

The REMINDER

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GODS WE CAN SEE

When Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, he took them straight to Mt. Sinai, just as God had instructed him. There God called Moses up to the top of the mountain that He might speak to him. But while Moses was up there for a period of 40 days, the people down below became disgruntled. They hadn't expected Moses to be gone so long. They began to lose hope, not only in Moses, but in God as well. Finally they broke down and cried out for Aaron to make new gods for them (Ex. 32:1). Aaron gave in and the die was cast for the golden calf.

Now certainly the Israelites were completely without excuse in this apostasy. But I think we can understand their actions. All the rest of the world served visible gods. Gods they could see and touch. Israel alone had been called on to worship an invisible God, a God who not only refused to appear to them, but who even forbade the making of any images to represent Him. Moreover, Moses was the only one of their number to whom this God would speak. The Israelites' endurance just gave out. They wanted a god they could see - a god that would not disappear on them. And so they made themselves just such a god.

Walking by Sight - Now when this fact is understood, a very important principle begins to show through this story - the principle of walking by faith. God has always called on his people to walk by faith and not sight (2 Cor. 5:7). Moses' 40 days on the mountain amounts to a trial of their faith. Could they endure just that long without hearing from this invisible God? Well, they failed the test. They, like most of us wanted to walk by sight

The result was disaster. 3000 were killed that day. The tablets of the covenant were broken, and only by Moses' intercession was God dissuaded from destroying the whole nation. And how many times since has this hankering for "gods we can see" led God's people to apostasy and disaster? Consider for example the request of the Israelites 350 years later for a king. Not content with their invisible God, they wanted a visible king, like all the other nations.

And I believe the same triumph of sight over faith took place when the first Pope was named. Though politics were involved, it wasn't just a grab for power. The people wanted it this way. Not content with Jesus as king, they chose one they could see. They also rejected His spiritual kingdom to build one they could see. Many still look for this physical, material kingdom where we are vindicated for our "faith." Jesus built a kingdom "not made with hands", one we can't see with the physical eye. We created a different sort.

We have continued to look for a visible god and a physical kingdom. The same idolatrous steps the Israelites took so long ago. We can expect the same disastrous results they received. Why not rather serve our true God? We need to walk by faith, not by sight.

adapted from an article by Phil Roberts

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "A Christian's View of Financial Future"

PM Lesson - Steve - "A Call To Forgiveness"

NEWS AND NOTES: We had several out with various illnesses on Wed. night. Sharon Alexander has had a respiratory infection for a week or so. Anna is also suffering from this, again. Chloe was also out with sickness. Matt Miles was also out. Hope all these folks are recovered by today. Helen Cochran (Terry Kornfeld's mom) is in rehab, trying to get in shape to come home. Keep these folks in your prayers. We also have several visitors who are undergoing treatment or testing at MD Anderson.

Anita is in Atlanta today with our son and his family. I leave this afternoon to join her. We'll be gone all week to see all our kids and grand ones. I'll preach in Alabama next Sunday, and we'll drive home on Monday the 4th.

Keep in mind that we go off daylight savings time next Sunday. "Spring ahead, fall back." Be sure to set your clocks on Sat. night.

There is a card on the bulletin board from Susana Trevino. Be sure to read it.

"The bare recollection of anger kindles anger."

"Better to trip with the feet than with the tongue."

Who Will Know?

"The righteous holds to his way" (Job 17:9).

A Christian away at college was confronted with temptation. He continued to push it away from him. Some of his "friends" pressed him to yield with the statement: "Come on and do it! Who will know the difference?" Good question, and it deserves some consideration.

1. I will know. This is sufficient reason to shun sin even if it's certain no one else will ever know. No one else has to live with my conscience 24 hours a day, but I do. I want to look in the mirror in the morning without shame.

2. God will know. Job said, "If I sin, thou dost mark me" (10:14). Joseph looked temptation square in the face and refused to yield with this remark, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God" (Gen. 39:9). I cannot do anything that He does not see!

3. My Christian friends will know. They may not know the particulars, but they will be aware of my discomfort around them. The church is a body. If we are "connected to each other, we pick up on subtle hints.

4. When Christ comes, everyone will know. He "will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness" (1 Cor. 4:5). If I sin today, I must suffer for it tomorrow.

Wise is the person who determines to live a righteous life. He or she lives with a confidence in God, and therefore confidence in the future.

Joe Barnet

Assignments for today

Sunday, October 27, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Matt Miles
Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Scripture Reading.....Luke 23:20-38
Scripture Reader.....Mitchell Howell
Opening Prayer.....Rudy Black
Closing Prayer.....Matt Miles

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Mark Mann
Opening Prayer.....Alex Morolez
Closing Prayer.....Matt Miles

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Schedule of Services

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible study
5:00 PM Worship

Wednesday:

7:30 PM Study and Devotional
Minister and editor
Jack Smith and Steve Garrett

The Reminder is published weekly by the church of Christ in Bellaire