Two Great Invitations
Matthew 11: 28 - John 15:4 - John 12

Invitation:
A. The heart of the Gospel is the sacrifice of Christ.
B. Jesus said he came into the world to save sinners. I Timothy 1:12
C. Jesus said he came to seek and save that which was lost.
D. He is the Bread of life and those who come will never hunger and those who believe in Him will never thirst. John 6:35
E. He is the light of the world, and those who follow him will never walk in darkness, not shall have light of life. John 8:12.
F. He is the resurrection and the life and those who believe in Him shall live even if he should die. John 11:25

I. The First Invitation is: 'Come unto Me'. Matthew 11:28
A. There is a universal need. Everyone needs Jesus.
B. Here is a universal call. Everyone is invited.
C. Those invited are struggling with existing conditions.
D. People from all walks of life have come: from the burdened and lost to the arrogant and Self-righteous.
E. Weary bears the idea of exhaustion. John describes Jesus and the disciples like this after their journey to Sychar. John 4:6
F. Jesus described a heavy load as the religious traditions the Pharisees placed upon people. Matthew 23:4
G. He is a reworder of those who come.
H. Those who come believe in Jesus. There is: contrition, conviction and confession.
I. At the Jerusalem counsel, Peter noted that the Judaizes were trying to saddle believers with a man made yoke. Acts 15:10

II. The Second Great Invitation is: 'Abide in Me'. John 15:4
A. There are two ways to abide in Jesus.
1. To be in Him (saved).
2. To remain in Him (obedience).
B. Those who abide are encouraged to be vigilant and watchful.
C. Abiding in Jesus is an eternal relationship.
D. First a person must be in Christ.
E. Second a person must abide in Christ.
F. Abiding in Christ requires diligence.
G. Watch and pray was Jesus words to his disciples in Gethsemane
H. Abiding in Christ beings close fellowship with Christ.
I. This fellowship allows a believer to bear fruit and grow to maturity.

III. Lessons
A. Many Christians are living a barren life.
B. Yet they fail to realize the source of their barrenness.
C. They simply have a meager relationship with Jesus.
D. Some have come and gone.
E. They serve God through works, being a good person.
F. Some have come and stayed. They have stopped depending on themselves.
G. God provides rest to every believer.
   1. Rest from labor
   2. Fear from conscience
   3. Dread of death
H. He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of the Lord.
   Philippians 1:6

Conclusion:
A. Here we have learned of God's plan for a successful Christian life.
B. We must learn to depend upon God.
C. The more we depend upon him the closer he comes.
D. What will you do today?

Pastor Carl E. Fitzgerald
Grace Missionary Baptist Church

Jesus is Coming Again!
Acts 1:11

Introduction: I Thess. 4:13-18,
"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words.

I. Sure as to its occurrence!
A. John 14: 3. Jesus said, "I will come again." Verses 1-3, "Let not your heart be troubled; Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you. I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also.
B. Acts 1:11 (text), The Angel said, "this same Jesus shall so come." Verses 10 & 11, "And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up: behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.
C. I Thess. 4:16, "For the Lord himself shall descend from Heaven."

II. Subject as to its individuals!
A. I Thess. 4:16-17, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ
shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

III. Secret as to His coming!
"Not as method, as a thief but as to time.
A. Luke 12:40, "Be ye therefore ready also; for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."
B. Mark 13:32, "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. V. 33, Take ye heed, watch and pray for ye know not when the time is.
C. Matt. 24:36-42, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the day that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away: so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."
D. Verse 44, "Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

IV. Sudden in its operation
A. I Cor. 15:51-52, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
B. Rev. 22:7 and verse 12. "Behold, I come quickly; blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."
"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

V. Saving in its results'
"Redemption of the body!"
A. I Cor. 15:51-54, "Behold, I shew you a mystery, we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For the corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Conclusion: "Are We Watching?"
Matt. 24:42, "Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

"Kingdom Work"
Matthew 28:18-20
Introduction:

1. In Matthew 28 we find the churches Marching Orders!
   A. There are four phases to these orders, Go, Make disciples, Baptize and Teach, which we will discuss in a little while.
2. These are very important!
   A. The Eternal welfare of the world rest upon our response. It's
Heaven or Hell. It’s Life or Death.

B. The Spiritual health, the relationship to God, the power of a Committed life, having the peace that passeth all understanding in life and the overall salvation of life is dependent upon our response.

