

WELL-SCRUBBED INDIVIDUALS

When I read that statement this last week in preparation for my Sunday morning sermon, it was one of those statements that gets your attention. Perhaps it is a statement that makes you a little uncomfortable. It was talking about the fact that we may have limited our evangelism to well-scrubbed individuals who we think would “fit right in” with little work on our part. We can put them to work with very little work on our part or their part. They don’t have a lot of baggage. What about that individual who has had a lot of problems in their life? Should we try to teach them?

It seems to me that such was the same problem that Jesus had to deal with in his teaching and life while on this earth. *“And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance”* (Matthew 9:10-13). The Pharisees did not want that kind of person in their assemblies. Why are you wasting your valuable time on such people as that. What they failed to realize is what Paul wrote in Romans 3:10, *“As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one.”* That would include the Pharisees. The very context where we find the statement, *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”* (Luke 19:10), is describing a publican by the name of Zacchaeus.

Our work is to present the gospel to as many people as possible—regardless of the response—and to keep on doing it until the Lord returns. We are expected to keep on telling others about what Christ did for them (and us) until there is no one left to tell. The child of God is to keep on planting the seed and watering it, and God will give the increase (I Corinthians 3:5-7). You sow sparingly, you reap sparingly. You sow bountifully, you reap bountifully (II Corinthians 9:6). Jesus told us to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). How are we doing with this command?

—L. Cole

WHO ARE OUR REAL HEROES

Ask a 10-year-old boy who they want to be when they grow up. They may say Tom Brady, Lebron James, or maybe some musician or movie star. The reason why youths admire these people is because they can do special things with their talents, and because they appear on the world’s stage and compete or perform at such a high level. To win the greatest prize, to have the most talent, and to make good on all of your dreams is what is touted as being a true success. People think such fame is what makes a person’s life of value, as if they had not wasted their life on earth. They determine that in these endeavors certain people have perhaps made more of their lives than everyone else.

Recently, I was asked to do a funeral for a friend. He was not a movie star or a well-known athlete. He was a simple man from Lawrence County, Tennessee. He was kind and compassionate. He was daring and bold. He was courageous and sacrificial. He was a family man. He was a Christian man.

Robert Belew fought in World War II at the age of 17. He went on to fight in the battle of Heartbreak Ridge in the Korean Conflict. Later he fought in Vietnam. He served for over 20 years in the military and then he came home and served his family, community, and most of all, his Lord. As a young man, he sent half of his military pay back to his mother to help take care of her needs. He volunteered for all of the difficult things that everyone else usually finds an excuse to abandon.

My friend Robert (we all called him Bob) was one of the most decorated war veterans of our day. As I looked at his bronze star, next to a host of other medals he had been awarded, I was reminded that he never really wanted to talk about them or display them. I wish he had spoken about them more, because these are the stories I want to hear. But he was just too humble to do so. By his casket, there was also a letter from the president of Korea. It was a thank you letter for the service Bob rendered to help ensure freedom in that country. It was an invitation to return to Korea to be honored. In the letter, the Korean president called Robert Belew a true "hero."

Our real heroes are not people who are good at sports, or music, or acting. They are not the people with the most talent. They are not the people who everyone knows by just one name like "Brady" or "Lebron." Our true heroes are the people who love us and sacrifice for us daily. They are the mother who selflessly raised us, the grandfather who took us fishing, and the neighbor who fought in three consecutive wars so that we can live in a free society without terror.

Our real heroes are ordinary people with extraordinary faith, *"...who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trials of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth"* (Hebrews 11:33-38).

It doesn't take much to be a hero. It just takes knowing what really matters, and a willingness to sacrifice accordingly. It just takes being like Jesus. It just takes a man like Robert Belew, who was willing to do what others were somehow unwilling or unable to do. It just takes a faith that is not merely a belief in something, but which is willing to go to work — a faith that wears army boots...

"Greater love hath no man than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" — John 15:13

Jeremiah Tatum, Legacy of Faith, 02/14/17

The Tongue is Ugly...

