

Clay's Corner

"And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, 'Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?' And Jesus answered them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.'" - Luke 5:29-32

Several things have happened to me or around me in the first three days of this week that have caused me to question several things about who I am in relation to Jesus. Last week I talked about our call to holiness. I mentioned that my greatest desire is to be mistaken for Jesus. I doubt that will ever happen. But it is a worthy goal. And I believe with all that I am that it is a goal that we are all called to as followers of the Christ.

Now, I said all that to say this, as of this writing, I have had conversations with three different people and one referral from whom I hope to hear from soon, all from different walks of life, three locals, one distant, two I know personally, two I've never met face to face, all of them in different situations... but all facing the same problem: Evil and its effects on their lives.

And as I have attempted to minister to these individuals one thing kept coming to the forefront as I listened to them tell me their stories, explain to me their hurts and express their desire to find something better; their language. "Be Holy for I am Holy," kept creeping into my mind as I listened to the very language that I have tried so hard to distance myself from in my own walk with the Lord.

The question kept coming up in my thoughts, "At what point do I ask them to refrain from using such foul language?" Do I tell them right off that I do not tolerate such language and risk alienating them? Or do I accept them in their environment for now and seek to build a relationship before I lead them to the true healer of all things physical and spiritual? How can I work in this? What do I do? My desires are to reach out to these people? Yet, if I immediately begin to point out their obvious shortcomings I risk having them walk out the door, never to return. Many have taken that risk and failed. Many have drawn lines in the sand and said I can't help you until you learn to do this or do that.

So, I turned to scripture for the answer. And I came across this story of Jesus and Levi. The Pharisees didn't deal with these people because they were sinners. They wouldn't give them the time of day much less carry on a discourse with them about their spiritual needs; except to point out their failings. Jesus on the other hand, accepted the invitation and walked right in among them, course jesting, foul language, and all, and sat down with them to eat and begin a relationship.

I don't recommend this to just anyone. You can't be weak and do what the Lord did. Neither too, can you be self-righteous. But you must be able to look beyond the obvious. One must be willing to listen to the Spirit of the soul and ignore the noise of the world in order to accomplish the will of the Father. For indeed it is the sick who have need of a doctor, not the healthy or the righteous. And a real doctor treats disease, not symptoms.

As such, at some point a doctor will tell the patient what must be done in order to be well. But, first he must make a diagnosis. In order to make the diagnosis he must examine the patient. He cannot do that without being in close proximity to the patient. So Jesus sat and ate with the sinners. So too then, shall I.

In the coming weeks, I hope the fruits of my labors will pay off in the harvest of souls. I hope you'll join me in prayers this week that this will be the case.

PRAYER LIST

- **Monty Allen** (Susan Barnick's friend's brother—cancer)
- **Pauline Alvarez** (knee pain, upcoming surgery Nov. 10)
- **Lauren Babb** (health)
- **Brooke Bertling** (Haley Ratliff's friend—breast cancer)
- **Ty Brooks** (Winegearts' grandson—recovering from ankle surgery)
- **Dawn Clark** (Shirley Kuchynka's daughter)
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound, rheumatoid arthritis)
- **David Davis** (Joyce Faires's brother—job hunting)
- **Eric Davis and Rose**
- **Helen Davis** (recovering from hip surgery)
- **Joyce Faires** (knee)
- **Lance Fougerat**
- **Keith Glass** (health)
- **Chestly Gobar, Jordyn and Lucy**
- **Herb Hahn** (health)
- **Mrs. Johnson** (Susan Barnick's boss—cancer)
- **Jacque Jungbauer** (Moerbes' friend—recovering from back surgery)
- **Katy and Family** (Kelly Mason's friends—Katy's sister injured in motorcycle accident)
- **Evlynn Lawrence** (Sweeneys' granddaughter)
- **Justen Lawrence**
- **Guy Lowe** (Clay Mason's friend—health)
- **Leanne Mason** (recovering from surgery)
- **Gladys Moerbe** (Randy's mother—health, hospice)
- **Claudia Morris** (Perry Winegeart's sister—health)
- **Sid Roberts** (Faireses' friend—ICU, Breckenridge Hospital in Austin)
- **Lewis Romain and the country of Dominica** (storm damage)
- **Ruth** (Joyce Faires's sister-in-law)
- **Sharon Saint** (Zach Babb's mother—recovering from surgeries)
- **Maria Vasquez** (Joyce Faires's neighbor—health)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, victoriawjohnson@outlook.com.

PRAYER UPDATES

Pauline Alvarez is scheduled for knee replacement surgery this Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 9 a.m. at Stone Oak Methodist Hospital in San Antonio.

Gladys Moerbe, Randy's mother, suffered multiple strokes last weekend. She is not a candidate for a rehabilitation facility and was moved into hospice care.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Sunday: Rocky Creek Maze

Please join us **TODAY** for Youth Sunday at the Rocky Creek Maze (784 Co Rd 251, Moulton, TX 77975) at 2 p.m. After our time at Rocky Creek, we will go to the Chrismons' house in Shiner for dinner and a devotional. Our activities should conclude by 7 p.m. Admission to the maze is \$10 per person. You may pick up a flyer in the foyer for more information. **If you would like to ride together, please meet at the building at 1:30 p.m.**

Directories are coming!

If you have not had your picture made for the new directory, please meet with Victoria Johnson after church **TODAY**. **There will be a final makeup day for pictures next Sunday, Nov. 15.** If your picture or information sheet is not received by the 15th, it will not be included in the new directory. If you need a new information sheet, additional copies are available in the foyer.

Schertz Lectures

Schertz Church of Christ is hosting their 13th Annual Schertz Lectures **today through Wednesday**. This year's theme is "Studies in Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon." For more information, please see the brochure on the large bulletin board in the foyer or visit the church's Website.

ISF Thanksgiving Dinner

Our dinner with ISF (Intermediate Sanction Facility) residents and staff is less than two weeks away. This year's ISF Thanksgiving Dinner is on **Friday, November 20. Please plan to arrive at the facility between 4:15 and 4:30 p.m.** We plan to eat around 4:45 p.m. The food will be prepared next **Wednesday, November 18, in the annex from 5:30-7 p.m.** Please bring desserts to the annex by the 18th as the food will be picked up on Thursday morning. The sign-up sheet to provide desserts and to attend the meal is available on the table in the foyer. Please keep in mind, no children under 16 are allowed at the ISF facility.

YOUTH ZONE

SUNDAY, NOV. 8
SOFTBALL
GONZALES SELECT @ HUBER RANCH FALL CLASSIC

THURSDAY, NOV. 12
GIRLS BASKETBALL
SHINER JR HIGH @ SCHULENBURG, 5 P.M.

FRIDAY, NOV. 13
FOOTBALL—AREA PLAYOFFS
GONZALES V. GRULLA, 7 P.M., FLOUR BLUFF HIGH (CORPUS CHRISTI)



SATURDAY, NOV. 14
BOYS BASKETBALL
GONZALES VARSITY V. WAELDER, 5:30 P.M. (SCRIMMAGE)

NOV. 14-15
SOFTBALL
GONZALES SELECT @ HUBER RANCH TURKEY SHOOTOUT



Jacy Chrismon—Shiner Jr High Girls Basketball
Rae Anna Flores—Gonzales Select Softball
Tyler Hendershot—Gonzales Varsity Football & Boys Basketball