

“According to the Pattern” (Numbers 8:4)

The Tabernacle

"And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its **pattern** which you were shown on the mountain." - Exodus 26:30 NKJV (Acts 7:44, Hebrews 8:5)

Its Furnishings

" According to all that I show you that is, the **pattern** of the tabernacle and the **pattern** of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it." - Exodus 25:9

The Lampstand

"And see to it that you make them according to the **pattern** which was shown on the mountain." - Exodus 25:40 (Numbers 8:4)

Christian Conduct

" Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a **pattern**." - Philippians 3:17

Mercy From God

" However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a **pattern** to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life." - 1 Timothy 1:16

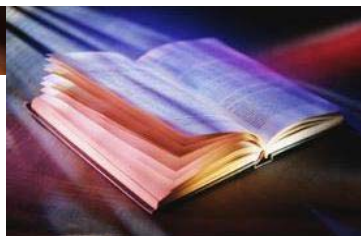
Sound Teaching

" Hold fast the **pattern** of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus." - 2 Timothy 1:13

“Does God Have A Pattern For The Church?”

"...I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." - 1 Timothy 3:15

Faithful Sayings Issue 11.51 December 20, 2009



Welcome Visitors

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

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

11.51

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

December 20
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
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Curtis Carwile

Ordinary People with a Mustard Seed

by Kyle Pope

Most of us, by the world's standards are very "ordinary" people. We wear ordinary clothes. We have ordinary jobs. We drive ordinary cars and live in very ordinary houses. There is no shame in this. In fact that has always been the nature of God's people. Paul said - "...not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, [are called]." (1 Corinthians 1:26, NKJV).

Sometimes we may feel that the relatively humble estate of our lives has left us with little influence on the direction of world events or the conditions of life.

When we feel this way we should stop and consider

something that the Lord said about something that we "ordinary" people who are Christians possess. Jesus said - "...The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed,

4700 Andrews Ave.
Amarillo TX 79106
806-352-2809
www.olsenpark.com

which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches” (Matthew 13:31,32).

This parable has less to do with the na-



Olsen Park church of Christ

ture of heaven itself than it does with the power that establishes one as a citizen of its kingdom. Consider how the kingdom was first brought forth: Jesus began with twelve very ordinary men (Matthew 10:1-15). Sometime later he chose seventy others whom he sent out two by two (Luke 10:1-12). At His ascension there were only 120 disciples (Acts 1:15) yet after the preaching of the twelve, as they spoke through the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the number grew to 3000 (Acts 2:41). A short time after this Acts 4:4 tells us that the number of men had grown to 5000, suggesting that the number including women was even greater. By the end of the first century the message of the gospel had gone out from Jerusalem into Judea, Samaria, Syria, and into the whole world (Colossians 1:5,6). How could a handful of “ordinary” people do so much in such a short time? Because they had something that was not “ordinary,” the powerful message of salvation in the name of Jesus Christ. Did Christians then have something that we do not? The miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit confirmed and fully revealed the gospel message, but there is no indication that this added any greater motivational power to the message than we possess today. In many respects spreading the gospel then was much more difficult than it is today. Early Christians

faced persecution, travel by foot or donkey, no quick methods of communication such as phones, e-mails, or instant messaging, and in general an economic status much lower than even the poorest Christians of our world. Yet, simply because of the strength of their conviction and the power of their message these “ordinary” people **“turned the world upside down”** (Acts 17:6).

What if Christians today believed as much in the power of the truth as these Christians did? Imagine that every Christian in his or her life time could bring two people to Christ. Imagine nurturing these two converts to maturity, strengthening them so that they in turn could lead two more to Christ. In only a few generations the actions of a single Christian could have an impact on thousands of lives. What if a Christian couple raised two children whom they lovingly lead to obedience to the faith? Imagine these children following this faithful example and doing the same. By the forth generation (not counting any influence on spouses or friends) the faith of the first couple would have influenced thirty souls!

As Christians we must realize that while we are “ordinary” people, we are entrusted with something that is most “extra-ordinary,” the glorious message of salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. Every word and deed that we do has influence in ways that we may not even realize upon our homes, our churches, our communities, and throughout the entire world for generations to come. May God help us to see our ability to influence the world has little to do with our status and everything to do with what we believe.