C. Jesus put it this way. Matt. 10:38 & 39, "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall loose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

3. Vacation Bible School is a most important part of Kingdom work.

A. Matthew 19:13-15, "Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.


C. Whole families through the children.

I. Gol

A. Mark 16:15, And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

B. Romans 10:13-15, For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard' and how shall they hear without a preacher and how shall they preach, except they be sent as it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

C. Can't be selfish! Must be willing to sacrifice.
   1. The missionary who goes.
   2. The churches who stay home and send (support).
   D. Can’t be lazy' Must be willing to work.

II. Teach all Nations

A. Matt. 28:19, ................ Teach all nations. Comes from a word meaning to become a pupil, to disciple, to instruct, be a learner. (make disciples of all nations)

B. Acts 1:8, But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses...

C. Always ready to give an answer. I Peter 3:15, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

D. Phillip to the Eunich. Acts 8:27-39, note verse 35, "Then Philip opened his mouth and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus."

E. Paul and King Agrippa, Acts 26:27-29, King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

F. We must win them before it is to late

III. Baptise

A. Text

B. Act of obedience-

C. Identify with Jesus, His church

D. Get hooked up

IV. Teach.

A. I Tim. 3:15

B. II Tim 2:15

C. We have responsibility
   1. Time we should become teachers. Heb. 5:12, For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.
   2. I Tim. 3:15, Church is the pillar and ground of truth.

3. We learn by teaching

"Christ, Head of the Church"

Ephesians 1:22-23, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his
body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all."
Ephesians 5:23, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body."
Colossians 1:18, "And he is the head of the body, the church."

I. Head in Authority.
A. Matthew 28:18, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

II. Head in Protection.
A. Matt. 16:18, "And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"
B. Ephesians 5:23, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body."

III. Head in Allegiance.
A. Ephesians 5:24, "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."
B. II Corinthians 11:2, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

"Let us Go into the House of the Lord."
(Right attitude about the house of God)

Psalm 122:1
I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.

Psalm 84:1-4
How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.

I. We come to Worship!
A. "We acknowledge Him."
Psalm 134:1-3, Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, which by night stand in the house of the Lord. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord. The Lord that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion.

B. We Praise Him. Psalm 135:1-3, Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise him, O ye servants of the Lord. Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God, Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant.

C. We draw near to Him.
Psalm 73:28, But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.

II. We come to lift up Jesus.
A. By declaring the Gospel Message. I Corinthians 15:1-4, Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye
are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures:

1. John 12:32, And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

III. We Come to meet with God's people.

A. Psalm 133:1-3, Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

B. Ephesians 4:1-3, I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long- suffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

C. Hebrews 10:25, Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Conclusion: Things directly attributed to attending the house of the Lord found in Psalm 84:

1. The praising of God, V. 4.
2. Man who receives his strength from God, V. 5.
4. A trust in God, V. 12.

"The Light of the World."
Matthew 5:14-16

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Introduction:

1. The church is a called out local visible assembly (group) of saved, baptized, and covenanted together people.
2. The Church has been purchased by the blood of Christ. Acts 20:28.
3. The church is washed daily by the Word of God. Eph. 5:24-25.
4. The Church is being prepared to be presented as a chaste virgin to Christ. Eph. 5:27
5. We saw the church commissioned to do Kingdom Work on earth until Jesus comes again. Matthew 28:18-20.
6. The church has been commissioned to Go. Mark 16:15.
7. The scope is to all nations. We do this through the power of Holy Spirit God. Acts 1:8.
8. We baptize the newly converted.
9. We follow through with teaching these the Word of God. II Tim. 3:16-17 & II Tim. 2:15.
10. Christ is the head of the Church.
   He is head in authority
   He is head in protection
   He is head in allegiance.
11. We found it is exciting to come to the House of the Lord.
    We come to Worship God
We come to lift up Jesus
We come to meet with God's people.

The church is the light of the world and that it is most important! The American Commentary put it this way,
"Even thus is each church a column and base of the truth. It is God's chosen institution, by which His truth is upborne and made known through all ages. It is not the author of the truth, nor the authority on which the truth is published; but, receiving the truth as given in His Word, its office is to conserve and publish it as God's message to men. Without the church, therefore, the truth unpreserved and unproclaimed, would perish from the earth."

