

## SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

Sunday morning worship (Bible study) .....	9:30 AM
Sunday morning worship (Preaching) .....	10:30 AM
Sunday afternoon worship (Preaching).....	4:00 PM
Wednesday evening worship (Bible Study).....	7:00 PM

## NEWS AND NOTES

**SCHEDULE:** The schedule for July is posted on the bulletin board so the men can see what their responsibilities are for the month.

**SERVICE TIMES:** Thankfully, we have been able to resume our normal schedule of assemblies.

**OUT OF TOWN:** Jerry and Dottie Henderson are out of town attending the funeral of Caleb Guest, their grandson-in-law. He was the husband of Brooklyn, Tim's and Anna's daughter.

**STAYING IN:** As a result of the seriousness of the Corona Virus outbreak some members have been staying at home and may continue to do so, as a result of underlying health issues or just precautionary. We respect their decisions.

**SICK AND SHUT-INS:** Telford Hamm will be having surgery on his leg tomorrow in Huntsville. Dottie Henderson continues to do well. Alice Hamm is doing well following knee replacement surgery. Zola Basham will not have her hip surgery and is experiencing pain and discomfort. Remember her sister, Sula Maxey, is doing well following shoulder surgery. Donna Criswell has some health issues and a lot of stress is involved in caring for her aunt, Nell Barrett who is not doing well, and neither is her brother-in-law. Remember Telford Hamm's brother and brother-in-law. Jack Elliott was not able to have the heart ablation and continues to experience heart issues. Continue to remember Jack's niece, Nancy Summerford's mother is in last stages of Alzheimer's. Virgie Waddle is still not doing well. Remember her sister-in-law, Jean Malone is in the nursing home in Golden.

**TEACHING EFFORTS:** Our teaching bulletin, the **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, was in the **Red Bay News** in April. Copies of this issue are on the table in the foyer for those who do not receive a paper. These may also be used to give to a friend or neighbor. When the copies are depleted, more can be printed. There is also an ad in the local paper once a month offering a free Bible correspondence course. There are DVD copies of past TV programs available. The radio program on 95.5 FM at 10 AM each Sunday continues. Please pray that these efforts will reach people interested in studying God's word.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS / SINGINGS:** Russellville Highway 43 July 12-17 with Don Miller Mon – Fri 7 pm. Riverbend - Singing Fri July 17 at 7 pm. Belgreen July 19-24 with Dan Chaney (time unknown). It is possible that some of these meetings have been canceled, so check before you go. If you know of meetings or singings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

## POINTS TO PONDER

- The end never justifies meanness.

# THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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**Editor's Note:** This Thursday was the scheduled time for our Summer series of lessons to have begun. Due to the restrictions resulting from the Corona Virus the men decided it would be best to postpone this series until later in the year. Tadd Corder was to have been the first speaker in this series. So, since he will not be with us, I found the following articles written by him. I plan to try, if possible, to get articles from each of the men who were scheduled to be with us and print them in our bulletin.

## DON'T STRUGGLE ALONE

By Tadd Corder

“When Jesus heard about it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. And when Jesus went out, He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.” (Matthew 14:13, 14)

Jesus was not angry with the multitudes for following Him. He healed the sick who had been brought to Him because He had compassion on them. It is important for us to learn from the example of Jesus' compassion. We must be ready to relieve others. We must be able to be moved to compassion by the needs of others. Jesus had other things to do. He really needed to focus on preparing the apostles for His death. John the Baptist had recently been executed, and this is what had prompted Jesus to withdraw to a deserted place away from the multitudes. However, Jesus was willing to set aside His concerns to help those who had come to Him.

There is also a lesson to be learned from these people who were diligent to go where their needs could be met. Jesus wants us to lend aid to those who are in need, especially our brethren, but we can't always know about every need. These people would not have received healing if they had not been diligent to go and ask for help, and Jesus does know about every need. Our brethren may have other things to do, but don't we know that they would gladly set aside those things to help us if we are struggling? Don't be afraid to ask for help when we really need it. Don't worry about inconveniencing the disciples of Jesus.

The devil wants us to believe that our brethren are too busy, or that our needs aren't important enough. In fact, the devil would love for us to become bitter against our brethren so that he may separate us from their encouragement. Don't listen to the devil. Listen to Jesus and look to His example. The disciples of Jesus are ready to relieve those who are hurting. The fact that we may need to tell them about our needs doesn't diminish in any way their willingness or their ability to encourage us tremendously during difficult times in our lives.

It can be hard to admit that we are not able to deal with a situation by ourselves. Maybe the difficulty we are facing is the result of a poor choice on our part. This would be particularly hard to admit to others. However, experiencing situations that we cannot deal with on our own is the reality of this life. These people who came to Jesus couldn't heal their own sick. All of us came into the world completely unable to care for ourselves. It is reasonable to expect a certain amount of accountability and independence as we grow, but the most accomplished human adult will still be unable to address the problem of sin by themselves. Jesus died on the cross because we could not pay the debt of our sins.

Jesus has done so much for us already. He stands ready to do even more for us, and He hears us when we pray. Yet, Jesus has also arranged it so that His disciples will be there to help those who are in need. The answer to our prayers may very well be a brother or a sister who just needs to know that we need them.

## **TAKE HEED HOW YOU HEAR**

By Tadd Corder

"And the disciples came and said to Him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' He answered and said to them, 'Because it

has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.'" (Matthew 13:10, 11)

In what sense are disciples given the ability to understand?

The Bible teaches that God can affect our understanding:

"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason, God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (2Thessalonians 2:9-12)

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind." (James 1:5, 6)

However, the Bible often connects what God does to affect our understanding with our response to Him. Notice that the strong delusion that Paul wrote about was sent after truth was rejected; James went on to say that asking God for wisdom is only effective when we ask in faith; Jesus described the hard-hearted who did not perceive the mysteries of the kingdom as people who had closed their eyes. (Matt 13:15)

We said that the Bible often connects what God does to affect our understanding with our response to Him because these brief thoughts are not intended to consider every passage that might deal with this concept. A passage could very well be presented that would describe God affecting our understanding without commenting on our response. Would such a passage negate what the Bible says about our ability to respond to God? The Bible also teaches us that sometimes God does what He wants in spite of what men are thinking or doing. (Acts 3:17, 18) Did God's plans to sacrifice Jesus absolve the guilt of those who crucified Jesus?

We may not understand everything about how God affects our understanding, but we should know that He works for us or against us based on how we respond to His word. Notice that the parable of the sower deals with people who hear the word of the kingdom (Matt 13:19). "...the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." (Luke 8:15)

Let's be careful not only to listen to God, but to listen with the intent that we will believe and practice whatever He says.