

(15)And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. (16)Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Mark 15:15, 16

Christ's Closet

Free Clothing for anyone in need. Open Wednesdays 9:00 – Noon.

Mountain States Children's Home

Remember to stock up on non-perishable supplies to bring for the children's home collection which takes place near the end of March each year. Keep this work in your prayers.

Food Pantry

The pantry is located in the room left of the library. There are sacks in the pantry room if you or someone you know is in need of any of these items. Feel free to take what you need. If you have a donation for the pantry please put it on the table in the pantry room.

Peru Ministry

Support Oscar, Anna Maria, Queca and Tony Woods in their outreach in Peru.

Kennewick Church of Christ

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509-783-4013

Website: www.kennewickcoc.com

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ
Church Email: kencoc@gmail.com

Meeting times:

Sunday:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am
Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; ccbotts@hotmail.com
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

Open Congregational meeting – 2nd and 4th Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome.

May 21, 2017

Welcome to the Kennewick Church of Christ

What is the Significance of Jesus Eating with Sinners?

In Mark 2, soon after calling Matthew to follow Him, Jesus ate a meal with “many publicans and sinners” in Matthew’s house (verse 15). Matthew had been a tax collector (publican), and these were his friends and acquaintances who were now spending time with Jesus (cf. Luke 5:39). The scribes and the Pharisees complained, but Jesus’ actions in spending time with sinners transcended His culture and actually should define Christian culture as we know it. In Jesus’ day, rabbis and other spiritual leaders were the highest members of Jewish society. Everyone looked up to the Pharisees. They were strict adherents to the Law and tradition, and they avoided those whom they deemed “sinners” because they had a “clean” image to maintain. Tax collectors, infamous for embezzlement and their cooperation with the hated Romans, definitely fell into the “sinner” category. As Jesus’ ministry grew, so did His popularity among the social outcasts of society. Now that Matthew was part of His inner circle, Jesus naturally had more contact with the pariahs in Matthew’s circle. Spending time with the publicans and sinners was part of Jesus’ mission: “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners” (Mark 2:17). If Jesus was to reach the lost, He must have some contact with them. He went to where the need was because “it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.” Praise the Lord, the Great Physician makes house calls. Sitting at Matthew’s dinner table, Jesus may have broken some societal taboos, but His presence there shows that He looked beyond culture to people’s hearts. Whereas the Pharisees wrote people off simply because of their profession or their past, Jesus looked past all that and saw their need.

Jesus also transcended culture when He conversed with the Samaritan woman at the well—even His disciples were surprised by that one (John 4:27). Other telling incidents: Jesus forgives an immoral woman in Luke 7, He helps a Syro-Phoenician woman in Mark 7, He touches a leper in Luke 5, and He enters Zacchaeus’s house in Luke 19. Jesus came to save sinners (Luke 19:10). Tradition, cultural bans, and the frowns of a few do not matter when a soul’s eternal destiny is on the line. The fact that Jesus saw individuals, not just their labels, no doubt inspired them to know Him better. They recognized Jesus as a righteous man, a man of God—the miracles He performed bore witness to that—and they saw His compassion and sincerity. Jesus didn’t let social status or cultural norms dictate His relationships with people. As the Good Shepherd, He sought the lost sheep wherever they had strayed. When Matthew hosted the dinner party, Jesus gladly accepted the invitation. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the good news of the kingdom with those who most needed to hear (see Matthew 4:23). Yes, He would be criticized for His actions, but what prophet ever lived without criticism? Jesus transcended cultural norms and was not above spending time with the outcasts of society. He spoke truth to sinners and loved them; He offered them hope, based on their repentance and faith in Himself (Mark 1:15). Unlike the Pharisees, Jesus didn’t require people to change before coming to Him. He sought them out, met them where they were, and extended grace to them in their circumstances. Change would come to those who accepted Christ, but it would be from the inside out. Jesus knew better than anyone that the kindness of God leads sinners to repentance (Romans 2:4).

