

**Lord's Table (PM)**

Joshua West Ben Gunter

**Audio/Video Monitor** Joshua West  
**Camera/Door Monitor** J.D. Gunter

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2024**

*(via Zoom Meetings)*

**Announcements** Ken Cohn  
**Speaker** Andrew Paluka  
**Bible Class Teacher** David Brown

**FOR JUNE**

**Prepare Communion** West  
**Lock Buildings** Bailey  
**Prepare Bulletin Board** N. Cohn

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Gayle Barnett, April McCain, Zack Nero, Debbie Brannon, Edith Young, Noah & Glenda Hackworth, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Charles & Ann Nero, Nathaniel Rimmer, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Orlinda Chumbley, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

## TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

How many times was the temple built?

**Answer to last week's question:**  
David; 2 Samuel 18:3