



The Visitor

First Christian Church
900 South Ennis, Bryan Texas 77803

September 18, 2018

Pack #317 Parent Orientation Night



Photo courtesy of Emilia Lagunas

Last Sunday's Sermon

Title: "Foolish Wisdom"

Scriptures: Proverbs 1:20-23; Mark 8:27-38

[Click Here to Listen to the Sermon](#)

Where do you find wisdom? And what is its source? Like countless ones before, they walked a dusty road that day. As the journey progressed I'm certain they turned to the only thing they knew to pass the time. They talked. From this distance, there is no way to know what was said. Idle chatter, bits of gossip, harmless banter among friends. Personally, I can't imagine Jesus being drawn into any of that. It's only speculation on my part; but on those dusty roads, I see him as mostly silent unless he had something to say. And during those silent moments, I suspect he watched and listened. His disciples, though, were cut from a different cloth. They were just common folk. So, I'd guess nothing said on the road that day would have been worth recording, at least not until Jesus spoke up.

Who do people say that I am? That's what he asked when he finally opened up. What are they saying about me? Ah, so it's the gossip he's after, they must have thought. And so, one and all answered in a rush. "Lord, some are saying you're John the Baptist come back from that grave Herod laid him in not so long ago." Not to be out done others cried, "Elijah, that's the one! We've waited for him, oh, such a long, long time. They're saying that in you the great Elijah has finally come!" And those with nothing better to say, added a twist of their own: "if not the Baptist or Elijah, then surely another Prophet!"

And the wise, the priest, pharisee, or scribe, what would they have said? You and I both can guess the answer to that. They would have scoffed! Those who accounted themselves wise in the ways of God and of this world, would have had none of it. They knew better, or at

least thought they did. They would answer with whatever their own take on wisdom said. Perhaps they would pass along Jerusalem's common thought. Nothing good ever came from Nazareth, or anywhere in Galilee for that matter. Or maybe they would raise the matter of missing credentials. After all Jesus was not a priest, Pharisee, or even a scribe. To think that Jesus, that carpenter's son, was in any different from the rest of those simpletons, who came to him wherever he went. Our wisdom, they would have thought, counts them as rabble and he is nothing more.

But it's a blessing to us that the scoffers were on faith's road walking with Jesus in the Galilean sun that day. For when our Lord changed the question, no one was there with some other wisdom to block the way. *"Who do you say that I am?"* When Jesus made it personal, only silence filled the air. Only Peter dared fill that void. A simple man with no great wisdom to claim, so his faith led the way: *"You are the Messiah..."* God's Christ, the Holy One. Impetuous, naive, simple, Peter joyfully embraced the moment and spoke from the heart. Those considered wise in his world would have happily called him a fool to shut him up. No doubt they would have laughed when he named one without money, power, or visible resources the Son of God. The wise would have told him that Jesus simply did not fit the profile, but it was a vision of hope that Peter embraced. And, he joyfully followed God's Chosen One down that and many other dusty roads.

2000 years later history would seem to have proven the truth of Peter's choice. Though an assortment of voices claiming wisdom of their own would silence faith's cry, our Lord's vision of hope remains. God's love is abundantly given. God's love calls to you no matter who you are. Human wisdom, whether of science, economics, politics, philosophy or just experience continues to raise the scoffers cry. God's love has closed the distance. And, you need not prove your wisdom nor your worth before love opens up the door. Joyfully accept and don't let our own claims of wisdom and sophistication crowd out what God has done. Accept our Lord Jesus for what he is: The Son of God! And let God's foolish wisdom lead us along whatever road we are on. Give them-- those not like us, those with whom we might disagree, those who are misguided and even just plain--wrong, give them better than they deserve! He accepted us even when we were wrong, so let us welcome them. Rich, poor, simple, wise-- it makes no difference in our Lord's own eyes. As he loved those who had never proven their worth, let those of us who claim his name do our best to do the same. On those dusty roads so long ago, God's foolish wisdom challenged the wise. Though ages have passed, each day Christ invites us to walk beside him on our own dusty road. Will you embrace God's vision of hope? Amen.

Next Sunday's Sermon

Title: "Blessed Are Those Who Serve"

Scripture: James 3:13-18; Mark 9:30-37

Starting Point: The wisdom shared by Jesus turns worldly wisdom upside down. Both now and when Jesus lived, leaders were people of privilege. They were served by others. In the wisdom of Jesus, that is turned around. Those who seek greatness in the logic of God's kingdom are the ones who give of themselves in service to others.