I. The Light can be Hidden.
1. It could be placed like a city in a valley or a candle under a bushel. V. 14 & 15.
2. It can be Hidden by Carnality'
   A. I Corinthians 3:1-3. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"
   B. I Corinthians 5:1, "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.
   C. I Corinthians 15:34, "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God; I speak this to your shame.
3. It can be hidden by disobedience!
   A. Failure to let God use us. Jonah 1:1-3, "Now the word of the Lord came unto
   "Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord,"

II. Hidden From the lost!
1. I Corinthians 4:3, "But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:"
2. I Corinthians 15:34, "for some have not the knowledge of God;"
3. Lot hid it' Genesis 19:14, "And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons-in-law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons-in-law."

III. Let the Light Shine!
1. V. 16, Before men!
2. Peter and John, Acts 4: 13, "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." You can't hide it.
3. Paul gave this testimony, II Timothy 1:8, "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partakers of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God."
4. Enoch, Hebrews 11:5, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.
5. Admonition is us. Colossians 4:6, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."
I Peter 3:15, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

Conclusion: That men may Glorify our Father which is in Heaven. V. 16.

The Church, One Body in Christ.

Romans 12:5
"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

I Corinthians 12:12 & 14
"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. (14) For the body is not one member, but many."

Introduction: The Church operates as a Body. As members of our physical body differ; so, we as members of the Church body differ. Every member is just as important as another.

I. The Church is the Body of Christ!
A. Text, Romans 12:5
B. Christ is the Head! Ephesians 1:22-23, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all."
C. Ephesians 5:23, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church: and He is the Savior of the body."
D. Colossians 1:18, "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence,"

II. The Church, as a Body, Has Different Body Parts!
A. I Corinthians 12:4-11
B. Note: I Corinthians 13:9-13
C. I Corinthians 12: 14-31

III. How Every Body Part is to Work
A. Romans 12:9-21

"The Faithful Servant"
Matthew 24:45-46.

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing."

Introduction: In His teaching our Lord Jesus reveals what He expects of us during these days of His absence. The lesson and central emphasis is on faithfulness and responsibility in service. In describing the faithful servant the Master commends:

I. THOUGHTFUL SERVICE.
A. Verse 45, "A faithful and wise servant."
B. The idea behind the little word "Wise" is that of thought and forethought, consideration and trustworthiness.
C. Solomon used the Ant as an example. Proverbs 6:6-8, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: (7) Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, (8) Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest."

II. THOROUGH SERVICE.
A. Verse 45, "Meat in due season."
B. Service for the Master is not to be disorganized or haphazard.
C. The apostle Paul expresses this thought in the statement: "Let all things be done decently and in order." I Corinthians 14:40.
III. TIRELESS SERVICE.
   A. Verse 46, "Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing."
   B. Jesus is our example, He said of himself, "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4
   C. Paul puts it perfectly when he says, "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:16

IV. REWARDED SERVICE.
   A. Verse 46, "Blessed is that servant."
   B. We shall surely want to hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of the lord." Matthew 25:21

Jesus Meets Us Where We Are!

Luke 19:10, "For the Son of man is come seek and to save that which was lost."

Introduction: I received an invitation just this past week to a Grand Opening. The Main heading was "Dress Casual?" It seems to me the idea that is trying to be gotten across is, "Jesus will meet you just where you are."

Our Text is what Jesus told Zaccheus. Surely no one would argue that Jesus did not meet Zaccheus "where he was". Luke 19:1-10, He went to the tree Zaccheus was in. Verse 5, "And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zaccheus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house."

I. Jesus meets us where we are. (Zaccheus)
   1. Paul was on the Damascus Road. Acts 9:1-5 (V. I, "Yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter,")
   2. Jailor about to commit suicide. Acts 16:22-33. (V. 27, He drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.)
   3. Man on the cross, dying. Luke 23:42 (Remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.)

II. Jesus doesn’t leave us as He finds us.  
   (Zaccheus)
   1. Paul, great missionary. Acts 9:15, "Go thy way; for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:"
   2. Jailor, Keeper of the prison. V. 30, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" V.33, "And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway."

III. Change is Coming!
   1. We have been made Free! Galatians 5:1
   2. We now love our neighbor as ourself. Gal. 5:13-14
   3. We now can walk in the Spirit of God. Gal. 5:16-18
   4. Fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-26

Conclusion: "Has Jesus made a difference in your life?"