(Question of the week, Got Questions.org, 2017)

Attendance 05/14 A.M. Worship: 79 / Budget: \$2000.00 / Contribution 05/14: \$5327.10

Keep these Dates in Minds:

- 5/07 First Sunday Potluck
- 5/13 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship
- 5/14 Open Congregational Meeting 5:00p
- 5/27 Game Night 6:00p
- 5/28 Open Congregational Meeting 5:00p
- 6/04 First Sunday Potluck
- 6/10 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship
- 6/11 Open Congregational Meeting 5:00p
- 6/23 Game Night 6:00p
- 6/25 Open Congregational Meeting 5:00p

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. - 1 John 4:10

Bible Studies:

- Adult Class (S) –James (W) – Romans - Fellowship Hall
- Young Adults (S, W) – Acts - Spanish Room
- Youth Classes – Classroom Wing
- Ladies Class (Thurs. 10am) - Acts

Birthdays and Anniversaries for May

- Lynette Jones 5/4
- Gerald Funnell 5/5
- Jarod Bolt 5/7
- Bill Lafferty 5/8
- Barbara Goldsmith 5/16
- Tom Gritzan 5/17
- Ken Merrick 5/18
- Sheila Calzadillas 5/23
- Dustin McCrickard 5/30

Sowing the Seed

I received a wonderful email from a woman who wrote, “Your mom was my first-grade teacher at Putnam City in 1958. She was a great teacher and very kind, but strict! She made us learn the 23rd Psalm and say it in front of the class, and I was horrified. But it was the only contact I had with the Bible until 1997 when I became a Christian. And the memories of Mrs. McCasland came flooding back as I re-read it.”

Jesus told a large crowd a parable about the farmer who sowed his seed that fell on different types of ground—a hard path, rocky ground, clumps of thorns, and good soil (Matt. 13:1-9). While some seeds never grew, “the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it” and “produces a crop yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown” (v. 23).

During the twenty years my mother taught first grade in public schools, along with reading, writing, and arithmetic she scattered seeds of kindness and the message of God’s love.

Her former student’s email concluded, “I have had other influences in my Christian walk later in life, of course. But my heart always returns to [Psalm 23] and [your mom’s] gentle nature.”

A seed of God’s love sown today may produce a remarkable harvest. —David McCasland

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3:8-9)

One person caring about another represents life greatest value ~Jim Rohn



Health Issues: Pam Fox's grandson, Canaco & Eli , Abigail Jones, Karen McBurney, Dustin Stecker, Doris Pennington, Betty VanVoorst, Bob Childers, Eddie Petros, Darlena Moon, Jackson Hickman , Jack Pinckert Jr., Amanda McCrickard, Sandy Gray, Bill Henniger, Savannah and Christian Johnson, Marilyn Foster (Gayle Caldwell's mother), Linda Lafferty

In the Military: Levi Toombs
Amanda McCrickard had her TEE. Results are in and doctors say no surgery is necessary.

Christy Hickman as the doctors continue to determine the cause of her heart issues.
Pansy Caywood as she recovers from having surgery
Oscar and those in Peru as they deal with the aftermath of flooding

Sticking Up for the Underbird

We had just finished a lovely meal, and the conversation turned to the garden, the trees, and the bird feeders. Our gracious host confessed with some hesitancy that she worked at chasing off the sparrows and encouraging the other birds to feed. "I just don't like sparrows," she said slowly, "they're dull and plain, and I'd rather not have them around.

I have no judgment to render on that disposition, especially since I have similar feelings about certain kinds of people –on a social level, I mean. Besides, I'm not theologian enough to know if preferring jays, bluebirds, and cardinals over sparrows is an issue on which a judgment needs to be made.

But I recall Jesus assuring humans that if God cared for the sparrows, which were sold for so little, he cares for humans who were of more value than sparrows. I find that comforting.

I find it even more comforting that he feels that way about all humans. He always seemed to be defending the wrong kind of people. Take a quick glance through the Gospels and see for yourself that he was forever speaking on behalf of the "bad" people and against the "good" people.

But surely, he was defending the *good* "bad" people against the *bad* "good" people? That's true, but it isn't the whole truth, for many of the people he defended weren't good "bad" people, but were openly unjust and wicked.

When people insisted on loving only the good, Jesus opposed them. "Here, look at this," we can imagine him saying, "watch how the sun shines on all those fields except the one to our left. The man who owns that field is unjust and an extortioner –watch the sun skip his field." And when it doesn't skip his field, the Master would say of God, "See he sends his rain on the just and unjust and causes his sun to shine on the evil and the good." God makes no bones about it –he loves humans, not just good humans.

-Jim McGuiggan, The God of the Towel

Charlie Brown says to Lucy, "This birdhouse is going to be for sparrows only." She rasps back, "For sparrows? Nobody builds birdhouses for sparrows, Charlie Brown." He grandly dismisses her remark and says, " I do, I always stick up for the underbird."