Minister's Moment

Friends and Disciples:

September is passing quickly. My sense of the month's swift passage probably relates to the busyness of the schedule. Bring/Invite a Friend got the month rolling and left us feeling good. Young Life is back from summer break and is once again in the building on Monday nights and filling it with joy, enthusiasm, noise, and the gospel. The Tuesday House church is also back in session and bursting at the seams with increased participation, as it works its way through Revelation. And several of us are directly involved in our Cub Scout Pack start up. There is much to do!

All that gets me thinking about October! Every fall we celebrate the ministries that we collectively and individually support. Though we are a small congregation, there is much being done in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we work our way toward that celebration, don't forget the spiritual aspect of our walk with Jesus. While faith must be linked to the things we do in his name, faith must still be fed by our drawing close to him.

Don't get so busy doing that the just being with him gets shoved aside. And while you are feeding your faith by being with him in worship, prayer and reflection, don't forget to take your faith into the world and do something with it.

Yours in Christ,

Jesse

Serving Sunday, September 23

Elders:

Bob Richards
Ben Tedrick

Deacons:

Stacy Atterbury
Jane Colbert
Vicki Green
Steven Myers

Lay Leader:

Sharon Jeffrey

Communion:

Ben & Melissa Tedrick

Choir Director:

Karl Aufderheide

Pianist

Karen Smith

Prayer Concerns

While we believe everyone needs prayer, those named on our list have specific and ongoing needs:

Evelyn Lively
Polina Rouland
Bob & Liz McGee
R. J. Bozeman
Roger & Emily Nichols
Mark Stadelman
Hector Cortes
Caton Milstead
Brad Slocum (brother of Stacy Atterbury)
Christopher Cravey (Jeanette Phariss's nephew)
Diane Andrews (friend of Cheryl Aufderheide)
Elaine Pruett (Tonya Chandler's grandmother)
Leatha Jeffrey (Calvin Jeffrey's mother)
Jim Conway (cousin of Bob Richards)
Cathy Deason (friend of a colleague of Karl Aufderheide)

Ellie Erin Albrecht
Julie Atterbury
D'andre Fleeks
Gerry Hart
Jim & Stacy Atterbury
Kevin Rodgers
J.C. & Delores Shaw
Cherry Chandler
Family of Bill Sanders
Family of Michael Maloney
Family of Phyllis Waldron

Shut-ins:

Henry & Rosemary O'Neal
Gene Holt
Marge Shepperd
Nancy Wright

Bridge Ministries

The Bridge Ministries will be having a ribbon-cutting and dedication service in their new location on October 4, from 5:30-6:00pm. Their new address is 408 N. 24th Street, Bryan, 77803. Their website: <http://thebridgeministries.org/index.html>

Hurricane Relief

For anyone wishing to help victims of Hurricane Florence, there are two options through the church. You may write a check to First Christian Church, and write "Week of Compassion – Florence" on the memo line. These funds will be collected, and the church will send a check for the total to Week of Compassion. Church World Service is also providing a way to donate online at cwsglobal.org/florence.

Miscellaneous

Birthdays

September 23

Henry O'Neal

Karen Sysak

Visitors, Sunday September 16

Lois & Henry Kindt, Emily Krupka, John & Anne Parkin

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH B/CS

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<i>1</i>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">2</p> <p>CYF/Youth 3: PM</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 2px;">Disciples Men Hosting Breakfast 8:30 AM</div> <p>Morning Worship 10:45 AM</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Labor Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">House Church 6:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Choir 7:30 PM</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 2px;">Elders Meeting 6:00 PM</div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">8</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">9</p> <p>CYF/Youth 3: PM</p> <p>Morning Worship 10:45 AM</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 2px;">Bring A Friend</div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">House Church 6:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Choir 7:30 PM</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 2px;">Disciples Women 9:30am</div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">15</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">16</p> <p>CYF/Youth 3: PM</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 2px;">General Board Mtg (after Worship)</div> <p>Morning Worship 10:45 AM</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Young Life SFA 7:00 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">House Church 6:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Choir 7:30 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">22</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">23</p> <p>CYF/Youth 3: PM</p> <p>Morning Worship 10:45 AM</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Young Life SFA 7:00 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">House Church 6:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Choir 7:30 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">29</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">30</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 2px;">Carriage Inn 2:00</div> <p>CYF/Youth 3: PM</p> <p>Morning Worship 10:45 AM</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM</p>						