

not just do what He says to do without any questions or caveats?

In Matthew 5, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus starts by speaking of the attitudes we should

have if we want to please God. Among those attitudes, Jesus makes the special mention of the meek. "The meek will inherit the earth." They are the unassuming, the people who approach God's word without any pride or prejudice or preconceived notions. They simply approach God's word with humility, thankful that God has loved us enough to reveal His mind to us, and do what it says despite the religious "leaders" of the day looking down on them as being "simple-minded." Let us all strive to be "simple-minded" and we will inherit more than just the earth; we will inherit eternal life with God in heaven.



Faithful Sayings Issue 11.12 March 22, 2009

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

11.12

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

MARCH 22
2009

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
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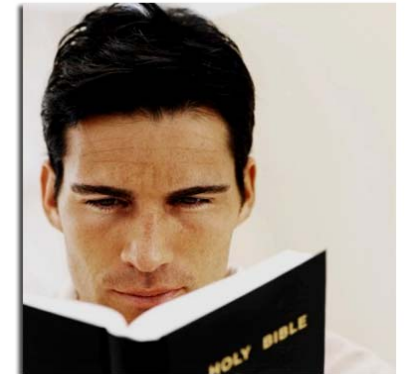


"God has
chosen the
foolish...to put to
shame the wise"
1 Cor 1:27

Be Simple-Minded

by Curtis Carwile

In the Gospels, we can see that Jesus was surrounded by mobs of people all the time. These crowds consisted of people from all different walks of life and they all had different reasons for being there. Some wanted to test Jesus (John 8:2-12). Some wanted to see His miracles (John 6:60-66). Some wanted to learn from Him (John 6:67-71). And, some were there because of their faith regarding who He was (Matthew 16:16). I guess the most efficient way of saying this is that the people that were there because of their faith were the people you



wouldn't expect and the people who were there to try and trip Him up were the ones that should have known better and who should have been among the first to fall in-line behind Him.

The Pharisees were the religious leaders and they were the ones that should have seen the signs the clearest and recog-



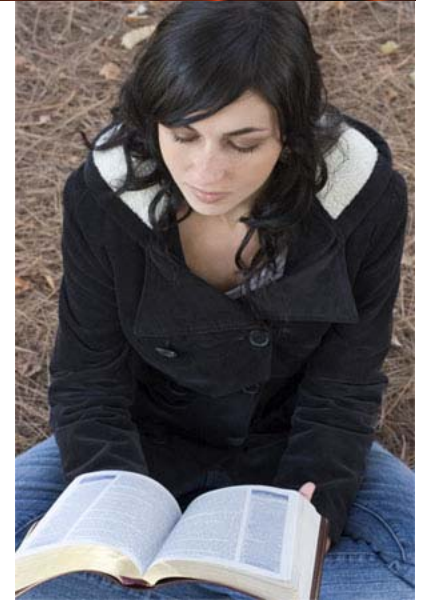
Olsen Park church of Christ

nized Jesus the easiest. However, when they saw Jesus, they refused to recognize Him as the Christ (Matthew 12:38-42). The disciples believed Jesus, but even they didn't seem to get it or who exactly Jesus was and what that meant all the time (Mark 4:35-41). It's funny that the only ones that really seemed to have faith in Jesus were Gentiles (Mark 7:24-30), Samaritans (John 4:40-42), the weak and poor and downtrodden. They were able to see Jesus and their faith was unhindered by all the religious "mis-learning" of the day. They were able to have faith without preconceived notions. They were able to see Jesus for who He really was despite being the "simple-minded" of the day.

I wonder how many of us are like the Pharisees. I don't mean that the way so many people do when they insult others by saying that they put an "undue emphasis" on the Law of God. I mean it in the way that they were blinded to Jesus by their years of religious study. How many of us can't see Jesus and what He taught because He doesn't fit into the mold we think He should fit (Mark 3:1-6)? Wouldn't it be better to just listen to Jesus, have faith, and obey Him without looking for all the supposed loopholes and caveats?

For example, when Jesus says that a man and woman should stay together through thick and thin and the ONLY reason to get a divorce is sexual infidelity. Why would we need to talk about it any further than that? (See Matthew 19:1-10; Mark 10:1-12). Or when Peter says that you need to be baptized for the remission of your sins to be added to the church as one of the saved. Why would we need to have all of these questions about spiritual or physical baptism or other issues? (See Acts 2:38-47; 1 Peter 3:21). Or when Paul, through the Holy Spirit and by the authority of Jesus, says to sing and make melody in the heart, why don't we just do that? Why would we have to examine the "instrumental music" question? (See Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). Or finally, what about when James tells individual Christians to take care of the poor, the destitute, the widows and orphans? Why would we even have to look at institutionalism? (See James 1:27).

Those are just four of many, many examples. So, tell me: why can't we just look at the Bible, what Jesus says, and listen to it like the poor and downtrodden did back then? Are we not the spiritually downtrodden today? Shouldn't we be



the "simple-minded" of today? Why is it so difficult for us to simply believe on Him and obey Him? Is that so hard? Is it our pride that is getting in our way? Do we have to show people how smart we are? If that's the case, why not instead show people how "simple-minded" we are? Why