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Informer

Volume 60

January 7, 2015

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As I See It. . . By Brian Gregory

In Luke 6 three groups of people come to Jesus. It starts with Jesus' disciples. From that group Jesus selects the 12 apostles. After that selection, Jesus and all his disciples go out to preach. When he gets there the crowd grows from just being Jesus, his apostles and other disciples to also including people from surrounding towns and regions. Then there is the third group, the crowd. They are not following Christ. They show up when convenient and when Jesus is done or they find it convenient, they go back home. Luke tells us the crowd came for three reasons: to hear Jesus, to be healed of disease and to be delivered from evil spirits.

This third group came, got their healing, heard a little preaching and went home. They didn't immediately follow Jesus. But, here is the shocking part, Jesus healed them anyway. I can't tell you how many times we have reached out to people through benevolence. In the back of my mind I am always wondering if this person will become a Christian through our acts of compassion. Most of the time they don't. Most of the time they just want a bill paid or some food and then, like the crowds Jesus healed, they leave. But Jesus healed them anyway. Jesus showed compassion and mercy to people who would never become disciples and so should we.

It is easy to question motives and write off some people but God has not left that up to us (Gal. 6:10). If Jesus had done this, He would have never done anything for anyone. Let's be more consistent with our calling and reach out to others when we have the chance, regardless of what we think they may be up to.

Brian *Some thoughts by Matt Dabbs.*

Teaching With Authority. . . By Joe Macer

Luke 4:32 They were amazed at his teaching because his message had authority.

When the Lord had an audience before him, he held them captive with his words. Sometimes they marveled at his instructions and at other times they were so angry with him that they looked for a way to kill him. At Capernaum they were amazed and saw he taught with authority. What was meant by the phrase "taught with authority"? The following thoughts help us to understand this phrase.

The importance of Jesus' instruction was different than the scribes' message. Jesus did not talk about rites and ceremonies but about salvation. His message was about much more important things than the normal teacher of that time. Secondly, Jesus used his own words and not the words of some other rabbi. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus referred to what the audience had heard from local scribes and then said what he wanted them to understand. Thirdly, Jesus was not seeking to be accepted by the people. His goal was for them to seek truth and put it into action within their daily lives. Fourthly, Jesus was not seeking his own glory. He was not looking to climb some ladder to greater success. He wanted his listeners to glorify his Father. He was so different than those teachers of his day.

Two more things we should consider about Jesus. Jesus not only taught the crowds but warned them that disbelief would bring about punishment. He described this punishment vividly to his audience. Finally, Jesus confirmed all that he said by performing miracles. In this crowd was a demon possessed man. He interrupted the message and Jesus removed the demon from him. Surely there was no one who spoke the way Jesus did. He spoke with authority because as the Son of God he did have the authority.

**KEEP YOUR PRAYERS:
SOUTH GATE MEMBERS**

- Mike Andrews
- Charlotte Attkisson-NHC Hillview Rm. 221
- Ann Brady
- Bernice Bratton
- Joy Brown & Fred Brown,
- Rebecca Brown
- Bill Carroll - 2502 Shangrila Trail
- Ruth Childress,
- Mary Chumbley
- Sarah Churchwell
- JoAnn Coleman - recovering from surgery
- Athaleen Cox
- Clyde Farris, MRMC, Rm. 156
- Hayley Gilliam - home
- Ila Goodman - NHC Columbia, Rm. 122-B
- Margaret Johnson
- Maetta King - Poplar Estates 215
- Libby Moss - flu
- Frances Petty - Sterling House, Rm. 403
- Barney Roland - NHC Hillview, Rm. 101
- Betty Roland
- Albert & Ethel Spears
- Virginia Staggs-Poplar Estates 101
- Elaine Whitehead

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

James Mullins—nephew of Linda Porter - cancer, Dora Bolton, mother of James - flu, Jack Craig - uncle of Lisa Kelley, Mary Jane Primm, Horace Dawson, uncle of Edith Burgess - 107 Iris Dr., Mt. Pleasant, Ken York - friend of Kathy Garner, Billy Oliver (Poplar Estates, Rm. 201) - brother of Corrine Goetz, Evan Rector, W.M. Morrow, Deak Waldrum, Patsy Loveless, Gerald Boyd, Dennis Thrasher - father of Lisa Kelley, Charles Stofel, Joan Van Hooser, Aaron Way, 12 yr. old great nephew of Barry Brown - undergoing chemo, Lou Miller - Poplar Estates, Rm. 205, Clara Totty - Poplar Estates, Rm. 102, Jackie McPeak - liver cancer, Travis Jett, Sherry Pritchett - mother of Jody, Teresa Warf Walkup - cancer, Shirley Woods - mother/Diane Upchurch, Mark Shaw, Bobby Wales, Patricia Luffman, Dorothy Rea - sister/Elmer Lusk, Earline Hensley - sister/JoAnn Coleman, Evelyn Felker, sister/Benny Bolton, Little Gatlin Macer, Sharon Riley, Doris McKennon - sister/Edna Hardison, JoAnn Anderson, Alice Lovett - aunt/Cheyenne McNeese, Ann Graham - Morning Point, Rm. 113, Jenny Miller, Beverly Dawson, Jack & Daisy White, Paul Jackson - father/Rhonda Farris, Alfred & Irma Pagel, Billy Dan & Betty Morrow, Bella Huey, Kim, Skylar & Dakota Cannon—friends of Johnny & Janice Smith, Clara Griggs—cancer—aunt of Donna Altobell - 202 Nowlin Court, Columbia, Jane Davis - sister of Nell Hood, Anne Bryant - recovering from surgery

WORSHIP LEADERS JANUARY 11, 2015

SUNDAY 9:00 A.M.

Welcome.....Dennis Thomason
 Song Leader.....Greg Lusk
 Prayer.....Alex Jones
 Lord's Supper: Presiding.....Gary Boyd
 Charlie Willis Johnnie Johnson
 Randy Jones Jonathon Macer
 Barrow Brown Jacob Pollard
 Terry Burgess Dave Coleman
 Read: John 17:20-22.....Duane Allen
 Sermon: "Jesus' Prayer For You".....John Thomas
 Announcements/Closing Prayer.....Dennis Thomason

SUNDAY 12:30 P.M.

Welcome/Song Leader.....Joe Macer
 Prayer.....Byran Farris
 Read: John 6:60.....Benny Bolton
 Sermon: "Hard Sayings of Jesus".....Brian Gregory
 Lord's Supper Presiding.....Dwayne Hickman
 Announcements/Closing Prayer.....Mike Lyle

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Barry Brown in the death of his aunt, Thelma Winchester, whose funeral was Sunday.

Sympathy is also extended to Linda Luna in the death of her brother-in-law Rick Luna, whose funeral is Thursday at 2 at Oakes & Nichols. Visitation is today from 4 to 8.

Ushers: Sonny Hargrove, John Massey, J. W. Gilliam
 Greeters: Ed & Jessica Hargrove, J. B. Hickman & Linda Rochelle
 Audio/Visual: Chase Thomason
 Security Team: A.M. Jason Kelley, Benny Bolton P.M. Corey Massey, Greg Lusk

**If you are unable to keep your appointment to serve, please call Ray Rummage (446-0668) or Joe Williams (388-9183)
 Or go to our website and follow the "Unable to Serve" link and submit the information.**

WEDNESDAY, January 14 - 6:30 P.M.

NURSERY CARE

A.M.....Tonya Boyd, Diane White
 P.M.....Linda Weaver, Robin Weaver

Song LeaderJoe Macer
 Prayer.....John Allen Thomas
 Announcements/Speaker.....Richard Farris