



Truth for Today

January 26, 2020

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Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

Counting the Cost

By Josh Hooton

In 2 Samuel 24, David does a foolish thing in numbering the people of Israel. God sends a pestilence on Israel because of David's sin; and after it stops, David is told by the prophet Gad to raise an altar on the threshing floor of a Jebusite named Araunah. David offers to buy the threshing floor from Araunah in order to build the altar, but Araunah then offers to freely give David the threshing floor and anything else he needs to construct the altar and create the offering.

But then David says something that I've been thinking about a lot lately: "No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." (v.24).

A life of following Christ requires sacrifice. It should cost you. It should cost me. Araunah had a good, generous heart and wanted to give David anything he wanted. But had Araunah's offer been accepted, it would have been Araunah's sacrifice, not David's.

What are you doing in your life that is a sacrifice to God? We've all probably made sacrifices for God before today, and that shouldn't be discounted. But what about today? Tomorrow?

Consider Luke 14:25-33. Jesus made it very clear that if we don't "pick up [our] cross and follow [him], [we] cannot be [his] disciple". That the love we have for even noble things like family, and even our own lives should be so insignificant in comparison to the love we have for Jesus, it could be counted as hate. That anyone who does not renounce all he has, cannot be Jesus' disciple.

Wow.

Is this something we talk about enough or think about enough? What is the cost of following Jesus? Practically, that may look different from person to person. To use a maybe timely, if overused, example: if I give up watching the Super Bowl so that I'm 100% here Sunday evening (not just physically, but mentally as well), well that's costing me nothing because I don't really care about football. But it's pretty easy to see how the cost of following Jesus doesn't look.

As Matthew Henry says, and I've edited for clarity, "[They do not know what religion is, those] who chiefly care to make it cheap and easy to themselves, and who are best

pleased with that which costs them least pains or money."

David understood that a relationship with God that costs you nothing is a relationship with God that is worth nothing.

So, count the cost. Jesus Christ did. And He counted us so worthy of His sacrifice that He gave everything. For you, for me. All He asks for is the same in return.

Things Jesus Would Never Say

Selected

The Jesus I worship would never say anything to judge someone. [Yet He says](#), "The Father judges no one but gives judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. . . As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me" [John 5:22-23, 30].

The Jesus I worship would accept anyone. Yet He says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life, and nobody comes to the father except through me" [John 14:6].

The Jesus I worship would never let anyone go to Hell. Yet He says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness'" [Matthew 7:20-22].

The Jesus I worship wouldn't call someone out or judge the sincerity of their faith. Yet He says, "[The Father's] voice you have never heard, and his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. . . But I know that you do not have the love of God within you" [John 5:38-42].

The Jesus I worship never condemned two men getting married. Yet He says, "From the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, don't let man separate" [Mark 10:6-9; Matthew 19:4-6].

I challenge you to read His words, even the Red Letters. All of them.

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Hailey Boniche** 's surgery was postponed.
- **Kay Coss**
- **Harvey Goble**
- **LouAnn Goble**
- **Linda Peterson** was taken to Encompass on I-45/Wellman after a fall on Wednesday, #141.
- **Annette Yaws** ' results from a CT scan on Wednesday will be followed up with another test to determine future treatment.
- **Several people** are battling seasonal ailments. Prayers for wellness is appreciated.
—See *Enews for Ongoing Prayer List*

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **WINTER ADULT CLASSES**
 - **ROMANS** | SUNDAY in the Auditorium
 - **THE MESSIAH'S MISFITS** | SUNDAY in Classroom #5
 - **INTRODUCING THE PSALMS** | WEDNESDAY in the Auditorium
- **BARNABAS GROUP** | Postcards on the Barnabas table. See Leo Betancourt.
- **2:52 Kids Class (MEMORIZING BIBLE FACTS & PRAISE)** [2-12] | 2/2/20, 4:30 p.m. classroom #9
- **SONG LEADER TRAINING CLASS** | (3rd Sundays) 1/26/2020, 4:00 p.m.
- **YOUNG ADULT STUDY** ["twenty-somethings"] Friday, 1/25*, 6:30 p.m. at the Hootons.
- **TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY** [Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.] | studying Luke in classroom 5.
- **TEEN BIBLE DEVO** [12-18, 3rd Saturdays] 1/25, Preuss' home, 6:00 p.m.
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY** [30/40 somethings, bi-

