



# ***SOUTH JACKSON BEACON***

Vol XVI

June 25, 2023

No. 26

## ***“If Jesus Couldn’t Why Do We Think We Can?”***

***Steve Higginbotham***

Expectations have much to do with our contentment. Those who place unrealistic expectations upon themselves are generally discouraged, and feel as though they are a failure. I’m convinced that if people had proper expectations, they would not be so soon moved to discouragement, depression, and despair. An obvious step to “reeling in” our expectations is to understand the fact that “if Jesus couldn’t do something, we need to stop believing we can.

Consider:

Jesus couldn’t make his own family believe that he was the Son of God (John 7:1-6), so why then do we beat ourselves up for sometimes failing to do the same?

Jesus couldn’t avoid sadness and sorrow (Isaiah 53:5), so why do we sometime act as though we expect life to be a bed of roses?

Jesus couldn’t go without rest (Mark 6:31), so why do we feel guilty if we aren’t on the go 24/7?

Jesus couldn’t avoid making enemies (John 15:18), so why are we so surprised when people hate us for our faith?

Jesus couldn’t cause all men to repent (Matthew 23:37), so let’s be content with our best efforts. We can’t obey for others.

Jesus couldn’t even forgive all men of their sins (John 8:24; Luke 17:3), though he was willing, so why do we think we can forgive those who will not repent?

Maybe the first step to contentment is in shedding the guilt that comes from the unrealistic expectations we place upon ourselves. After all, if Jesus couldn’t do it, why do we think we can?

## ***Publicity and the Gospel***

“There’s no such thing as bad publicity” is a saying attributed to P.T. Barnum and his famous circus. He had a lot of critics, but people kept coming to see what he was peddling, and it worked too. Oscar Wilde once famously said, “The only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about.” Apathy is the lukewarm killer. It seems that even Jesus agreed with these sentiments. He once said, “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot” (Revelation 3:15). It was better to be absolutely for or absolutely against Jesus than to be lukewarm! publicity church

Sometimes I hear people say, “I don’t know how to teach the lost. I’m not a good evangelist.” That does not matter. What matters is whether you try. You will make mistakes, and that is okay. Some will say, “But I don’t want my friends getting a negative impression.” Please. Jesus himself made a negative impression frequently even though he was sinless. You cannot please everyone all the time! Sinners hate the truth. Give it to them anyway.

Jesus also said, “Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets” (Luke 6:26). We are not intentionally trying to alienate anyone, but if speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) gives someone a negative impression, then we will just have to live with it. That is better than not saying anything at all! Jesus gags when we are lukewarm. “So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth” (Revelation 3:16). Are we more like Jesus? Or the church in Laodicea? Silence is inexcusable.

*Kevin Cauley  
New Boston Church of Christ  
New Boston, TX*

# ***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, Jerry Crabb,  
Karen Chance, Mary Lewis,  
Harrial Davis, Jerry Butcher

### **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, David Briley

### **Today's Sermons**

AM - Do You Have  
the Good Life  
Philippians 4

PM - Singing Night

## **Happenings**

### **South Jackson**

**June 25**

Men's Business Meeting

**Numerous Area Events are  
posted on the Bulletin Board**

### **Cards to Send**

Harrial Davis  
16 Rutherford Avenue  
Jackson, TN 38301

Judy Ellis  
AHC Northbrooke  
121 Physicians Drive  
Room 4A  
Jackson, TN 38301

### **Weekly Record**

6 AM	5
Bible Class	54/10
AM Worship	85/37
PM Worship	53/18
Wed Bible Study	59/5
Contribution	2940

### **Pantry Item**

Canned Greens

# Those Privileged to Serve

## June 25 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Pack, J. Butcher

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Jonathan Orr

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Greg Long

Communion: Joe Venable

Contribution:

Charlie Richardson

## July 2 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - M. Wages, J. Smith

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Charlie Richardson

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Carleton Kidder

Communion: Mike Wages

Contribution:

Ron Clouse

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ken Ross

Communion: Joe Venable

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Joe Venable

Closing Prayer: Greg Long

Communion: Mike Wages

## June 28 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Devo - Mike Wages

## July 5 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Devo - Marion Thomas

South Jackson Church of Christ

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Medon, TN

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Minister: Ray Pack

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(731) 437-9501

## 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