

Morning Worship

January 6, 2019

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Don Beavers

Piano —

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Hymn # 483	<i>Footsteps of Jesus</i>	Don/People
Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Hymn # 479	<i>Children of God</i>	Don/People
Hymn # 493	<i>Onward, Christian Soldiers</i>	Don/People
Offering Prayer		John Lewis
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Alva Lou Schottel
Children's Worship		(Children are dismissed)
Scripture Reading		
Message		Allan Lane
Hymn # 482	<i>All to Thee</i>	Don/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Closing Chorus # 95	<i>Go, Tell It On the Mountain</i>	Don/People

The Gift of Self

Matthew 4:18-22

Christmas is about giving gifts. Over the past weeks we've seen that God gave us gifts of a song, serenity, a sign, a star, and a Savior. With us receiving such great blessings, it's only right that we would offer a gift in return, the gift of ourselves. When Jesus began recruiting His disciples, He placed expectancy in their hearts. Notice some ways Jesus made it easy for them to give themselves to His ministry.

1. The Choice of Jesus.

Look at the people Jesus chooses for ministry: Fisherman, not rabbis. When I get to heaven I have some questions for God. Do you have any questions that you want to ask Him? Like, "God, why would use people like these to advance Your kingdom?" And "If He chooses to choose people why does He choose some of the people He chooses?" If I were God I would not use people. I wouldn't use me. Don't look at me that way I wouldn't use you either. We wonder why God would tie His hands in that way.

Look at the person sitting next to you. Go ahead. Take a good look at that person. They are kind of a sorry lot aren't they? Look at them. Not much are they?

Go ahead and tell them, "I wouldn't have chosen you." Just tell them. And just to keep each of us humble, let me tell you all "I might not have chosen you either." It's amazing the people God chooses to use.

There are 3 reasons why we are important to God:

a. Who We Are .

God the Father created us in His own Image. That gives a great deal of importance to us.

b. What We Cost .

Jesus Christ God's Son gave up His life on Calvary for us. It literally cost God's only Son His entire life. What I cost makes me important to God and thirdly.

c. What We Can Become .

I am important to God because of the power of the Holy Spirit can make me today what I was not yesterday, and give me more power for tomorrow (Acts 1:8).

Jesus could look these men and women in the eye and say, I'm going to give you power and you will change a world. There is a difference in the way that man looks at the crowd and the way that God looks at the crowd.

God sees differently. When God sees us who are saved by the blood He sees no past. He looks at us as what we are, Children of Himself. And what we will become.

That's the difference between God and us. The world has past by many people who have made great contributions. There are small people who made it big.

2. The Calling of Jesus.

Three important things about a calling:

a. Who is Calling?

Every day we receive calls on the phone. Some, the ones of important can just call and you talk, maybe about nothing. Who does the calling is important.

b. What is the Message?

Some what they say is very important even though who have no idea who they are. The message they bring is life changing.

c. Where am I?

That is, in my own personal life. There are times when I respond to the call. There are times when it is right for me to hear the message. I'm ready. I'm prepared.

"Our life once stretched never regains the original dimension" (Oliver Wendell Holmes). The moment we have been stretched we will never again be happy to just return to the norm to where we were. This is what growth is all about. Think of your own spiritual journey. There will be things that you use to do that no longer thrill you any more as you grow and mature.

When you put all three of these things that make a call important you are going to have something that is going to be life changing. The right person saying the right thing at the right time will convict you into making the right response.

3. The Challenge of Jesus.

a. He Took Responsibility .

Jesus took responsibility for their success. "I will...." He didn't say you are going to do it. He didn't say you are going to do you best. But "I will." I take the responsibility for your growth. If you will obey me, I will make you fishers.

Jesus looked at these guys and said, Fellows, if you will get out of that boat, if you'll take a chance, if you'll take a risk, if you'll decide no longer to just be a bored, unchallenged, un-spirited Christians just sitting in a pew, if you will get out of the boat, If you will discover your Spiritual gift, if you will just do something for me; then

"I will" begin, not you, not the pastor, I will begin to make you something that you'll never be by yourself.

b. He Gave Hope .

The second thing that makes this challenge of Christ so irresistible is that Jesus gave Hope. Jesus gave tremendous hope.

When they heard "I will make you fishers of men" they knew He was saying, "I'll take you where you are and make you something greater." He gave them hope an expectancy, "I will make you."

What would you really like to do in life? It doesn't have to be spiritual. Maybe you would love to be able to use your gifts to glorify God. Do you have a musical ability? Do you have a flair for art? What ways are you able to honor God?

When Jesus walked into these guys lives he said, "Fellows, you don't have to stay the same in your lives. You can be a lot better than you are. He gave them hope. I'm going to make you something that you can't make yourself.

c. He Shared a Vision .

The third thing that makes this call irresistible is that He shared a vision with them. They would become fishermen all right but not of fish but men. Fish are for the here and now. Jesus gives us eternal purpose.

4. The Concern of Jesus.

He had 4 concerns.

a. Relationships .

The first one was relationships. He wanted them to have the right relationship before anything else. "Follow Me." Worship comes before work. Jesus wants your hearts before he wants your hands. Don't do anything great for God until the relationship is right.

b. Growth .