When it curses (James 3:10)

When it flatters (Psalm 12:3)

When it speaks evil (Ephesians 4:1)

When it lies (Revelation 21:8)

When it bears tales (Leviticus 19:16)

When it criticizes (Matthew 5:22)

When it backbites (Romans 1:30)

When it speaks idly (Matthew 12:36)

When it deceives (Romans 3:13)

When it is false (Titus 1:10-11)

When it reviles (1 Corinthians 6:10)

When it is foolish (Ephesians 5:4)

When it whispers (Romans 1:29)

When it blasphemes (Colossians 3:8)

When it is filthy (Colossians 3:8)

And when it is crooked (Prov. 4:24)

How Guilty is Your Tongue?

—Glenn I. Hitchcock

<http://www.foresthillcofc.org/Bulletins/2017/1/24/2017.pdf>

MONTROSE FAMILY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEB. 26, 2017

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

WORSHIP---SUNDAY---9:00 AM

Co-Coordinator George Clay
Announcements Billy Halliburton

Scriptures Reading....I Peter 4:11 Austin Clay
Song Leader Steve Anderson
Opening Prayer. Jacky Carver, Sr.

Lord's Supper-Preside: Robert Hackett
Serve:, Mitchell Brooks, Dallas Eddie
Justin Draper, Roger Draper,
Closing Prayer Glen Reece

Greeter— Dianna Dillehay & Susanne
Greeter— Glen & Patsy Reece

Greeters: Please be here to greet before services.

Count Offering. Dallas Eddie
. Kaleb Bush

AM Sermon—The Bible makes us Distinctive

PM Sermon— Fourth Sunday Singing

WORSHIP---SUNDAY---6:00 PM

Announcements Billy Halliburton
Song Leader. Steve Anderson
Scripture Reading.... Psa.146:1-2 Austin Clay

Opening Prayer Mitchell Brooks
Lord's Supper Jacky Carver, Sr.
. Kaleb Bush
Closing Prayer Glen Reece

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY---7:00 PM

Announcement..... Billy Halliburton
Song Leader George Clay
First Prayer. Jacky Carver, Sr.
Opening Prayer Glen Reece
Closing Prayer Mitchell Brooks

Prepare Communion for FEB

Idella & Jacqueline

Note: If you are not able to fulfill your assignment listed above, **please notify the coordinator** so that he can find a replacement.

MONTROSE BULLETIN BOARD

NURSING HOME: Opal Agee-- Kindred
Pearl Anderson—Knollwood Manor, Lafayette
Kasel Dillehay—Overton Co. Nursing Home
Those on the sick list:

Kathy Harville	W. A. Gibbs
Jimmie Faye Cole	Gladys Bowling
James Agee	Scotty Yeaman
Charlie Pinckley	Arnold Rich
Rose Smuckers	Sue Buckner

Sympathy to Tonya Anderson in the death of her father, Tommy Ray. Funeral is Tuesday.

<u>OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST</u>	
02/19/17	
Wednesday.	37
Worship Sunday AM	72
Bible Study Sunday AM	66
Daily Bible Readers	40
Worship Sunday PM	44

PANTRY ITEMS: We are going to collect some items for Happy Haven. This week: Dishwasher Detergent.

Upcoming Events:
Feb. 26th. Fellowship Meal
Mar. 5th. Elders, Deacons, Preacher Meeting
Mar. 12th. Daylight Savings Time begins
Mar. 12th. Speaker from SEIBS
Mar. 24th. Friday Night Singing

READING SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

01 Lev. 12-14	11 Num. 17-21	21 Deut. 15-17
02 Lev. 15-17	12 Num. 22-24	22 Deut. 18-20
03 Lev. 18-20	13 Num. 25-27	23 Deut. 21-23
04 Lev. 21-25	14 Num. 28-30	24 Deut. 24-26
05 Lev. 26-27	15 Num. 31-33	25 Deut. 27-29
06 Num. 1-4	16 Num. 34-36	26 Deut. 30-32
07 Num. 5-7	17 Deut. 1-3	27 Deut. 33-34
08 Num. 8-10	18 Deut. 4-8	28 Joshua 1-5
09 Num. 11-13	19 Deut. 9-11	
10 Num. 14-16	20 Deut. 12-14	