

AUGUST 9TH, 2026



The Searcher

Published By



SOUTHAVEN
CHURCH of CHRIST

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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES AND SEEKING THE LOST

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WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT CAN CHALLENGE OUR FAITHFULNESS?

Robert Jefferies

As the Children of Israel were about to make their journey into the Promised Land, Moses shared with them some inspired messages from God. One of those messages would deal with things that would challenge their faithfulness to Him in the land of Caanan. Did you know that the things that he spoke about that day are relevant to you and me today? What are some things that can challenge our faithfulness to God?

FALSE TEACHERS. First, in Deuteronomy 13:1-5, Moses focuses upon false teachers. False teachers have been around since the days of Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden. It was in the Garden that they heard the false message from the devil. "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die." Unfortunately, they are still in existence today and they have led many Christians astray. No wonder John penned the following words, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). It is important that we are careful with the things we read and hear.

FAMILY. Second, in Deuteronomy 13:6-11, Moses sets their attention upon family. How many times has the pull of family got in the way of someone following Christ? How many have refused to accept the truth and obey God because of something that family has said or done? In fact, there have been many faithful Christians who have changed their positions on various subjects because of family. Did you know that Jesus knew how challenging family could be at times regarding our relationship with God? "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26).

GOVERNMENT. Third, in Deuteronomy 13:12-18, Moses would warn about leaders getting the way of faithfulness to God. The book of Daniel serves as a great commentary on this warning. In Daniel 3, King Nebuchadnezzar made a statue and commanded everyone to bow down to it and if they did not heed to the command, they would be thrown into a fiery furnace. Thankfully, Shadrach, Meshach, and Ebednego, stood firm and remained committed to the God of Heaven. Then in Daniel 6, King Darius made the decree that praying was prohibited for the next 30 days, and if they did, they would be cast into a den of lions. Once again, we see another instance of putting God first when Daniel prayed just as he always did even after the decree was enacted. In the first century, Rome leaders would make things hard for those who were trying to faithfully follow Christ. However, men like the Apostle Peter faithfully proclaimed, "we ought to obey God rather than men."

Are you resolved to follow the Lord no matter what? Even if that means rejecting false teachers, family and friends, and even the government?

WEATHERING THE STORM: FINDING STRENGTH IN TRIAL & HARDSHIP

Date	Title	Speaker
8-Jul-26	Weathering the Storm By Building on Solid Rock	Joe Ruiz
15-Jul-26	Weathering the Storm When the Storm Strikes Without Warning	Jameson Steward
22-Jul-26	Weathering the Storm When the Clouds Gather	Tommy Haynes
29-Jul-26	Weathering the Storm When the Storm Lasts Longer Than Expected	Chris Perry
5-Aug-26	Weathering the Storm By Remaining Calm in the Midst of the Storm	Cody Westbrook
12-Aug-26	Weathering the Storm By Holding Fast in the Storm	Chris Butler
19-Aug-26	Weathering the Storm Battling the Storm Within	Chad Ramsey
26-Aug-26	Weathering the Storm Light Through the Dark Clouds	Josh Walker
2-Sep-26	Weathering the Storm Because the Storm Refines Us	Andy Brewer
9-Sep-26	Weathering the Storm ... of Opposition	Aaron Gallagher
16-Sep-26	Weathering the Storm By Rising After the Storm	Mark Teske
23-Sep-26	The Storm Weathered: When the Sky Clears	Robert Jefferies

JESUS' SAYINGS ABOUT SIN

Jason Jackson

When Joseph learned that his betrothed was pregnant, he was minded to put her away. But an angel of the Lord revealed to Joseph that Mary's conception was miraculous and that the virgin would bring forth a son (Matthew 1:23). He was instructed to name the child Jesus, "For it is he that shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). We would expect, therefore, that while the Son of God was on earth, he taught much regarding sin. Indeed he did, and we would profit from a humble reflection on some of the sayings of Jesus about sin.