His second concern was growth. He wanted them to grow. That is why He said, "I will make you fishers of men."

Rubber bands come in all sizes and all shapes but the only purpose of a rubber band is to be stretched. God sees us not only as what we are but what we can become. His concern for us is that we begin to grow. He's designed us for growth. Growth equals change. You cannot grow and remain the same.

We change when we do 3 things:

a. When we hurt enough that we have to change.

A man was not doing very well on the job. The boss kept trying to get him to do things. Finally the boss got really mad. He said, "If you don't change and do things differently you're going to be fired." Immediately he changed. All the people around the worker said what happened to you. He said, "He spoke in a way I could understand."

b. We change when we learn enough that we want to. We must ask ourselves, "What am I doing?" and be willing to quit it and begin doing something else.

c. We change when we receive enough information that we are able to.

c. Fruitfulness .

His third concern was fruitfulness. The evidence of growth is fruitfulness. If you follow I'll make you fishers of men. Great things will happen. These men were world changers. They would have never guessed how far the Lord would take them.

d. Obedience .

His final concern was obedience. Obedience is nothing more than letting God do what He said He would without getting in the way.

Worldly success is based on achievement but Biblical success is based on obedience. If you obey Him you will have fruitfulness. This is what they did. We must be stretched so far that we just can't be content to sit in the pew any more.

Conclusion

Several years ago, in London, England the city was besieged with complaints about London's mass transit system. It seems that the city's buses tended to drive right past bus stops even though there were customers standing in line waiting to be picked up.

Called upon to explain their actions, the London Transit Authorities released the following statement that has become infamous with public relations departments everywhere. It read:

"It is impossible for us to maintain our schedules if we are always having to stop and pick up passengers."

What was wrong with that statement? Answer: They got their priorities confused. They thought their job was to keep a schedule, when, in reality, their job was to pick up passengers and deliver them to their destinations. Because they got their priorities confused, they failed to do that for which they were created. Reminds me of a little poem I read.

Once upon a pew I sat and heard the preacher ask,
"We need someone to teach a class, now who will take this task?"
Then God sat down beside me there and said, "Son, that's for you."
"But, Lord, (said I) to stand before a class is one thing I can't do.
Now Bill would be the man to call, there's nothing he won't do.
I'd rather hear the lesson taught from here upon my pew."

Once upon a pew I sat and heard the preacher ask,
"We need someone to lead the songs, now who will take this task?"
Then God sat down beside me there and said, "Son, that's for you."
"But Lord, (said I) to sing before a crowd is one thing I can't do.
Now Brother King will do the job, there's nothing he won't do.
I'd rather hear the music played from here upon my pew."

Once upon a pew I sat and heard the preacher ask,
"I need someone to keep the door, now who will take this task?"
Then God sat down beside me there and said, "Son, that's for you."
But I replied: "saying things to strangers, Lord, is one thing I can't do.
Now Tom can talk to people, Lord, there's nothing he won't do.
I'd rather someone come to me and greet me on the pew."

As years just seemed to pass me by, I heard that voice no more.
Until one night I closed my eyes and woke on heaven's shore.
'Twas four of us together there to face eternity.
And God said, "I need just three of you to do a job for me."
"O Lord," I cried, "I'll do the job, there's nothing I won't do."
But Jesus said, "I'm sorry, Friend, in Heaven there's no pew."

You see it's possible for us to confuse our priorities. There are tasks to be done – and if you and I don't do them they may not get done. Now just like the schedule

WAS IMPORTANT to the Transit authority in London, so also, going to church IS important for us. But that's NOT our main priority. Our main priority should be giving ourselves to Jesus.

Make Yourself Available!

New Year's Hope

This week one of the online devotions I read was from the book ***The God of New Beginnings*** by Rob Cowles. Prayerfully consider it as hope for your life in 2019.

Jesus was a master question asker. He often responded to questions asked of Him with questions of His own. He asked probing questions. He asked exposing questions. And, on occasion, He asked what appeared to be peculiar questions. Such was the case in John chapter 5. Jesus arrived at a pool of water near a gate in Jerusalem called the Sheep Gate. Surrounding this pool were five covered porches where, "a great number of disabled people used to lie – the blind, the lame, the paralyzed." — John 5:3

Legend had it that, periodically, an angel would agitate the water and the first one into the pool would be healed. Consequently, the pool attracted a great number of people who were desperate for hope. Jesus approached a man who had suffered what appears to be some sort of paralysis for thirty-eight years. We don't know his age but would have to assume he had suffered most of his life. We also don't know how long he had been at the pool; the text simply says, "a long time." And Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to get well?"

Why would you ask a man who has suffered for thirty-eight years if he wants to be well? It not only seems like a peculiar question, it seems insensitive; maybe even rude.

Have you ever had something in your house cease to work properly? Like a drawer in the kitchen that sticks? And the only way to open the drawer now is to lift up on the handle, pull it to the right and give it a little jerk. And that just becomes the way you open that drawer. You teach your kids to open it that way. If a guest comes over and needs to get into that drawer, you teach them to open it that way. At first, it's frustrating. Then it's merely annoying. And eventually, you don't even think about it at all. It's just the way you open that drawer. But that's not how it's supposed to be. It's not what the builder of that drawer had in mind. It's not how the drawer was designed.

