

# The REMINDER

The weekly newsletter of the church of Christ in Bellaire, TX

Volume XXXII

June 2, 2013

Number 22

## JUDAS AND PETER: A STUDY IN FAILURES

Our society seems to think of successful people as those who never fail. In reality truly successful people are those who have learned how to handle failure. Albert Einstein was successful in his field even though he failed certain school subjects the first time. On the other hand, many other students never learned to handle failure and therefore never succeed.

In looking at the lives of the apostles, one sees that not all of them were successful in their positions. In fact, two of them, Judas and Peter, are very prominent in that they failed our Lord in a spectacular manner. However, the way in which each man handled his failure shows a vivid contrast. Indeed, it is the difference between success and failure.

Comparison of Failures - No two apostles seem to have less in common than Judas and Peter. The incident with Mary and the ointment in John 12:1-6 shows that Judas was a thief. Jesus Himself called Judas a devil in John 6:66-71. On the other hand, Peter often showed the qualities of a leader. He was usually the first one to speak up. He made the good confession in Matt. 16:13-17. In John 6 he is the one who utters those grand words, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." And yet, their failures at the time of the crucifixion were very similar. Judas made a deal with the Jews to deliver Jesus to them. Jesus knew this and even told of it at the Passover (John 13:21-30). Judas then had the audacity to betray our Lord with a kiss. Jesus also foretold Peter's three denials in Luke 22:31-34. Of course, this is what eventually happened. Both men failed their Lord and Master. Why do we have such contrasting feelings about them?

On the surface each at first reacted in a similar fashion. Judas was sorrowful and took back the thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 27:3-4). Peter was also sorrowful and went out and wept bitterly (Luke 22:26). Here the similarity ends. Judas became despondent, gave up, and went and hanged himself (Matt. 27:5-9). Peter persevered, reaffirmed his love for Jesus and lived a long and fruitful life for the Lord. This man who had failed so miserably had the courage to tell the Jews they had murdered the Son of God (Acts 2). What a story this would have been had Judas been the speaker. Peter was later the first to preach the gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 10). This was indeed a major recovery.

What do we learn from the lives of Judas and Peter that can help us handle our own failure? First, we must admit our weakness and failure. It is obvious that all of us fail from time to time (Rom. 3:23). Second, we must truly repent of our sin. This is much more than simple sorrow. Both of these men felt sorrow, but only Peter really had a change of heart that led to a change in his life. Sorrow is not repentance, but godly sorrow does lead to repentance (2 Cor. 7:9-11). Third, this repentance must lead to what Paul called "works worthy of repentance" (Acts 26:20). This is the manifestation that we have genuinely repented. Fourth, do not let past failure drag you down in the present. Paul said that he forgot the things which were behind and stretched forth to what lay ahead (Phil. 3:13f). Fifth, we must never forget the lessons that we learned from those experiences. Ironically, Peter speaks of those who had forgotten their past cleansing from sin (2 Pet. 1:9-11). May we learn to make success of our failures.

author unknown

# Bulletin Board

Sermon  
Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "Count Your Blessings".  
PM Worship - First Sunday singing

Please keep the following members in mind who have difficulty being with us due to prolonged illness:

**Dee Boyd, Doris Norman, Billie Glitsch and Don Hurd.**

**NEWS AND NOTES:** I spoke with Melva a little while ago. Curby goes back into the hospital this week for a "pic" line. It is needed to infuse the medication he needs for the congestive heart problem. Anna Meikle had some tests run this past week to see about her respiratory difficulty. Chris Lindelof is home from the hospital (for now), but they are having problems regulating his blood pressure (among other things). Many of our "family" are struggling with ongoing health problems. Remember them in your prayers.

New classes begin today for the quarter. Steve will continue his "Harmony of the Gospels" in the auditorium. Jesse will teach "Creation/Evolution" in room 107. I'll have I & 2 Corinthians in room 102. Looks like an interesting schedule. Plan to take advantage of one of the classes.

Denise and Mike are out of town this weekend. Probably others will be gone, too. Travel safely and return happy. Steve and Muffy (and several of "our" children will be gone next week for summer camp. Anita and I will be out of town the week of the 16th. I'll be in a meeting in Pensacola. Looks like a busy summer.

## Most Valuable Citizen

President Teddy Roosevelt once said, "When all is said, it is the mother only who is a better citizen than the soldier who fights for his country. The successful mother, the mother who does her part in rearing and training aright the boys and girls who are to be the men and women of the next generation, is of greater use to the community, and occupies, if she only would realize it, a more honorable, as well as more important position than any man in it. The mother is the one supreme asset of national life. She is more important by far than the successful statesman or businessman or artist or scientist."

Roosevelt's statement reminds me of the old adage, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." We need to continue to emphasize to our women how important their role is in our world.

*"The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands" (Prov. 14:1).*

Often the problems of our society are blamed on the absence of fathers. While this has clearly played a part in our nation's demise, we cannot overlook what the absence of mothers has done. Mothers, thank you for the sacrifices you make for the family. You are vital!

Wade Webster

*"There are a lot more counterfeit men than money in this country."*

## Assignments for today

Sunday, June 2, 2013

### Morning Service

Announcements.....Mike Pharris  
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald  
Scripture Reading.....I John 1:5-10  
Scripture Reader.....Jesse Knapp  
Opening Prayer.....Samuel Camp  
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge  
Opening Prayer.....Chad Smith  
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

## BELLAIRE church of Christ

8001 South Rice Ave • P.O. Box 1029  
Bellaire, Texas 77402  
713/668-4810

<http://www.bellairechurchofchrist.org>

### 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