

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 9 JULY 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

• Group Meetings:

- **Today** we will be having our monthly **group meetings!** You should have been contacted by your host, but if not, see one of the elders—they will be able to connect you with your group.
- The **Sugar Land group** will **not** be meeting today; we will keep you posted on when it will be rescheduled.
- Kent Ellis, the grandfather of **Bethany Moon**, passed away last weekend. Please pray for the Ellis and Moon families.
- Keep in mind several who are traveling, including **Jan Cooper (family)**, **Robert McDonald (work)**, **Deb Haley (grandkids)**, and the **Morolez Family**.
- **Anna Miekle** continues to be in very ill and is in much pain. She is scheduled to see a doctor this month. Please pray for her.
- Continue to pray that **Pat Butler** remains healthy and strong and that all reports from the doctors are good from this point forward.
- **Holly Ann Villanueva, Sharon Alexander's daughter**, is undergoing a series of radiation treatments. Pray for total healing.
- Keep praying for on-going health concerns: **Bob Stark, Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn.**
- **Sermon Title: Hear My Cry, Oh Lord (Psalm 5)**

WHO ARE WE?

A group of God's children, striving to maintain the organization, doctrine and worship as taught in the New Testament

ELDERS

Brian Haley
Mark Mann
Mike Pharris

DEACONS

Scott Clanton
David Davila
Dan Kimbrough
Jesse Knapp
Alex Morolez
Gregory Williams

EVANGELISTS

Daniel Broadwell
Steve Garrett

CONTACT US

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DIRECTORY UPDATES

Email:
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SCHEDULE

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday:

7:30 PM Bible Study

SERVICE

Welcome - D. Broadwell
Song Leader - G. Williams
Opening Prayer - R. Black
Lesson - S. Garrett
Communion Talk - N. Lovinggood
Announcements - M. Pharris
Closing Prayer - J. Carithers

BIBLE CLASSES

Psalms (Auditorium)

- Daniel Broadwell
- Michael Krueger

Classes for children

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Fishers of Men

Over the holiday, Beth and I spent a few days on Padre Island with her family to do some fishing. Being a life-long city dweller, this was a new experience, but a very enjoyable one. There's nothing quite like being out on a boat as the sun rises, enjoying the peaceful serenity of God's creation. Also, it's almost impossible to go fishing and not think about Jesus and His disciples—especially when you fish all day and have nothing to show for it.

Most famously, Jesus said in Mark 1:17, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." It was the perfect calling for men that had spent their lives fishing the lake of Galilee, but were about to be a part of something bigger than they could've imagined. It so wonderfully captures the heart of their mission that Christians today identify with this calling to make it their own. Jesus-followers are to be men-fishers. But what does it mean to be "fishers of men?"

In Jeremiah 16, God foretells the disaster that will come upon the people of Judah because of their wickedness. "I will hurl you out of this land into the land which you have not known...for I will show you no favor." (16:13) He also looks beyond the punishment to a time when He will "restore them to their own land." (16:15) In this context, God says the following in 16:16-18:

"Behold, I am going to send for many fishermen," declares the LORD, "and they will fish for [the people]; and afterwards I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them from every mountain and every hill and from the clefts of the rocks. For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes. I will first doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted My land."

God was looking for "fishers of men," but for the purpose of catching His people to punish them. In Jeremiah 16, the "fishers of men" are those that carry out God's judgment on a sinful people. Yes, there is hope, but first God must repay them for their wickedness, and they cannot escape.

This background may change how we understand the disciples' calling. The disciples were being called to carry a message of judgment to the people of Israel. In fact, when Jesus sends them out to preach, he says, "Any place that does not receive you or listen to you...shake the dust off the soles of your feet as a testimony against them." (Mark 6:11) Clearly, it is a message of hope—it is the "gospel" after all—but more completely it is a message of separation. Jesus Himself makes this clear when He quotes from the prophet Isaiah to explain why He teaches in parables: "So that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing they may hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven." (Mark 4:12) Jesus proclaimed His message so that it would make a distinction between those that believe willingly, and those who stubbornly refuse.

Hopefully this helps us understand our task as followers of Jesus. In the gospel, we have been given a beautiful message of hope to take to the world. We, like Jesus, are here to "seek and save the lost." But, like Jesus, the apostles, and the prophets of old, we carry a message to the world that causes a separation. We cast a net into the world that makes a distinction between those who believe and those who don't. Not everyone will accept our message and believe in the gospel, but our task—given to us by Jesus Himself—is to proclaim God's word.