



The Messenger



Michael L. Heim, Pastor

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LIVING OUT WHAT WE SAY WE BELIEVE IN

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LESSONS FROM A CARPENTER

We know Jesus' father, or better stated, stepfather was Joseph. By trade he was a carpenter (**Matt. 13:35**) and that Matthew calls him "a faithful man," (**Matt. 1:19**). Have we ever thought about the wisdom

Joseph handed down to Jesus? How Joseph passed on the carpentry trade?

to cut again, wasting time and material. What do you think this phrase means figuratively? Plan and prepare in a careful, thorough manner before taking action. Wood was scarce in ancient Israel. Joseph and his apprentice Jesus couldn't afford to make mistakes. They learned to proceed with caution, anticipating the consequences of everything they did. It's a wise principle for our lives, too. 1872, "Dressmaking," *Hall's Journal of Health*, vol. 19, no. 12, p. 280:

Look at Carpenters! . . . In old times it was a proverb "Measure twice, and cut once."

What do you think this phrase means spiritually? As Christian men, we need to be careful in our behavior. People are watching. Nonbelievers are judging Christianity by the way we act, and we can either attract them to the faith or drive them away. "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." Mahatma Gandhi

Thinking ahead (wisdom) prevents a lot of trouble. We should measure our spending against our income and not exceed it. We should measure our physical health and take steps to protect it. And, we should measure our spiritual growth from time to time and work to increase it. Just like the timber in ancient Israel, our resources are limited, so we should do our best to use them wisely.

In ancient times, it was customary for a son to follow his father into his trade. Joseph practiced his trade in the small village of Nazareth, but he probably worked in nearby towns as well. Recent archaeological digs at the ancient Galilean city of Zippori, only four miles from Nazareth, have shown that extensive building was done in this former district capital. Zippori, was completely restored by Herod Antipas, during the years that Joseph was working as a carpenter. It's very likely that Joseph and the young Jesus made the hour's walk to help in the city's reconstruction. Much later in Jesus' life, when he returned to his hometown of Nazareth to teach the gospel, the people in the synagogue couldn't get past his former life, asking, "Isn't this the carpenter?" (**Matt. 13:35; Mark 6:3**).

As a carpenter, Jesus must have learned many tricks of the woodworking trade from Joseph. While tools and techniques have changed a great deal over the past 2,000 years, three simple rules that Joseph most likely lived still hold true today for us as men.

The first lesson we can learn from a carpenter is "measure twice, cut once." What does this carpentry phrase mean literally? One should double-check one's measurements for accuracy before cutting a piece of wood; otherwise it may be necessary

WEEK AT A GLANCE

- Sun: Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
- Children Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
- Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
- AWANA 5:20 p.m.
- Youth Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- Mon: Home Group: Young Adult... 6:30 p.m.
- Wed: Youth Ministry 6:30 p.m.
- Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs Home Group: Mid-Adult 6:30 p.m.

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LESSONS FROM A CARPENTER

(Continued from page 1)

The second lesson we can learn from a carpenter is “use the right tool for the job.” When you have the wrong tool for the wrong job what happens? When you have the right tools it makes the job easier. Joseph wouldn't have tried to pound with a chisel or drill a hole with an ax. Every carpenter has a special tool for each task. So, it is as men of God. What happens when we use anger when understanding is called for? What happens when we use indifference when encouragement is needed? We can build people up or tear them down, depending on which tools we use.

Jesus gave people hope. He wasn't embarrassed to show love and compassion. He used anger at certain times and He spoke boldly against the self-righteous. He taught crowds as well as individuals. He was a master at using the right tools, and as his apprentices, we should do the same.

The final lesson we can learn from a carpenter is “take care of your tools and they'll take care of you.” Joseph's livelihood depended on his tools. After a day on the job the one thing we do is clean our tools and store them because tools are costly. As Christian men the tools our Lord gives us are called spiritual gifts and we have a responsibility to take care of them as if they're our own. What is your gift and do you use your tool to build the kingdom? But we also have the tools of prayer, meditation, fasting, worship, and praise. Our

most valuable tool, of course, is the Bible, the Word of God. If we sink its truths deep into our minds then live them out, God will take care of us, too.

I remember one day we were in a building project at one of my former churches and all the men of the church were building the expansion annex and the pastor was in the office. He decided to come out from his studies and one of the deacons gave him a hard time about not out helping the guys build. I'll never forget what the pastor said, *“You are building the physical church with your tools and I am building the spiritual church with my tools.”*

In the body of Christ, every Christian person is a carpenter with a job to do. Like Joseph, we can mentor our apprentices--our sons, daughters, friends and relatives--teaching them the skills to pass the faith on to the generation after them. The more we learn about our faith, the better a teacher we'll be and the stronger our church will be. If we learn lessons from the carpenter and work for God with our heads, our hands, and our heart and we can't go wrong.

Have a great week and I hope to see you in church Sunday.

In His Service
Bro. Michael

Monthly Mission Emphasis



MISSION STATEMENT: To make God and His love known to our community and to the world.

