



## *Chalmette Church of Christ*

*July 11, 2010*

### *“When Jesus Arrived Late” Part 2*

What's the point? Jesus is teaching us by His example (1 Peter 2:21-22) that we must not be so intent upon one good deed that we miss the opportunity to do another.

Life does not come at us in a single line; we all multitask all the time. Consider how important it is not to focus just on one thing while we are heading down life's road.

- While we are going to high school, most of us make the most important decision of our lives by being baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27) and begin to serve the Lord (Colossians 3:24). We must not say, "I'm focusing on school right now. I'll become a Christian later."

- When we are in college getting an education, many also find their life companion and get married (Proverbs 18:22; 19:14; 31:10; 1 Timothy 5:14). Of the two, which will ultimately contribute the most to our happiness and effectiveness in the kingdom of heaven?

- While we are building a career, we are also building a marriage and starting a family (Proverbs 14:1; 5:15-18; Ecclesiastes 9:9; Malachi 2:14-15; Ephesians 5:25-28).

How many successful careers have come at the cost of a divorce and those children calling someone else "Daddy"?

- While we are busy going to work every day, we

are also rearing children who will soon be on their own (1 Timothy 5:8; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4). One of these helps us to make a living; the other enables us to make a life worth living. One brings us some money we will soon spend; the other allows us to reach out and touch a future generation we'll never live to see. We'll leave work behind one day, but we can prepare those children to live with us in heaven for eternity.

- Many soul-winning opportunities come our way while we are intent on something. Take Paul's work in Troas, for instance (Acts 16:6-8). On his second missionary journey, he began revisiting old places—putting his sandals in places he'd been on the first missionary journey. But he soon got ready for the gospel to continue its relentless march across the world. When Paul came to Mysia, he wanted to go north to Bithynia. Perhaps it had to do with his view of preaching where the gospel had not been heard before. Bithynia was Paul's first choice, but for whatever reason, the Holy Spirit interceded and told him to go west to Troas. Paul could have sat down on the borders of Mysia to sulk, but he decided to go do God's will in Troas, even though it was not his first choice. Souls were saved in Troas that would never have been reached if Paul had stayed focused on Bithynia.

- Many opportunities for kindness and service present themselves on our way to something else. It was this way with the good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).

The Bible says, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good" (Galatians 6:10).

Like Jesus, we only have so much time to serve our generation. Paul instructs us to carefully consider how we spend that currency: "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16). Some things are "more needful" than others (Philippians 1:24).

Mary and Martha had the same two opportunities set before them one day: serving and studying (Luke 10:38-42). In this case, Mary chose "that good part" and sat at Jesus' feet, while Martha was burdened with much serving.

**Lesson #2: When we part from our friends, we do not know under what circumstances we will find them next.**

When Jesus had left Mary, Martha, and Lazarus it seems that they were healthy and happy, but how quickly things can change.

*1. Now Jesus found His friend Lazarus in the grave (John 11:17).* When He came to the outskirts of Bethany, He likely came upon the town cemetery. That cemetery had a fresh grave, and its inhabitant was on the short list of Jesus' friends.

Jesus was told that Lazarus had been in that grave for four days. It was sometimes the custom of the ancient world to embalm the dead, but the prevailing Jewish practice seems to have been that burial took place on the day of death (cf. Acts 5:6,10).<sup>1</sup> Some think that Lazarus died the day the messenger came to Jesus with the tidings of his sickness. Count the two days that Jesus "abode in the same place" and allow two more days for His journey. Thus Jesus set out for Bethany on the third day and after staying the night with Zacchaeus in Jericho, arrived on the fourth day. Matthew Henry rather thinks that Lazarus died at the very instant that Jesus said "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth," which is taken to mean, "He is now newly

fallen asleep" (John 11:11). If this is the case, it took Jesus longer to make the trip.

*2. He found Mary and Martha grieving (John 11:19).* Martha and Mary were swallowed up with sorrow at their brother's death. Here was Martha's house, a house filled with the fear of God, yet it is for a time a house of mourning. Grace will keep trouble from the heart (John 14:1), but not sorrow from the house (Job 14:1). Mourners were present four days after the burial because the Jewish custom was a long season of mourning (Genesis 50:3, 10; Numbers 20:29; Deuteronomy 34:8). The Mishna prescribed seven days of mourning for close relatives, and the rules as laid down by rabbis required seven days' public and thirty days' private mourning for distinguished or important people. So mourning among the Jews lasted about thirty days:

- The three first days were termed days of weeping (cf. Acts 8:2). During these three days, the mourner did no servile work. If any one saluted him, he did not return the greeting.
- Then followed seven days of lamentation or solemn mourning (1 Samuel 31:13). During the seven days, he did no servile work, except in private—lay with his bed on the floor, did not put on his sandals, did not wash nor anoint himself, had his head covered, and neither read in the law, the Mishnah, nor the Talmud.<sup>3</sup>
- All the thirty days he continued unshaven, wore no white or new clothes, and did not sew up the rents which he had made in his garments.

To be continued next week

By: Allen Webster

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is just around the corner.**

**Start making plans to attend and invite friends and neighbors. The Forrest Hill group from Memphis will be coming down to help us with VBS.**



**Olan Mills will be here August 11th to take family portraits for our new directories.**

**There is more information about times on the bulletin board in the foyer. Make sure you and your family set aside some time to come take pictures for the directory. You can also order pictures if you**

### **Helping Those In Need**

**Pantry Item's of the week: Blue Runner Red Bean & Mac n Cheese**

#### **Upcoming Events**

**July 12- 14 Vacation Bible School with  
Forest Hill Church of Christ and Memphis  
group**

#### **July Birthdays**

**22 Sondra Rivera  
30 Mark Lance**



# Prayer List



Mary Jo Lance  
Alice Riley  
Sherry Towle  
Betty Grisham  
Burnell Rogers  
Margo  
Jessica Lance  
Patricia Rodney  
Donny Vick  
Judy Hennessee  
Charlie Whitley

\*All of our brethren scattered across  
the United States & our troops in  
Iraq



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## Services of The Church Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am  
AM Worship 10:00 am  
PM Worship 6:00 pm

## Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

## Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

## Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

[gospelpr@cox.net](mailto:gospelpr@cox.net)

## Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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