

April 23, 2023

The View

“Sirs, we wish to see Jesus.” – John 12:21

Welcome Visitors

Our goal at the Folsom church of Christ is to do everything according to God’s word, including respecting its silence. We are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church; we have no earthly “headquarters.” The five elders oversee this church and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily for the benefit of our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don’t understand something, please do not hesitate to ask the preacher or one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God’s word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

**Please fill out a visitor’s card and put it in the collection plate when is passed.
We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.**

Please check the prayer list on page 4. There are some of our members who have been on the list for a long time – let me know if you or someone you know needs to be taken off the list, or if we forgot someone. Thank you. *dp*

Schedule

The Lord’s Day

9:30 AM Bible Classes

Auditorium: “Love Your Bible” (Part II).

Young Adult Class (room 12): “A Study of Ruth, and 1 John: Trust & Love”

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today

David Posey

“Why I Love the Bible”

Livestream at 10:30 <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>

Bible Class: 5:00 PM @ the Building

“Praying the Psalms” (Auditorium)

High School Class @ 5 PM @ David & Christie Posey’s home

Middle school class: monthly (contact David Sanderson (david.r.sanderson@intel.com)

or Seth Reagan (sethreagan@gmail.com)

There are several on-going Bible classes in the homes of members. Check with David Posey or one of the other elders if you would like to join one of those classes.

Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

Bible classes for all ages

Auditorium: Love Your Bible, Part II

Room 12: Young Adults Class: “A Study of Ruth, and 1 John: Trust & Love”

Articles published in the View reflect only the thoughts and opinions of the author alone, not necessarily the editor, the elders or any member of the church at Folsom.

“Do Nothing”?

“And let our people also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, that they may not be unfruitful.”

Titus 3:14

Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin has an enrollment of 1,500 students. Of that number, 52% of the student body has signed up to take one particular class. It's the most popular class in the school's history. The class is entitled, “Do nothing.” More than half of the university wants to learn how to “Do Nothing.”

There are so many layers of questions and concerns that comes to my mind. How can there be homework in a class called, “Do nothing?” Is it possible to flunk “Do nothing?” How does one teach, “Do nothing?” It seems that if there was one thing our culture understand perfectly, it is how to do nothing. A parent walks in a room and his teens are glued to their phones. Dad says, “What's going on?” You know the answer, “Nothin'.” Why is a university teaching young people how to do nothing? Maybe they ought to teach them how to excel. Maybe they ought to teach them how to achieve. Do nothing leads to indifference and laziness.

The one talent man in Matthew 25 did just that, nothing. He buried his talent in the ground. The master called him wicked, lazy and worthless. What he had was taken from him. He was cast into the outer darkness of punishment.

In our passage today, the apostle tells the Titus, “let our people also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs.” Doing nothing isn't in the vocabulary of a disciple of Jesus. We need to be busy busting it for the kingdom. Hard working preachers, busy in the church shepherds, diligent deacons, Bible class teachers who are going out of their way, members who are engaged in serving others – that's the heart of our fellowship and what makes our connections so powerful.

Engaging in good deeds is something that we need to learn. This is something that needs to be taught. We need to be studying how to do good deeds not how to do nothing. It's easy to do nothing. Nothing is required to do nothing. But to do good deeds you have to think of others. You have to make plans and find ways to lift the burdens of others.

Here are some thoughts:

First, as disciples of Jesus, doing nothing ought never be said of us. We don't all preach nor need to preach. We can't all shepherd. We are not all public teachers. But there are many other wonderful and powerful things that can be done. Taking food, giving rides, calling, texting, writing others, being a fresh air of encouragement to others – these are the things that truly make a difference.

In the hymn, “I gave My life for thee,” the chorus pointedly asks, “What hast thou giv'n for Me?” And, how would we answer that question? “Nothing.” Have we done any more than just show up for worship? Our people must learn to engage in good deeds. Get busy. Find your talent.

Second, it seems that everyone is afraid of the younger generation and they are catering to their selfish ways. Rather than do nothing, I think of the woman who anointed Jesus and the Lord said, “She has done what she could.” Doing what you can do, would be a much better class to offer. Do nothing will not help society. Do nothing will not make families stronger. Do nothing won't build business. Do nothing is the death of a church. Won't anyone stand up and scream, “Enough!” Won't anyone be brave enough to say, “If you don't work, you don't eat.” Won't anyone declare, when you come into this congregation, here is what is expected of you? A culture of do nothing Christians leads to indifference in the Lord.

Third, how can we as disciples do nothing when we look to our Savior who did so much. But there are some things that Jesus won't do. You have to do them. Jesus won't give you faith. He will give you the reasons to believe, but belief is something that comes from us. Jesus won't live your life for you. You have to make the choices that reflect faith in the Lord. Jesus shows us why we ought to follow Him. He shows us the consequences if we don't follow Him. But, in the end, each of us must decide that for ourselves. Jesus won't pick you up out of bed on Sunday morning and carry you down to the church house. You have to do that. Jesus won't make you worship. You have to do that.