Have you realized we're not talking about a drawer anymore? Maybe Jesus' question wasn't so crazy after all. Do you want to get well?

Even more peculiar than the question was the man's response. There seems to be only one right answer to this question: "Yes! Yes I want to be well." But that's not what the man said. Instead, he explained to Jesus why getting well wasn't possible for him. He had no one to help him into the pool. When the water was stirred, someone else always got there first. He had tried and failed so many times. "Yes" was just not an option for him. He had lost hope.

Sometimes we lose hope that things can or ever will be different. That our addiction can ever be conquered. That we will ever be able to control our anger. That fear will always dominate our lives. That our wounded heart will never be whole. That we will ever be able to trust again. We begin to believe that the way things are is the way things will always be. ...He needed to re-imagine hope in light of Jesus.

Jesus ignored his explanation and told the man to "Get up, pick up your mat and walk." — John 5:8 He told him to do what the man had been unable to do for most of his life. And, for the first time in thirty-eight years, the man shifted his weight over his legs and stood to his feet.

... Maybe you need to re-imagine hope for yourself or for someone you love, in light of Jesus. He is, after all, the God of new beginnings. He is the One who can breathe new life into the dead parts of our souls. No matter how tangled the web of our lives has become, no matter how broken, no matter how lost; He is the One who invites us to bring our pain, our failure, our disappointment... all of it to Him. He invites us to trust Him.

As we look ahead to a new year, may we live hope-filled lives... And may that hope flesh itself out in a life of obedience. Here's to a new year and here's to new beginnings.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, January 6, 2019

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Gary Yarbrough,

John Lewis, Joseph Coats

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Monday, January 7

Food Kitchen.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, January 9

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Worship Team.....7:30 pm

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Fred Kerns,

Ken Nice, Don Sharp

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

Evening Worship6:30 pm

Wednesday, January 16

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Worship Team.....7:30 pm

Thursday, January 17

Food Pantry Day

Saturday, January 19

VBS Clinic.....10:00 am

Up-Coming Events

January 7, 2019 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

January 9 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

January 14 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 17 — Food Pantry

January 20 — Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting

January 27 — Diversicare 2:00 pm

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Night

We will have Sunday evening service tonight at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you here!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Prayer is such a vital part of everything a church does. Please come as we pray for the direction of our church.

Christmas Cards

Leftover cards have been placed on the table or left in the Sunday School room where you are a member. Be sure to get them!

Directory Corrections

Please change:

Stormy Kelly
3919 Messanie Street
Saint Joseph, MO 64506

Birthdays:

Alice Coats—April 13
Brittany Griswold—January 13
Marie Hren—October 28

Let us know - we'll try to fix it!

Food Kitchen

We will serve Monday, January 7, at 5:30 pm. Please feel free to join us as we show the love of Christ and minister to those in need.

Prayer Warriors

10:00 am

Wednesday, January 9

Business Meeting and Carry-In Dinner

We will have our regular business meeting and carry in meal immediately following the morning worship service January 20.

**Diversicare Nursing Home
January 27, 2019
at 2:30 pm**

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

Please Excuse Our Mess!

The wall came down this week! But unlike Jericho, it wasn't total destruction. Please continue to pray for the renovations to the entryway.

For the Record-

Attendance: December 30, 2018

Sunday School.....	23
Visitors.....	1
Total.....	24
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	40
Sunday Night.....	N/A
Children's Worship	??
Wednesday Night	N/A

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 2,405.20
Lottie Moon.....	\$ 1,695.00

Long Family –Dec. ... \$ 60.00

Offering Received by Mail:

January Counting Team:

John Lewis and Bill Schottel

January Van Driver:

Mike Green

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

January Member Birthdays:

01... Carol Helean

01... Marcia Hart

08... Al Shirley

19... Juanita Haskins

13... Britney Griswold

22....Eric Thompson

23... Pat Puckett

24....Aubrey McCamy

27... Gary Yarbrough

28... Donna Dunn

29... Sharon Waters

January Anniversaries

Allan and Ellen Lane

Married January 2, 1983

Philip and Kelsey Lane

Married January 3, 2009

Prayer Requests ...

The Family of George Ferbert

John Wildberger

Brendan Conner—Swymeller's Grandson

Joyce Winfrey and family

Whitesville Baptist Church

Mike Green

Jack and Flo Conard

Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery

Sandy and Stanley Wilson

Ruth Anne Bush—healing

Sharri Duty—Jerry Garcia

Linda Huff—cancer treatment

Marcia and Don Hart—blessings

Arlette Duty—strength

Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health

Donna and Bill Dunn—health

Karissa and Matt Long and family

Stephanie & Jason Terpack

Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister

Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson June Fritchle
The Waters Family Betty Campbell
Jim Winans Kevin Duty
Nellie Reynolds Ann Riddle
Don Beavers Tim Izer
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Seth Long
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
