



“The Sower”

February 7, 2010



Ron Bartanen, Minister

Times of Worship

Bible Classes-----9:30 am
Morning Worship-10:30 am
Evening Worship---6:00 p
Wed. Bible Study---1:30 pm

WELCOME to today's Bible class and/or worship assembly. If you are a **VISITOR**, we especially appreciate your decision to meet with us. It is our hope that you will return at every opportunity.

Have you checked our web site lately?
www.arthurchurchofchrist.com

Be sure to visit the “Apologetics Press” link, now in both English and Spanish. Also newly added: Sermon Outlines and “Family Minutes” (Dale



“**HOW TO GLORIFY GOD**” will be the morning message, with John 17:4-5 as the reading. The evening message will be, “**Desert Oases,**” with Psa. 63 as the text.



PRAY FOR: Paul, Lester, Donna, (chemo treatments), Inez, Lyla, Linda, Mary’s mother, Sammie’s niece, Linda’s nephew (chemo treat-ments), Doris’s niece (Diane), my niece (Paula), Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis & Mary Carter (Fla.), our service men and women, and our nation’s and world’s leaders as a way for peace is sought.

NURSING HOME: The Arthur Nursing Home service will be Feb. 16 at 6:00 p.m.

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

In the *Gospel of John* chapter 4, there are two amazing stories taking place. The first of these involves Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, and takes up the first 42 verses. The second story is that of Jesus miraculously healing the son of an official in Galilee, and runs from verse 43 through the end of the chapter. In a sense, this chapter is a synopsis of the ministry of Jesus while He was on the Earth, for in it we can see how He went about sharing and caring for those around Him. When you think about it, that is exactly what

the gospel message is all about. That is why Jesus gave the Great Commission in the first place when He said, ¹⁹“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20 [ESV]) If we care enough about those around us we will share the good news of the gospel of salvation found in Jesus Christ!

Jesus shares with us how we can come to the Father. He says in Matthew 7:13-14 (ESV), ¹³“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” Jesus is the narrow gate to the Father, for as He tells us in John 14:6 (ESV), “I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

David wrote in Psalm 42:1-2 (ESV), ¹As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. ²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.”

When we ask the Savior to transform our hearts and minds, expect mighty things to happen as a result! The Living Water Himself will infiltrate the inner core of who you are. He will wash and cleanse you to make you new and complete in Him. It is in this sense that we will never thirst again, for we will be filled with His Holy Spirit! And it is when we come to Him in obedient, saving faith that we receive the Holy Spirit. As Peter declared on the Day of Pentecost at the birth of the Lord’s church, it is when we repent and are baptized we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁸“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.” (Acts 2:38-39 [ESV]) When we submit to baptism we put on Christ (Galatians 3:27). Only those who are in Christ are free from the bondage of sin, for only they drink of the Living Water. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 8:1-2 [(ESV), ¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.’

--David Ferguson, Lakeland church, Mattoon

THE LORD IS GOOD



We praise the Lord because of His salvation. Because man is alienated from God, resulting from sin (Rom. 3:23; 6:23), God sent His Son to redeem us (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Jesus tells men they must be born again (John 3:3-5). When we sing praise to the Lord, let us thank Him for His salvation because in Him we rejoice. The Lord is good when you know you have a home in heaven; the Lord is good when you receive an answer to your prayer; the Lord is good when you get a pay raise; the Lord is good when your friend becomes a Christian; the Lord is good when your spouse is faithful and your children love you. The Lord is also good when you lose your job, when you get sick, when you lose a loved one, or your spouse is unfaithful. The Lord is good! The Lord is good no matter what happens to you. He does not stop being good. He does not stop working all things together for good in our life, even the bad things. (Romans 8:28)! --Ron Thomas, Sullivan, IL

VALUABLE ORANGES

“To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:4).

One of the most tragic accidents that has ever happened came about in the mid-Atlantic, April 14, 1912

The *Titanic*, one of the largest vessels of all time, hit an iceberg and sank within a few hours. Many stories of heroism and courage have been written about this incident. Many women chose to go down with their husbands. The band played “Nearer My God to Thee.”

One woman who was allotted space on one of the rescue boats asked permission to return to her stateroom. She was given three minutes. In that stateroom, money and jewels were scattered all over the floor, but she took no heed of them. Rather, she snatched three oranges and hurried back to the boat.

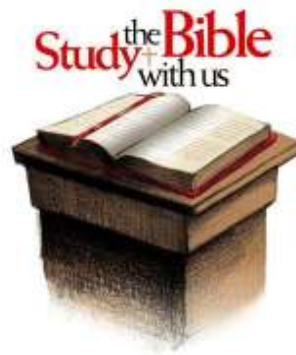
It seems almost incredible that the woman preferred oranges to diamonds. But, you see, death had boarded the *Titanic*, and with one blast of his awful breath, transformed all values—precious things became worthless and worthless things became precious.

Death has a funny way of changing things. All of the things we work for and worry about seem reasonable until they are viewed in

the light of our own death. The pursuit of pleasurable things seems most reasonable until one thinks about death. Striving for fame would also seem reasonable until one ponders the grave. Death just has a way of changing one’s perspective.

The thing that happened on the *Titanic* actually happens every day—but remember: values transformed at death are values transformed too late. Will you transform your values now? --Norman Martin, *House to House/Heart to Heart*

“Godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (1 Timothy 6:6-8).



HOW DID YOU LIKE THE SERMON?

This is a familiar question. By what guidelines do we determine a good sermon? I suggest a sermon is successful if:

1. It is true to God’s word.
2. It is prepared in love.
3. It is prepared to meet a need.
4. It is spoken so that all can understand.
5. It glorifies God.
6. It challenges people to think.

Sermons are to be measured, not by the approval and pleasure of people, but by their response in holy living, godly action, and true Christian dedication.

-The Lantern, Sullivan, IL

Newly designed Web Site: Please check out the newly esigned web site for the Highway church of Christ. We think you will like it <http://highwaycofc.com>

What is Spirituality?



To me it is one who is seeking each and every day to be more conformed to the image of the Son of God and who seeks to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. It is like the song, “I’m pressing on the upward way, new heights I’m gaining every day...” To be spiritual means to me a Christian who has realized that he or she can do nothing apart from the Lord. But can, when appropriating all that the Lord has for us attain spiritual maturity. But we must remember that it is a life long process, one that will not be complete until the time when “we shall be like Him.” -Larry Miles, Louisville, KY