The month of June we bring attention and emphasis to Hiway 80 Rescue Mission. We support this mission because it helps reach our region with providing food, shelter, clothing and the opportunity to hear and receive the Gospel to those who need it most. Hiway 80 Rescue Mission has been reaching out and touching lives for nearly 60 years and they are supported by local area churches, businesses, organizations and individuals. Please give to help touch more lives.

June						
Mission Emphasis: Hiway 80 Rescue Mission						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Carrie Herndon	5	6	7 Jenny Hart The Fenderson's
8	9	10	11 The Hart's The Sumrow's Youth Meeting	12	13	14
Latvia Mission Trip				Latvia Mission Trip		
15	16	17 Stephen Heim	18 Carolyn Hampton Leah Burks Karen Hass The Simmons's	19	20	21
22 Faith Bedford	23	24	25 Mary Bohn	26	27	28
29	30	July 1	2	3	4 Office Closed 	5 Michelle Dickeson

Monthly Totals					
Accounts	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25	Wkly. Averages
GENERAL FUND	\$5,063.22	\$2,034.00	\$1,868.00	\$2,174.00	\$2,784.81
DESIGNATED FUND	\$325.00	\$1,195.00	\$2,340.00	\$1,125.00	\$1,246.00
GYM FLOOR PLEDGES	\$150.00	\$225.00	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$134.00
Services					Wkly. Averages
HOME GROUP	14	-	9	-	6
WEDNESDAY PM	57	58	64	53	58
SUNDAY SCHOOL	50	50	46	40	47
SUNDAY AM WORSHIP	90	82	93	80	86
SUNDAY PM	52	Mother's Day	75	25	38

Cookbook Fundraiser



Looking for a sweet treat for a sweetheart? “Keep Your Fork!”

Our church cookbooks are on sale for \$10 each and they are located on the table in the foyer. Pick one up and place \$10 cash in envelope and (denote “cookbook”) or write a check and (memo “cookbook”) and place in the

tithe box or offering plate. All monies made from cookbook sales funds WOBC ministries.

AWANA News



Will return in the fall!

Spread the word!

Home Groups



For more info contact Pastor Michael at the Church Office

HOME GROUPS

Young Adults

Regular meeting will begin in August/September. Special summer gatherings are a possibility!

Mid Adults

Will have planned outings through the summer and resume regular meetings in September.

Faith Explosion Kid's Camp



July 25-28, 3rd – 6th Grade; Cost \$130; Sign-up is on the back foyer table. See Mike or Jackie for more information.

Youth Camp

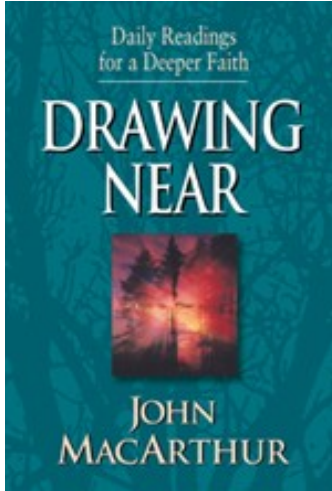
THE JOURNEY

July 1 – 5

OF LIFE

From Terrorism to Discipleship

The twelve apostles included "Simon the Zealot" (Matt. 10:4).



During the time between the Old and New Testaments, a fiery revolutionary named Judas Maccabaeus led the Jewish people in a revolt against Greek influences on their nation and religion. The spirit of that movement was captured in this statement from the apocryphal book of 1 Maccabees: "Be ye zealous for the law and give your lives for the covenant" (1 Maccabees 2:50). That group of politically-oriented, self-appointed guardians of Judaism later became known as the Zealots.

During the New Testament period, Zealots conducted terrorist activities against Rome in an effort to free Israel from Roman oppression. Their activities finally prompted Rome to destroy Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and slaughter people in 985 Galilean towns.

After the destruction of Jerusalem, the few remaining Zealots banded together under the leadership of a man named Eleazar. Their headquarters was at a retreat called Masada. When the Romans laid siege to Masada and the Zealots knew defeat was imminent, they chose to kill their own families and commit suicide themselves rather than face death at the hands of the Romans. It was a tragedy of monumental proportions, but such was the depth of their fiery zeal for Judaism and their hatred for their political enemies.

Before coming to Christ, Simon was a Zealot. Even as a believer, he must have retained much of his zeal, redirecting it in a godly direction. We can only imagine the passion with which he approached the ministry, having finally found a leader and cause that transcended anything Judaism and political activism could ever offer.

It's amazing to realize that Simon the Zealot and Matthew the tax-gatherer ministered together. Under normal circumstances Simon would have killed a traitor like Matthew. But Christ broke through their differences, taught them to love each other, and used them for His glory.

Perhaps you know believers who come from totally different backgrounds than yours. Do you have trouble getting along with any of them? If so, why? How can you begin to mend your differences? Be encouraged by the transformation Christ worked in Simon and Matthew, and follow their example.

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July Birthdays

Michelle Dickeson July 5
Hope Heim July 7
Larry Miller July 9
Loretta Henderson July 9
Zoeigh Feldhauser July 10
Jason Heim July 11
Bobbe Campbell July 14



Kayleigh Campbell July 14
Sheri Johns July 15
Michael Hart July 18
Lana Higginbotham July 18
Gina Terry July 20
Steven Grantz July 25
Tommy Boyett July 31