



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XVI

April 16, 2023

No. 16

He Also Ran to Meet the Prodigal

When we read the story of the prodigal son, we are so impressed that the father ran to meet him and immediately gave him such blessings. Have you considered that when Jesus lived on this earth, He showed the same kind of love for the wayward? He was Immanuel, God with us, and to see Him was to see the Father (John 14:9).

Those in the first century had their own ideas about those who would be part of the kingdom. When Jesus talked about how it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for those who trusted riches to enter into the kingdom, His disciples asked, “Who then can be saved” (Matt. 19:25)? The disciples had the rich at the top of their list, but Jesus’ list was so different. He came to seek and save the lost, but like the father of the prodigal understood, prodigals would be part of the kingdom.

When He chose His apostles, He chose ignorant and unlearned fishermen (Acts 4:13). He chose a tax collector—the most despised occupation among the Jews (Luke 5:27). He chose a Zealot—a Jewish “terrorist” (Luke 6:15). He surrounded Himself with men whom He knew would all forsake Him in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:31, 56). Why? Because His heart was like the heart of the father of the prodigal. The prodigal turned completely away from the father and these apostles all fled from Jesus at His darkest hour. Yet, He longed for their return. He never rebuked them for this after His resurrection. He did not rebuke, He received. We must never

overlook the message He gave to the women at the tomb, “Go tell My disciples to meet Me in Galilee” (Matt. 28:7).

Look at His life and see how He treated people so differently. He received and defended the woman taken in adultery (John 8:3-11). He accepted the thief on the cross, who at first blasphemed Him, and gave Him entrance that same hour to Paradise (Matt. 27:43-44; Luke 23:43). That thief had mocked Jesus by saying that Jesus was worthy of death and questioned that even God would not accept Jesus—yet Jesus, like the father of the prodigal, received Him.

Read the story of His life. He exemplified the heart of God who had said, “To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at My word” (Isa. 66:2). Jesus was like His Father and always “ran” to prodigals who sought Him.

Can I add one other person to those who Jesus so readily received when they sought Him? We sometimes overlook this person in the list of those whom He received. You already know that person. That person is you! Think about this.

*Dan Jenkins
Palm Beach Lakes Church of Christ
West Palm Beach, FL*

Today's Sermons

AM - Do You Want to Be Made Well?
John 5:1-9

PM - The Man Who...Lingered
Genesis 18:16 - 19:28

Congregational News & Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Harold Davis, Mary Bolen
Ron and Nadine McDonald,
Sandra Jordan, Freddie Stewart,
Cindy Kidder, Garmelia Ellis,
Roberta Donaldson, Lisa Dukes,
Doug Crouse, Norma Cogdell
Margie Montgomery, Sue Harris,
Betty Mosely, Teriyaki Anderson
James Morris, Freeman Kidder,
Andy Vaughn, Pearl Johnson,
Ken & Paula Wadley, Judy Ellis
Charles & Ruby Malone,
Phillip Mulins, Gordon Love,
Jerry Crabb, Philip Mullins,
Karen Chance, Mary Lewis

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood, Helen Morris
Beverly Martindale,
Allen Thompson
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,
Shirley Bolin, Brandi Rogers,
Jeanette Manley, Corey Allen
Kenton Lancaster, Glenn Lovell,
Marilyn Ferrell, Justin Puckett
Ramona Thurston, April Richey
David Briley, Chris Buford

Pantry Item

Tuna

Happenings

South Jackson

April 16

Men's Business Meeting

April 30

Fifth Sunday Fellowship Meal
Afternoon service will be at 1:30
PM

Cards to Send

Pat Gordon
110 Rebel Road
Jackson, TN 38301

James Morris
184 Old Pinson Road
Jackson, TN 38301

Weekly Record

6 AM	6
Bible Class	42
AM Worship	121
PM Worship	50
Wed Bible Study	47/4
Contribution	4279

Those Privileged to Serve

Apr 16 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Pack, R. Clouse

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Jonathan Orr

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Freeman Kidder

Communion: Marion Thomas

Contribution:

Jeff Bliss

Apr 23 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - J. Butcher, P. Hatcher

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Carleton Kidder

Opening Prayer:

Paul Hatcher

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Marion Thomas

Communion: Ken Ross

Contribution:

Jerry Butcher

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer: Ken Ross

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Joe Venable

Communion: Marion Thomas

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer: Joe Venable

Sermon: Singing Night

Closing Prayer: Greg Long

Communion: Ken Ross

Apr 19 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Paul Hatcher

Devo - Marion Thomas

Apr 19 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Devo - Mike Wages

South Jackson Church of Christ

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Service Times

Early Worship	6:00 AM
Gospel of Christ - Fox 16	9:30 AM
Sunday Bible Class	9:30 AM
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Midweek Bible Study	6:30 PM