

Lessons From a Nursing Home Visit

In the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his multitude: "Whom are you like in your greatness? Behold, Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon, with beautiful branches and forest shade, and of towering height, its top among the clouds. The waters nourished it; the deep made it grow tall, making its rivers flow around the place of its planting, sending forth its streams to all the trees of the field. So it towered high above all the trees of the field; its boughs grew large and its branches long from abundant water in its shoots. **(Ezekiel 31:1-5)**

By David Maxson

will find that many of them lived extraordinary lives. They were once young and vibrant. Some were athletic. Others raised large families. Still others had great influence and position. And you may find a few who possessed all of those things and more in their lifetime.

But all of that is a distant memory. Life has worn their bodies down. They may rarely see their families. Their influence has greatly diminished.

What is the lesson you learn from the nursing home? It is that whatever "great" things we do in this life are temporary. The only things we do that have any consequence are those things that are directed toward eternity. Whatever work we do for this life will quickly pass away. Whatever we invest "in the Lord" will endure forever **(1 Cor 15:58)**.

Father, thank You for giving us an enduring hope so that our labor is not in vain. Help us to see this more clearly so that we might more fully invest ourselves in those things that are eternal.



Going to a nursing home is quite an education. What you see is people who are nearing the end of their journeys. Their bodies do not possess the beauty or the strength they once had. They move slowly. They are sometimes bound to a wheelchair or to a bed. Physically, there is not anything that is impressive about the residents in a nursing home.

However, if you sit down and talk with the residents, you

Classes This Week

Sunday 5:15 PM Kid's Class at the Building	Sunday Evening College Devo and Singing at the Sullivan's house.	Monday 7:30 PM Evangelism Class with Ryan Hasty in college classroom	Tuesday 8 PM Truth-seekers in Student Center Rm 2225	Thursday 10 AM Ladies Class - "Amazing Women of the Bible" at Anna Miller's	Thursday 7 PM Men's Class at Walker Davis' home
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Sick

Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Donna Pridmore (Erin Miller's Mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Mark Dean (Father of Logan Dean)	Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle)
Jon Jon Henderson (Suzanne Stagner's cousin)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Bob Cannon (Friend of Holly Law)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Eli Williams	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Lisa Carter (Josh and Luke Carter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Esther Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Grandmother)

September Birthdays

- 2 - Denise Davis
- 3 - Trenton Anderson
- 4 - Logan Dean
- 4 - Kevin Anderson
- 10 - BJ Winslett
- 10 - Josh Carter
- 10 - Matthew Sullivan
- 10 - Eleanor Weldon
- 10 - Keeley Porter
- 11 - Sheryl Fowler
- 11 - Kimberlee Myers
- 12 - Jared Johnson
- 13 - Ashley Winland
- 14 - Patsy Ogle
- 16 - Brittany Bagents
- 17 - Laura Weldon
- 19 - Kayti Persall
- 21 - Sarah Chandler
- 24 - Wade Winslett
- 26 - Ali Ingram

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Fallon Hartsell, Brittany Bagent, Shang Li and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - Let us remember those who are grieving in our prayers at the death of Toni Herd's cousin, William McCullogh and Savannah Spohn's grandmother, Janice Thompson.
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton and also Matthew Cavender, a new student to be with us in January, in your prayers as both are deployed to Afghanistan.
- ☒ - Remember Will King's grandfather, H.L. King and Anna Selsvik's grandmother, Esther Foropoulos in your prayers.
- ☒ - Remember Sheryl Fowler's cousin, Ted Nelson in your prayers as he enters Hospice care for cancer.
- ☒ - Cliff Parsons will be away for one month in LA.
- ☒ - We encourage our members to park on the grass and to move up front to provide seating for our visitors.
- ☒ - Our monthly singing is tonight!

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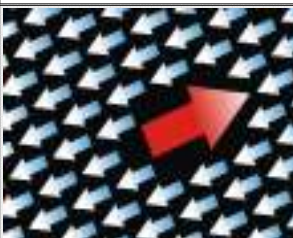
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:16)**

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Following the Crowd

By James R. Cope



Thoughts to Ponder

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.

(Luke 9:26)

"Mobocracy" is disorderly rule. It seldom reflects the will of an entire nation, state, or community. It may well reflect the unbridled emotions of a portion of a community or state, however. People will sometimes do things if they think their identity is being lost in a crowd which they will not do if their individuality is recognizable. In a multitude of "don't cares" one may do and say things of which he is neither ashamed nor afraid yet apart from such company he would be both ashamed and afraid to do and say the same things.

The ethical standards of a crowd are often lower than the individuals who compose the crowd when such persons are considered as individuals. The good names of otherwise good and law-abiding citizens are sometimes forgotten under the frenzy of lynching a Negro. The same white man who would hesitate to take the law in his own hands under normal conditions may become either a Nader or follower in a mob. By himself, no; with the crowd, yes.

Many young men, returning from the thick of battle, have testified concerning the hatred for the ene-

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my they felt on the field yet alone with their thoughts they condemned their own emotions. Many otherwise decent people who would condemn as conduct unworthy and unbecoming a saint of God will curse, drink, gamble, and dance in a crowd given to such sins but they dare not thus act in the presence of even one person whose respect they esteem. There is a tendency within some of us to play to the gallery for sympathy or support yet we will refuse to meet face to face the individual we accuse. Is this not sometimes true of preachers?