Some of the Lord's remarks about sin have been misapplied. For example, when a woman was taken in the act of adultery, she was brought to Jesus for judgment. He dispersed the multitude by stating, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7). The verse is loved by many who hope that its recitation, at just the right moment, will inoculate them against "judging." Note the following: First, Christians should judge one another (1 Corinthians 5:12-13; John 7:24). Second, the Lord did not condone this woman's sin. He commanded her to "go thy way; from henceforth sin no more" (John 8:11). Third, Jesus revealed the hypocrisy of the accusers who were more interested in ensnaring the Lord than preserving holiness in their community (cf. Mark 7:1-13). And where was the man who also was caught in "the act of adultery" (cf. Leviticus 20:10)? Fourth, Jesus respected the Mosaic law that prohibited adultery and the punishment that the law prescribed. He also regarded the laws of accusation and testimony, which may not have been satisfied in this case. Fifth, the Son of God had the right to forgive sins (cf. Mark 2:10). The response to this situation by Jesus, the Son of God, was not designed to insulate wicked and impenitent individuals from rebuke or discipline in the Christian Age.

Some of the sayings on sin by Jesus are perplexing. He said on one occasion, "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no excuse for their sin" (John 15:22). Did Jesus mean that the Jews would not have been in sin had he not come? Would they have been better off had he not come? The Lord was not saying that the Jews were, before his coming, absolutely sinless. They did have other sins in their life. But when he came, taught, and performed his works, they had a choice. And they chose to sin by rejecting him. The point of Jesus is this: their rejection was in the face of indisputable evidence. With the great opportunity of witnessing the incarnation of the Son of God came great responsibility. The stubborn Jews rejected their Messiah and were held accountable for it by God (cf. Matthew 22:5-7).

Other sayings of Jesus teach us regarding the nature of sin itself. Sin is a master to whom we become enslaved (John 8:34). Only the truth will set us free (John 8:32). Sin is blinding (John 9:39-41). The conscience's reprimands are harder to hear the more we pursue sin (cf. Hebrews 3:12-13). Positive influences and opportunities are removed when we disregard the longsuffering and goodness of God (cf. Luke 8:12; Romans 1:20,21,24,26,28; 2:4-5). Only humble submission and sincere obedience to Jesus Christ will remedy our spiritual blindness. Some of the sayings on sin revealed the very purpose for his coming. The Lord said to the paralyzed man, "Thy sins are forgiven" (Luke 5:20). Subsequently, Jesus healed him to prove his divine right to forgive sins. Similarly, he instructed Simon the Pharisee when he said, "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said to her, Thy sins are forgiven [Grk., perfect tense; i.e., were forgiven and remain forgiven]" (Luke 7:47-48). When the Lord was criticized for eating with sinners, he revealed the purpose of his coming by responding, "They that are in health have no need of a physician; but they that are sick. I am not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:31-32).

He taught the nature of his coming in parables as well. Remember the "lost" chapter of the Bible, Luke 15, wherein the Lord taught the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost boys? Similarly, when the Lord requested the hospitality of Zacchaeus, he said, "For the Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). One of the most memorable sayings of Jesus on sin is found in Matthew 26:28. It reminds us of the purpose for which Christ left heaven and took on flesh. Jesus said, "For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many unto the remission of sins." This ought to enlighten us regarding what Jesus taught about sin. Sin is so horrible that only the spotless blood of Jesus can atone for it. His love for the sinner is so deep, he was willing to pour it out. Thanks be to our Lord for teaching us the truth about sin and providing the ransom.

Sunday Sermons

The Command That Should Not Wait (AM)

God Heals The Brokenhearted (PM)

Bible Passages To Consider

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30).

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Erica Stuckey was released from the hospital on Tuesday and the had to go to the ER later that evening to receive a blood transfusion.

Karen Oglesby is receiving treatment at Lakeside Hospital.

Sheila Winstead is taking physical therapy.

Jerry Baird continues to be on oxygen at home.

Dorothy Butler is dealing with low oxygen levels.

Rannie Butler is taking therapy at Senatobia Healthcare and Rehab.

Jean Jones is taking therapy at Desoto Healthcare.

Lannie Smart, husband of Danna Smart, is receiving wound care. He is tentatively scheduled to have a skin graft on August 11th.