"Growing Up in My Father's House"
Proverbs 1:1-9

"The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: (2) To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; (3) To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; (4) To give subtlety to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. (5) A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding
shall attain unto wise counsels; (6) To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings. (7) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (8) My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: (9) For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

Introduction: Proverbs 1:1-9
I. Hear Instruction.
   A. Text, Verse 8, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father;"
   B. Text, Verse 8, "Forsake not the law of thy mother;"
   C. Proverbs 15:5, "A fool despiseth his father's instruction; but he that regardeth reproof is prudent."
   D. Proverbs 15:20. "A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish man despiseth his mother."

II. Fear the Lord.
   A. Text, Verse 7, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;"
   B. Psalm 19:7-9, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. (8) The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. (9) The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

III. Live Long in Peace.
   A. Proverbs 3:2, "For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."
   B. Ephesians 6:1-3, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. (2) Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; (3) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

"Affirming our Importance" Proverbs 27:2
"Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips."

Introduction:
1. There is a great need for affirmation among our children
   A. Never at the cost of truth
   B. Never by degrading others.

   I. Truth of God's feeling and estimation of his child's importance
   II. God's action to confirm our importance
   III. Revealing of parent's feeling and estimation of child's importance
   IV. Parent's actions to confirm child's importance

Conclusion: Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way that he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

"Consequences!"

Scripture:
Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
Gal 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.
Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Introduction:
1. Actions have consequences!
2. Job Said, "Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same." Job 4:8.
3. Consequences are not always fun and games.

"The Prodigal son, Luke 15:11-32, is our example, today."

I. His first mistake, he removed himself from the protection of home; an action with a consequence.
1. Went into far country. V. 13)
2. Away from father's and mother's instruction and advise.
3. Away from home's provisions: roof, food, clothing, etc.
4. Thinking he was ready to be his own man. I Cor. 10:12, Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

II. His second mistake was he lived to the flesh, an action with a consequence.
1. Riotous Living: Lacking restraint, indulgence in things, promiscuous sex, vices, degrading aspects of human nature.
2. I Timothy 5:6, But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. "Her works are dead."

III. His third mistake was he practiced no restraint, an action with a consequence.
1. Wasted his substance. V. 13-14
2. No self-Control. 2 Peter 1:5, And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue (moral excellence), and to virtue, knowledge; And to knowledge, temperance (moderation-self-control); and to temperance, patience; and to patience, Godliness; And to Godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity (love).
3. Possible memory lapse. 2 Peter 1:9, But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins

IV. His fourth mistake was that he hadn't considered the consequences and that was an action with consequences.
1. And he began to be in want. V.14
2. Jobs were scarce.
3. Pay was not enough to provide a living.
4. Alone in a strange land.
5. No friends and no help.

Conclusion:
1. The wise person will count the cost! Lu. 14:26-33, whether it be discipleship, building a tower, waging a war or anything else, there is a cost. A consequence to everything we do.
2. Young person obey parents (Keep self under their authority, their tutorage.) Ephesians 6: 1 &4.

Pastor Darrell Streeter Gone Home to Glory

Alert Alert Alert Alert

Increased postage cost has created mailing delays. Please consider adding SOTW to your mission outreach. The last issue finally all got in the mail in June.

SOTW 3-31-12 Balance Forward $1589.90
April Salary $225.25
Printing ink 30.00
Postage 287.97
Total Expenses 349.66
Deposit 880.00
Balance April. $530.34
May Salary 225.25
Repairs 115.50
Paper 143.82
Printing ink 30.00
Postage 305.94
Total Expenses 814.51
Deposit 935.00
Balance May $120.49
June Printing ink 30.00
Postage 402.97
Total Expenses 432.97
Deposit 1011.18
Balance Mar. $578.21

Ending Balance for Quarter $2288.60
Responsibility of Position
I Samuel 3:13

"For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not."

Introduction:
A. Ephesians 6: 1-4
B. Colossians 3:20-21

I. Like Father - Like Mother
A. II Kings 15:1-3, V. 3, "And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done."
B. II Kings 15:8-9, V. 9, "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, as his fathers had done."
C. Age is no barrier to doing what is right!
D. Proverbs 20:7, "The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him."

II. Remember now - Rejoice later.
A. Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;"
B. It is so important to raise children right.
C Titus 2:4, "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children."
D. Titus 2:6, "Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded."

Conclusion:
A. Proverbs 29:15. "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."
B. Example of Hophni and Phinehas, I Samuel 2:24, "Ye make the Lord's people to transgress."
C. I Samuel 4:17, "Hophni and Phinehas are dead and the ark of God is taken."

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