



*Chalmette
Church of Christ*

July 18, 2010

“When Jesus Arrived Late” Part 3

Life is unpredictable. Solomon said, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Proverbs 27:1). Job did not know when he left his children one day that they he would not see them again (Job 1). When Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers, he did not know he would not see him again for two decades (Genesis 37). When Jesse sent David to bring a report from his sons on the battlefield, he did not know how much his life would change from that point (1 Samuel 17).

Likewise, we do not know what may happen in a day.

The clock of life is wound but once,
and no man has the power,
To tell just when the hands will stop,
at late or early hour.

Now is the only time you own,
live, love, toil with a will

Place no faith in tomorrow,
for the hands may then be still.

We do not know what tomorrow holds.

However, we can know the One who holds tomor-

row. Since we do not know when will be the last time we see our friends and loved ones, we should

- Always part on good terms. Solomon wrote, "Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend" (Proverbs 6:3). The New Testament advances this teaching: "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil" (Ephesians 4:26-27).

- Do all the good you can while there is opportunity: "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it" (Proverbs 3:27). Paul reminded us, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10). That day of opportunity will one day end, so we must work "while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). Solomon added, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Lesson #3: When Jesus seems to arrive late in our lives, we should remind ourselves that He never left.

There may be times when Jesus seems distant from us. We may feel that our prayers go unanswered. It may seem that circumstances are so unfavorable as to reflect neither the love nor grace of God. It may seem that Jesus has not yet arrived on the scene to save the day.

The truth is that Jesus never leaves us. He told those who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). He has promised, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

A grieving woman once went to F. B. Meyer looking for help. She said, "My daughter died last year. I loved her so much. I made tea for her every morning. And even when I had to go to work, I knew that she would be there when I got home in the evening. But now I come home to an empty house. I'm lonely and miserable and I cry all the time. Home just doesn't feel like 'home' anymore. What can I do?"

Meyer gave her wise counsel. He said, "When you get home and put the key in the door, say out loud, 'Jesus, I know You are here!' and be ready to greet Him directly when you open the door. And as you light the fire tell Him what has happened during the day; if anybody has been kind, tell Him; if anybody has been unkind, tell Him, just as you would have told your daughter. At night, stretch out your hand in the darkness and say, 'Jesus, I love You! You're my best friend. I'll talk to You in the morning.'"

Some months later, Meyer was back in that neighborhood and met the woman again, but he did not recognize her. Her face radiated joy instead of misery. "I did as you told me," she said, "and it has made all the difference in my life. Now, I feel like I know God."2

Mary Stevenson wrote the popular story "Footprints" in 1936. It is a work of fiction and does not reflect the way the Lord communicates with man (which is through His written word), but in a poetic way it nonetheless illustrates the point that the Lord is with us even when it seems that He is not.

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it:

"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The Lord replied: "My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Jesus did arrive late when Lazarus was sick, but no one was complaining when He departed, for Lazarus and his sisters were once again enjoying each other's company (John 11:44). He will always leave us happy in the end, too (Romans 8:28; John 14:1-3).

By: Allen Webster

Vacation Bible School was wonderful! We want to take this opportunity to thank each person that came down to help with VBS. Everyone enjoyed it!



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 wish.

Helping Those In Need

Pantry Item's of the week: Peanut Butter and Jelly

Upcoming Events

July 18- Singing and Fellowship Meal

August 15- Singing and Fellowship Meal

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



Chalmette Church of Christ
200 De La Ronde
Chalmette, LA 70043
504-279-9438

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

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

Website: www.chalmettecoc.org

Chalmette Church of Christ
Post Office Box 1165
Chalmette, LA 70044