Tim Harris (former member and nephew of Terry & Brenda Harris) has been released from the hospital.

Ronnie Sowell, father of Erin Sowell, has had his heart procedure postponed. He has some other health issues that need to be addressed first.

Please continue to remember the following: **Betty Culbreath**, **Lucy Chamberlain**, **Joyce Valentine**, **Don Sykes**, **Meredith Peek**, **Barbara Day**, **Alan & Linda Stone**, **Debbie Shull**, **Pat Pierce**, & **Beverly Parnell** in your prayers.

BATTLING CANCER

Please remember those who are fighting, or recovering from cancer: **Alan Stone**; **Pam Eaton**; **Charlene Farris**; **Andrew Utz**, great nephew of Peggy Shull; **Varda Cole**, sister in law of Linda Davis; **Don Cheathour**, friend of the Sykes family; **Joe Daly**, online viewer in England; **Houston Hall**, great nephew of Karen Oglesby & Beth Roney; **David Taylor**, neighbors of the Sykes; **Dan Manuel**, friend of Tommy & Peggy Shull; **Heather Butler**, daughter of Lewis Dawson; **Vickie Parker**, sister of Nick Parker; **Kim Butler**, sister in law of Larry Butler; **Lily Jane Jordan**, neighbor's granddaughter of Terry &

ter of Alan & Linda Stone; **Mandi Singer**, friend of Erica Stuckey; **Mandy Dunbar**, friend of Erica Stuckey; **TJ Holt**, cousin of Amber Wallis; **Margarito Zuniga**, father of former member Alan Zuniga; **Becca Reynolds**, niece of Anita Sanders; **Laura Sowell**, mother of Erin Sowell, **Doreen Harris**, former member, **Glenn Jenkins**, the husband of Bonnie Reid's niece, **Carol Tierce**, sister of Peggy Shull & **Whitley Joy**, great niece of Larry & Elaine Melton.

SHUT-INS/ NURSING HOME

Lucy Chamberlain; **Debbie Shull**; **Beverly Parnell**; **Pam Eaton**; **Phyllis Smith**, The Gold-ton at Southaven Room #116.

MEN TO SERVE - August 9th, 2026

Preside: Tommy Kelley

Serve: Kellen Christian, Greg Wilson, John S. Stubblefield, Clint Hawkins, Steve Fiveash, John Stubblefield, Jerry Mitchell, Jarrett Roberts

AM Opening Prayer: Jason Bayless

AM Closing Prayer: Perkins Cochran

PM Opening Prayer: Neal Weatherford

PM Closing Prayer: Ron Bobo

Wed. Opening Prayer: Andy Young

Wed. Closing Prayer: Hilton Jefferies

Announcements: Robert Jefferies

Song Leader: Michael Gahagan

Scripture Reading: Jayden Parker

Security: Jack Etheridge

REMINDER:

If you are a song leader, scripture reader, or have opening prayer, you are asked to sit on the front pew when worship begins.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 9: Baby Shower for Lindsey Means following afternoon worship. Hunter & Lindsey are having a baby girl and are registered at Babylist.com.

August 11, 6:30pm: The Bridging the Gap group (high school & young adults) will meet for a devotional, card writing, and a meal.

AUGUST FOOD TEAM

Captain: Mary Baldwin

Bonnie Reid, Charlotte Dunaway, Rhnea Grady, Kim Wallis

OUR RECORDS

Bible Study	197
A.M. Worship	307
P.M. Worship	201
P.M. Wed. Worship	189
Contribution	\$12,444

Brenda Harris; **Oakleigh Free**, great grandaugh-



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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Class.....	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....	10:00 a.m.
Sunday P.M. Worship.....	1:00 p.m.
Wednesday P.M. Service.....	7:00 p.m.

ELDERS

Gary Barch
Larry Everson
David Rister

DEACONS

Bruce Dunaway
Michael Gahagan
Aaron Gallagher
TJ Johnson
John Stubblefield
Chris Tice
Andy Young

MINISTERS

Robert Jefferies
Josh Walker