

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Brenda has a cousin in Rock Port, Texas that has lost all their belongings.
- Hurricane approaching Florida
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Save the Date: Bobby Graham will be holding a Gospel Meeting for us September 17-22, 2017.
- Yesterday we had a productive work day here at the building.

Assignments

<p>Today Bible Study – Tom Mitchell Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Lord's Table – Tom Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward</p>	<p>Wednesday Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward</p>
<p>Next Sunday Bible Study – Tom Mitchell Song Leader – David Porter Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward</p>	<p>Next Wednesday Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward</p>

Blackfoot church of Christ
 370 North Shilling Ave.
 Blackfoot Idaho, 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
 Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot church of Christ / Blackfoot, ID

Volume 5 Number 38

September 10, 2017

Call the Labor Board & the Shop Steward!

BIBLETALK WITH JEFF ASHER-MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2017

Jesus had just been asked by the Rich Young Ruler, "What good thing shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" His answer, "Go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor," not only startled him, but also the disciples. They wondered, "Who then can be saved?"

Peter, as was his common fashion, unthinkingly asserted that he and the other disciples had given all for the Kingdom of Heaven's sake. His question was, "What great thing shall be ours?"

This desire for greatness was a recurring problem among the Twelve. They argued about it throughout Jesus' ministry, right up until His betrayal (Matthew 18:1; 20:20-29; Mark 9:33-34; Luke 22:24-30). Jesus takes this occasion as one in which to teach the Twelve again that greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven was determined by selfless service to others. Jesus describes their greatness in exuberant terms: "Ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." But Jesus still returns to the truth of abasement, the first shall be made last (Matthew 19:28-30).

The Parable of the Eleventh Hour Laborers (Matthew 20:1-16) is told with these facts as the backdrop. It is a reinforcement of the truth that greatness in the Kingdom is not determined by our station, our abilities, our deeds or anything else that begins and ends within ourselves. Greatness is a matter of grace that makes it possible for us to serve.



www.facebook.com/Blackfoot-Church-of-Christ
www.blackfootchurch.com

Peach Pickin' Time in Georgia

When its time to harvest, its time to harvest! There is not the luxury of doing it when I feel like it, at least not if one intends to make any money. Jesus used this truth to create a circumstance in which a vineyard owner would be in search of field hands for his grape harvest.

Five times in one day, a certain husbandman went into the market to hire laborers: at 6:00 a.m., at 9:00 a.m., at noon, at 3:00 p.m. and, finally, at 5:00 p.m. To those hired first He promised a denarius in wages. To the rest He said, Whatsoever is right, I will give you.

At the end of the day when it was time to settle accounts He began with the last and continued to the first giving each a denarius. Needless to say, those hired first began to murmur.

I Will If I Want To!

Those hired at 6:00 a.m. had worked hard all day. They had born the heat, the burdens and the responsibility. In comparison to those who arrived last they had worked twelve times as long for 1/12 the pay. In their mind something seemed out of proportion.

The husbandman asked, "Didst not thou agree with me for a penny?" Well, yes, but that doesn't mean that they should be made equal with us. We have done more, worked harder, suffered more, and helped them! How can we not be greater than they are in your sight? It isn't fair.

The husbandman asked again, "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own?" Well, yes, but if you are going to do with your own, do it toward me. I deserve it. I earned it. I am better than this one.

These fellas would have called the Labor Board and filed a grievance against God with the Shop Steward if it were possible. They believed that reward ought to be on the basis of merit and works. Well, in the business world it should be. But, Jesus is talking about the Kingdom of Heaven, not the local widget manufacturer or the corporate office.

The Old Fashioned Way: We Earned It!

Whether it was to the Pharisees who trusted in themselves (Luke 18:9), or to the disciples who figured that somehow one would be greater than the other, Jesus was refuting the idea that eternal life was a matter of our own righteousness. Eternal life is not something that we earn; it is a gift (Romans 6:23).

Whatever service or obedience we offer to Jesus does not merit what we receive from His hand. While we may come into the Kingdom early and give everything we have to Christ, we are no less saved by grace than the one who comes into the Kingdom late and serves for only a short while.

The pillars of the church who think they are somewhat will very likely be disappointed at the judgment to see the widow, the orphan, the abandoned wife and uneducated brother receive the same welcome plaudit as themselves, if they hear it at all. Some may well have their reward now (Matthew 6:2,5,16).

Brother, we are saved to serve, and we serve to save. By the grace of God we are His children and do that which we are able. The spot of sin was no blacker anywhere than on your own soul. The grace of God no richer than when extended to you. It is a grateful heart that receives what He gives knowing that our own righteousness was but dirty rags and cankered coin.