



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 6 Number 45

November 11, 2018

It is Just Not Like Being There

by Edward Bragwell

How often has the above comment been made by us? Over the years, we have had the privilege of traveling to all 50 of our great states. We have visited attractions like Mount Rushmore, Niagra Falls, Grand Canyon, Hawaii, Alaska, various Washington D.C. memorial sites, etc. Before these visits we had seen travelogs and other pictures and read volumes about these places – making them real to us. Nonetheless, as we found out, that was not like being there.

Many of us are avid fans of our favorite sports teams. We follow them on TV and other media. Still most concede that it is just not like being at the games and tail gate parties.

A lot of the Lord's churches are now broadcasting their regular services on radio, TV, and streaming on the internet. This is good in that it gives Christians, who cannot be there, and those in the world, that will not be there, an opportunity to hear and watch the pure gospel presented. It is certainly a good work for churches to be doing. Unfortunately, some who could be there, choose to use it as an excuse for staying away.

Do we believe that God knows the nature of man and knew what he was doing when he arranged for Christians, in a locality, to physically come together at least once a week to participate in certain acts of worship? (Cf. Heb 10:25; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 11:17ff.) Would it not be within the realm of possibility for each Christian to stay home each Sunday, set aside some time to eat unleavened bread, drink grape juice, read the Bible (Apostolic preaching), sing spiritual songs, pray, and lay money, for spiritual purposes, aside at home? Then no one would have to get dressed, go out in the cold or heat to get there each time. Don't you suspect that the Lord knew that it would not be like being there?

Still not convinced? If you are older, like myself, or younger, consider your "courting" days. You know, when your future mother-in-law could not throw out the dish water without hitting you in the face. You may have exchanged letters or

participated in phone calls (and today, texts) with your dearly beloved – but, alas, it was not like being there. In personal relationships, just being there is so important. This brings us to another thought. Our God is in heaven with His Son at His right hand as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. While we are on earth, as Paul says, “absent from the Lord” (2 Cor 5:6), it is not like being present with Him. The Holy Spirit, through the Apostolic writings, does a wonderful job of giving us word pictures of the glories of heaven. After reading all of these, do we not still get the feeling that it is not like being there?

As we continue to learn all we can about heaven from the Holy Scriptures, let us continue to remind ourselves “it is not like being there” – with a keen sense of wanting to live so that we can know what it is really like – in the very presence of the Lord.

The Rich Fool - The World & The Lord

By Jim Mickells

In Luke 12:16-21, we read a parable stated by Jesus about a rich man whom the Lord called a fool. In verse 13, one from the crowd asked Jesus to “tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” His purpose in coming to this world was not to be a judge or an arbitrator over such matters (verse 14). He warned about covetousness, stating that “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (verse 15). At this point in this conversation He relates the parable. I want us to give some consideration to this rich man, how he would be viewed from the world’s perspective and how the Lord saw him.

Looking at the rich man’s life from a worldly point of view, would one not consider him successful? He was rich. He obviously was a good farmer, having an abundance of crops, goods, and barns. Picture with me for just a moment driving down the road, seeing large fields of corn or beans, deep green in color, loaded with produce. Next there are several large barns, much equipment, and a very stately home in which the farmer and his family reside. Successful? Sure seems that way. Yet is the Lord looking at these material things? I don’t think so. The farmer He sees in the parable is not successful at all but a fool (verse 20).

The world would see this farmer as a hard worker, very industrious. He had already built barns, had crops from the previous year(s), plowed the soil, sowed the seeds, taken good care of the crops once they had been planted, etc. Hard working is a very commendable trait for one to possess. The wise

man said, "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise" (Proverbs 6:6). The Lord not only wants us to work hard to provide for ourselves, our families, and others who may be in need, but also for Him. Jesus looked at this man and saw one who had not put his hands to the plow (Luke 9:62). He had made no spiritual commitment to God.

Those of the world would look at this man and see one who was wise and thoughtful. He did not have enough room to store his crops so the solution to the problem was to tear down and build greater barns. He could easily see what he needed to do and was willing to put forth the time, energy, and the money to accomplish this task. It is not worldly wisdom that is lacking with many people but the spiritual wisdom which comes from God (1 Corinthians 1:18-29). God saw a man who had failed to demonstrate true wisdom, one who had given no thought about what his true needs were. Instead of greater barns he needed a great faith in the One who had made the crops grow.

Once the barns were built and filled with the crops, the world would see a man who was set for life. He could sit back, "take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry" (verse 19). "You are not that old of a fellow, so you have a lot of years left," some might say. The sad fact was he never got those barns built, never harvested another crop, and never saw the dawning of another day, "This night your soul will be required of you" (verse 20). Jehovah saw a man who was not ready for eternity.

Those in the community where this farmer lived no doubt saw a man who was rich materially speaking. He had land (ground), crops, goods, and barns according to this parable. Most likely he owned a house, had farm implements, farm animals, may have had servants, etc. Regardless, the Lord said he was rich (verse 16). Most of us have an abundance of material possessions. But are we rich in faith? What did God see when He looked at this man? One who was spiritually bankrupt. What a sad commentary on a person's life, rich materially but poor spiritually. This man died lost!

What would God say about us? Would He call us fools? Not if we are rich in faith toward Him (verse 21). "Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?" (James 2:5).

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Tom & Kate are traveling and plan to be back early this week.
- Brenda's sister – in – law will have her pace maker activated this week.
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

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



[www.facebook.com @blackfootchurch](https://www.facebook.com/blackfootchurch)
www.blackfootchurch.com