(Continued on page 2)

Elders
Walker Davis (334) 703-0050
Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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(Continued from page 1)

There is a brother or sister the preacher doesn't like. He has been itching to tell her off. So what does he do? He goes to the pulpit and lets go with both barrels. Maybe the intended game is hit, maybe not. In either event, however, the preacher has accomplished his purpose. He got her told. He did not possess the moral courage to meet the sister face to face to deal with her error. He gets the moral strength he needs from the great number of brethren who will back him in the crowd but would refuse to hold up his hands if they understood all the details of his actions.

Christians should never cooperate in an unrighteous cause because that cause is popular. God's standard of Christian conduct does not permit the Christian to "follow the multitude to do evil" (**Ex 23:2**). The theology of modernism says that the ultimate standard of right and wrong, of good and evil, is that which a given social group says it is. This philosophy denies that Jehovah of the Bible is actually the source of moral and spiritual consciousness. Instead it makes "God" the projection of the human mind, i.e., the creature of man rather than man being the created image of his Maker. In other words, with the modernist, the fact that the Bible teaches the sinfulness of murder, rape, theft, and lying actually counts for little. These are sins simply because man in his evolutionary development, has declared them so. An omniscient God has had nothing to do with it because, to the modernist, omniscience exists not with one eternal self-existent Being but only with the sum total of human knowledge. The Christian thinks otherwise for he recognizes that "it is not in man to direct his own steps."

The weighed judgment of the majority is never a test of truth. If history proves anything it establishes this fact. Ideas which at one time were universally accepted have long since been discarded. At one time it was believed that the earth was flat. The greater portion of mankind gave assent thereto. Time and experience, however, have declared the falsity of

this assumption. The earth is not round because men have declared it so. It is round because God made it that way. Murder, adultery, and theft are not evil because men have so declared them. They are sinful because God has decreed them to be sin.

Men are fickle. Their ideas change with changing conditions. While this is true with the individual it is especially true of the multitude. The crowd will curse today and praise tomorrow; it will kill today and canonize tomorrow. "Hosanna" was the cry of the multitude when Jesus entered Jerusalem. "Crucify him" was the chant of the mob when He stood before Pilate.

Righteousness is usually unpopular and in the minority. This is why men should be weighed as well as counted. Gideon called for volunteers to drive the Midianites from Israel's borders. Thirty-two thousand answered the call. The numbers rapidly dwindled, however, when placed in the scales. The minority had come for the fight, the majority for the fun. Again they were placed in the scales and again the majority had little conception of the cause at stake and for whom as well as for what they had been called forth. Then this minority was pitted against Midian an even greater majority, who stood in overt opposition not to Israel alone but to Israel's God. Israel's cause was just and right and God vindicated Himself and His people by giving them victory.

The Christian must "prove all things" (**1 Thess 5:21**). He must entertain only righteous principles. Then he must "hold fast that which is good." He must pursue the good regardless of the costs to him personally. God does not settle all His accounts here. This is why the righteous and faithful shall "reap in due season if we faint not" (**Gal 6:9**). It is easy to float with the tide and go with the crowd. We should not forget, however, that at the judgment God will deal not with the crowd but the individuals who composed it.

- **The Preceptor, May 1954**



Predisposition

By James W. Adams

All of us to one extent or another are creatures of prejudice, or "predisposition." While imagining that we are independent thinkers, studiously logical, and quite objective in our appraisals, we have strong dispositions toward certain views, procedures, and organizations. These dispositions result from many things: rearing, custom or tradition, popularity of the thing in question, innate personality traits etc. The cause may differ with different individuals, and whatever the cause the practical result in the same, but we all have predispositions. This fact should cause every man who desires to spend eternity with God to reexamine the spiritual ground on which he stands. Am I what I am and do I believe and practice that which I believe and practice because they are right and true, or because they are what I want to be right and true?

One of the universal tendencies of mankind has been to worship a God of his own creation. This can and is done without constructing a graven image of wood, stone, or precious metal. Many individuals professing to be New Testament Christians who would consider it quite heathen to bow down to a graven image (to) worship a God of their own creation. The Psalmist warned against this tendency when he quoted God as saying to the wicked: "These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest

The Psalmist warned against this tendency when he quoted God as saying to the wicked: "These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such a one as thyself . ." (**Ps. 50:21**) Do we worship and serve God as He is revealed to us in His word?

that I was altogether such a one as thyself . ." (**Ps. 50:21**) Do we worship and serve God as He is revealed to us in His word? Or, do we worship and serve Him as we desire Him to be?

Frances Bacon wrote: "What a man had rather were true he more readily believes. Therefore he rejects difficult things from impatience of research; sober things, because

they narrow hope; the deeper things of nature, from superstition; the light of experience, from arrogance and pride, lest his mind should seem to be occupied with things mean and transitory: things not commonly believed, out of deference to the opinion of the vulgar. Numberless in short are the wars, and sometimes imperceptible, in which affections color and infect the understanding." (Novum Organum via Logic and Language.)

Jesus impressively taught in the "Parable of the Sower" that the "good seed" — "the word of God" — takes root and grows to fruition only in the "good and honest heart." (**Lk. 8:11-15.**) The more strongly therefore we desire to believe a thing, the more carefully we should guard against being deceived by our own predisposition!

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