



did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously” (1 Peter 2:23).

With the Master having such a disposition it is little wonder that we who would serve Him are to do the same. James tells us through the Holy Spirit, “...let every man be

swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (James 1:19). On three occasions in Paul’s epistles he refers to the Christian disposition as one that is “quiet.” To the church in Thessalonica he urges them to, “...aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business...” (1 Thessalonians 4:11) and to “work in quietness” (II Thessalonians 3:12). He told the young evangelist Timothy that we should pray, “for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence” (1 Timothy 2:2).

Certainly there are times when we must speak. As Christians, we (like Jesus) must teach the truth, we must rebuke sin and encourage faithfulness. Even so, when it is not necessary for us to speak, let us strive to imitate the character of our Master in putting on a disposition of quiet submission to Him in our daily life.



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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

14.10

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

March 4
2012



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Pat Goguen
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Jason Garcia

“Go and Learn What This Means”

By Kyle Pope

In Matthew 9:13 there is a simple and yet profound statement. As Jesus was being criticized for His association with “tax collectors and sinners” (9:11), He gives this admonition, “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance” (NKJV). As He quotes an Old Testament teaching from Hosea 6:6 it is interesting what He instructs the Pharisees to do. He assigns them to learn the meaning of Hosea’s statement. The statement itself is easy enough to understand: God wants people to be merciful to others more than He wants us to offer some great sacrifice. Yet, Jesus also suggests to them that while they might understand the words, they had not truly learned the principle. By criticizing His association with “sinners” they were failing to see the importance of the mercy He demonstrated in trying to teach sinners. He tells them to “go and learn.”

There are many things in the Christian life that have a similar application. We may understand that God wants us to be longsuffering and kind (1 Corinthians 13:4), or that His word can work in us if we will study (1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17), but, we may not yet have learned how to act with patience and kindness



Olsen Park church of Christ

or we may not let God's word work within us. We may understand that God is with us from day to day (Hebrews 13:5) and that peace of mind is offered to us when we go to God in prayer (Philippians 4:6-7), but, we may not yet have learned to trust Him through times of difficulty appealing to Him that we might have this peace. In each of these cases, we like Jesus' critics need to "go and learn what this means."

The important thing for us to remember is that we must always strive both to understand what God has said and "learn" how to apply it in our lives. It is easy for us to get discouraged when we see our lives fall short of what the Lord teaches. However, in Christ Satan doesn't win when we fall short but when we surrender. Paul shows us that even though he understood the Lord's care in his life he had to "learn" to be content. In Philippians 4:12 he declares, **"... I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need"** Just before this Paul stated, **"...I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content"** (vs. 11). Our task is just the same. May each of us work to better understand what God has said and diligently come to know the Scriptures. Yet, at the same time may we each take it a step further by "learning" what these things mean in our own lives.



A Quiet Disposition

By Kyle Pope

As we look back through the ages to consider the character of Jesus, one of the most striking aspects of His behavior is the quiet disposition which He maintained. Even though the gospels record for us His words and teachings, it is amazing how much is said about His silence.

The prophecy of Isaiah which foretold Jesus' death, said of Him, **"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth"** (Isaiah 53:7, NKJV). While the gospels record for us the few words Jesus did offer in His own defense, Mark tells us, **"...the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing"** (Mark 15:3). How tempting it must have been in the face of these rebellious

and blasphemous souls to declare to the whole universe the grandeur of His nature and the scope of His incomprehensible power! But, it was not yet the time for such a declaration. The Apostle Peter years later would speak of Christ's character in proclaiming that Jesus, **"...when He was reviled,**