Have you ever noticed that in the Gospels you never find a verse that reads, “Today, Jesus did nothing.” On this day, Jesus took the day off, and nothing was accomplished. Nope. You won't find anything like that. Always teaching. Always on the move. Always helping. Always being the Savior. Always.

And, as His people, we must work until He stops us. If you want to retire from your secular job, great. Don't even think about retiring from what you can do in the kingdom. Maybe time and age keeps you from doing some things, but there is always something you can do for the Lord. Always.

A class on “Do Nothing.” Next there will be a college degree in “Doing Nothing.” The times we live in sure are messed up. Come, Lord Jesus!

— Roger Shouse, *Jump Start Daily*

Words on the World

"They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." *Jesus, John 17:16*

Opinion

I have fond memories of the Disneyland of my youth. It was truly a magical place. You walked into the park and you felt you were in a different, extra-special family friendly world. In fact, it was a feeling hard to explain, but it's true. We lived in Costa Mesa about 15 minutes from the park and went to Disneyland when it first opened in 1955. The price was right: for one dollar for adults and 50 cents for children ages 3-11 you could enter the park and experience the ambiance and atmosphere of Disneyland. There was a separate charge for rides, but those were also reasonably priced. Eventually, Disney produced a ticket booklet that you could buy for the rides and attractions. If I remember correctly, the price was about \$4 for a book of about ten attractions. The book had tickets for A to E rides. (That's the origin of the now long-forgotten figure of speech, "that was an 'E Ticket ride'!"). Those days are long gone. Today, a family of four (two adults and two children 9 or under) will spend \$532 for **one day in one park**. That includes parking at \$30.

Walt Disney established the park as a place for families to bring their kids for affordable fun. Today, lower-income families have been priced out of the market. Unfortunately, cost is not the only problem. Here's the latest news from the Disney Corporation: "For the first time, Disneyland in California will host two Pride nights during its Disneyland After Dark programming. Disneyland After Dark: Pride Nite will be held on June 13 and 15, 2023 inside park grounds." "Pride Nite" means the people running the Disney company today are setting aside a night to celebrate all things LGBTQ(+).

As we all know, this lifestyle choice is condemned in the Bible in both Old Testament and New, by specific language and necessary inference. Jesus says marriage is for a man and a woman (Mark 10:6-7) and in I Corinthians 6:9-10 Paul says,

"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." (See I Timothy 1:10).

The old saying about "rolling over in his grave" must surely apply to Mr. Disney. The very name, "Disney" was, for many years, associated with family ideals. Yes, there have been some bugs in the perfume; the company was far from perfect. Some older Disney media content has been exposed as racist. But the Disneyland park itself was, for awhile, almost as advertised: "the happiest place on earth," a place that was free from the progressive perversity of the world that you could enter at a fair price. It's sad to say that's not true anymore. — dp

Notes on the Culture

"Spiritual Daycare"

"Some churches have always made it a point to include teenagers in their main worship services. But in the 90s and early 2000s, many churches began to segregate the youth with their own course of programming. The more infamous hallmarks of 'youth ministry' were gross-out games, lock-ins, and pizza parties. One source referred to this type of siloed activity as "spiritual daycare." Research calls attention to the fact that having a lot of boisterous fun during youth group might make church a hangout destination during high school, but it doesn't predict a lasting spiritual formation." (All I can say is "imagine that," dp).

Even social media influencers are afraid.

Some influencers with followers in the thousands or millions are musing about para-social relationships, creator burnout, and what social media is doing to our brains. The fact that they are using social media to distribute that message to the masses is ironic to say the least, but it's interesting that the influencers themselves seem to understand that there is a ripple effect from the outsized role of media platforms in our social lives. One popular influencer, Jenn Im, has been warning about the dangers of social media lately and recommending books like *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, by Neil Postman, a seminal piece of media critique from 1985 that denounces television's reduction of life to entertainment. (*I'm aware of at least one teen who totally dropped all social media after watching "The Social Dilemma." She's much happier now.* dp)

Have Christians forgotten the value of being quiet?

An article in *Plough Quarterly* reminds us of the value of silence and the importance of taking time for reflection. In a hyper-connected age, it can be difficult to even find a quiet place, let alone practice meditation ourselves. For young people today, sitting in silence and letting our thoughts filter through as we talk to God may seem a strange practice, indeed. But cultivating space that is empty, and time that is unclaimed, might be crucial to hearing God.

Here are some questions to consider asking the teen in your life:

- When was the last time you sat in silence without any distraction?
- Does silence make you feel uncomfortable for any reason? Why or why not?
- How can we introduce more moments of quiet reflection into our lives?



This is a child's ticket book, probably from the mid-'70s. It cost \$6. As you can see, the "E" (and "C") tickets have been used.