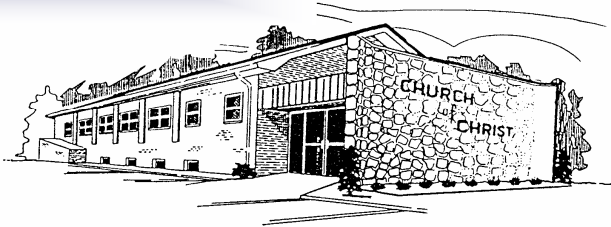


Teaching them to observe
all things...Matt. 28:20



The St. Joseph Observer

June 6, 2010

The St. Joseph Church of Christ

Charlie McGee, Minister
Russell Hicks, Berrien Gen

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St. Joseph, MI 49085

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Schedule of Services

Sunday School
9:45

Sunday Worship
10:45

Sunday PM
5:00

Tuesday Ladies' Class
9:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study
6:00

Elders

Leo Conkin 925-7688
Clyde Daniel 428-2322
Charlie McGee 861-5811
Steve Parsons 465-7901

Deacons

Dave Hipskind 468-4735
Eric Ramso 465-5965

Ladies' Prayer Chain

Kim Batson 428-7281
Barb Conkin 925-7688
Gayle Daniel 428-2322
Jan Mundy 473-1505

Who's Your King?

I find the passage in John 19:15 interesting. Pilot tried several times to release Jesus. He knows in his heart that Jesus is an innocent man. But the Jews want Him dead. The Jewish leaders want Jesus dead. What these leaders have against Jesus is that He claimed to be the Son of God. That was punishable by death according to the old law because it was blasphemous. Only, in this case, Jesus wasn't committing blasphemy, but telling the truth about who He was.

When the Jewish leaders told Pilot that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, it scared him. Pilot was already afraid. But when he heard of Jesus' claim, he became even **MORE** afraid. And, again, he sought to release Him. He brings Jesus out and announces to the crowd that Jesus is their King. The Jewish leaders immediately reject that notion and vehemently demand His death.

Pilot asks them, "Shall I crucify your King?"

To which the chief priests reply, "We have **NO** king... but Caesar."

At various points in Jewish history, they accepted God as their King (1 Samuel 12:12). At other times, they rejected God as their King (1 Samuel 8:7). Now, as they press Pilot to crucify Jesus, they not only reject the Son of God, but God Himself. They claimed to have no king other than Caesar; not Jesus and not God.

But here's the thing. At the very least, I can appreciate their honesty. They made no bones about where their allegiance lay. Jesus gave them every opportunity to know that He was the Messiah. They heard His teachings along with all the other believers. They saw His miracles along with many other witnesses. They could verify Jesus' ancestry. That was important since it was prophesied that the Messiah would come from King David's lineage.

These Jewish leaders who want Jesus dead had more opportunity than most to observe and learn; to verify who Jesus was and to validate His teachings. No doubt some leaders, like Nicodemus, wanted to know the truth about Jesus and sought Him out.

I am convinced that at least some, if not most, of the Jewish leaders knew that Jesus was the Son of God. They knew it but did not like it and would not accept Him as the Messiah. They preferred to live life on their own terms. They sure didn't want someone like Him changing everything.

One of the sad things about this is that these self-serving leaders had followers that depended on them for their spiritual wellbeing. They needed and deserved good information from their leaders. These followers were unaware that they were being led down a path of destruction. It is unfortunate that they perhaps didn't hear their leaders deny God's Kingship.

We are all leaders in one capacity or another; we are elders, deacons, teachers and preachers, parents, wives, husbands, and friends. Paul makes it clear that we may serve different functions but we are all ambassadors of the same kingdom. We are all leaders within the kingdom of God.

I can respect the Jewish leaders who denied God's authority over them by claiming that they are ruled only by Caesar. That simple statement says volumes about what their priorities are. And while I don't agree with their action, they were at least honest with themselves. They were no longer pretending that God was their King and that they were trying to follow His instruction. The law became nothing more than a weapon for them to use to keep their followers "in line" and a means by which they could keep themselves elevated above their followers.

Who is your king? Be completely honest with yourself when you answer that question. Can you look objectively at your priorities and determine from them who your king really is?

It could be that, like the Jewish leaders, you know that Christ is the savior but He is running counter to your own desires. Unlike these Jewish leaders, we say with our lips that Jesus is King. However, our behavior says otherwise. He can't be the king only when it's convenient or only when our desires happen to coincide with His. He is king all the time... or none of the time.

The next time you sing number 166, sing it with the amount of enthusiasm that is equal to your commitment to allow Jesus to be King of your life.

Please remember in prayer...

- Members with Health Issues Leo Conkin, Warren James, Virginia Kowalski, Vanessa Matthews, Jim Smith, Lee Wallis, Juanita Weatherford
- The Military Nick Hastings, Ian Matthews
- Our Church The Buildings & Grounds Committee, our Elders & Deacons, our members

Announcements

Ladies' Fellowship

Thursday, July 8, 6:30 PM

At Heather Fisbeck's

Menu: Appetizers & Desserts

VBS

July 25-29 6-8 PM

Invite your friends & family now!

Graduation Celebrations

Shannon Ramso

Sunday, June 13 - 1-4 pm (come for lunch)

9777 Niagara Row, Bridgman

Ladies' Class is canceled this Tuesday.

Congregational Calendar

June

6	7	8	9	10  Tracy Gilmer	11  Suzanne Kubvaruno	12  Gabby Crouse
13	14	15 <i>Ladies' Class</i>	16  Kaytlynn Gilmer	17	18  Linda Beltz	19

Suggested Church Snacks:

Goldfish Crackers
Animal Crackers
“Cheese It’s”
Graham Crackers
Vanilla Wafers
Pretzels
Oyster Crackers

Please avoid chocolate or nuts.

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