- monthly] | 1/25, 6:00 p.m., C/T Chapman's.
- **OUTREACH MEETUP STUDY** | Mondays at Panera Bread at 7:00 p.m.
- **BUILDING A GODLY HOME** Bible Study | Sundays beginning 2/2/2020, 4:00 p.m.
 - **PLEASE READ**
 - This **Building a Godly Home** is a class for all Christians who are interested in attending: parents, couples or singles who are parents or singles who want to learn more about building a godly home. It will be a monthly class for discussion and Bible study.
 - **During the same hour, the Luke 2:52 class** for ages 2-12 will meet for Bible memorization, Bible story telling and singing exercises. **Also**, a Bible video class of "Following the Messiah" will be presented for **Teens** (aged from 13-18 and any others who want to come) so **everyone in your family** has a place to learn.
- **WORKDAY** | Sat., 2/8/2020
- **Begins in 2 Weeks! WINTER MEETING** | with Ethan Longhenry from Los Angeles, CA | 2/9-12
 - **Meal Hosts for Ethan are needed.** See the signup sheet in the foyer!
- **SINGING** | Sat., 3/7/2020
- **YOUTH LECTURES** | NEW DATE | Sat-Sun, 8/8-9/2020
- **MEETING** | with Ben Hall from Brooklyn, NY, 9/13-16/2020

AREA EVENTS

- **GOSPEL MEETING** | Humble church of Christ | Humble | 1/24-26
- **GOSPEL MEETING** | Twin City church of Christ |

- College Station | 1/26-29
- **SINGING** | CyFair church of Christ | CyFair | 1/31

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- **PHOTO DIRECTORIES** The most recent printed directory is in the foyer for members. Changes? See Brian Clark for any corrections or changes.
- **REASON TO REJOICE! Kay Coss**, the mother of Kay Barkoh, was baptized into Christ on Wednesday afternoon at the building through the teaching and good example of Kay and Kahu. Rejoice with the angels and all of us in this most wonderful demonstration of God's goodness. Also, pray for Kay (Coss) whose cancer is untreatable.
- **WELCOME to Debbie Horn** who placed membership with us on Sunday.
- **Blake Middleton** has moved east of Houston for work and found housing there and will be worshipping with a congregation there. We will miss him and wish him God speed.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS for 2020**, including Communion Prep, visitor greeting and bimonthly building lockup.

| Attendance | Last Month Avg | Last Week |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Sunday Bible Class | 99 | 117 |
| Sunday Worship AM | 154 | 184 |
| Sunday Worship PM | 75 | 103 |
| Wednesday PM | 73 | 83 |

| Sunday AM Worship | 1/26/2020 | 2/2/2020 | Communion Preparation |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Song Leader | Dwight Osteen | Dwight Haas | January — LeBlanc |
| 1st prayer | Harvey Goble | Nathan Shows | Visitor Hospitality |
| Scripture Reading | Jay Dunlin — Rom. 13:1-8 | Granville Betton — Acts 17:1-9 | January — Arrants |
| Lord Supper Lead | Dwight Haas | Jeremy Crump | Elders |
| Bread | Michael Henss | Gary LeBlanc | Keith Arrants 936.582.1244 |
| Fruit of Vine | Hayden Clark | Craig Preuss | George Chapman 281.298.1303 |
| Offering | Leo Betancourt | Jay Dulin | Norman Davis 832.326.2966 |
| Helper | Clint Ford | Jacob Cowart | Don Hooton 936.443.6230 |
| Helper | Nathan Shows | Jonathan Chandler | Deacons |
| Preaching | Don Hooton | Don Hooton | John Beighle 806.367.3389 |
| Usher | Craig Preuss | Hayden Clark | Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093 |
| Closing Prayer | Cody Betton | Keith Arrants | Brian Clark 281.513.0706 |
| Announcements | Norman Davis | Adam Bohanan | Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262 |
| Sunday PM Worship | 1/26/2020 | 2/2/2020 | Craig Preuss 832.477.0578 |
| Song Leader | Hayden Clark | Don Hooton | Evangelists |
| 1st prayer | Alan Stilts | Mitch Harvey | Don Hooton 936.443.6230 |
| Scripture Reading | Mickey Chandler — 1Cor. 1:4-10 | Gerald Hodges — James 5:13-18 | You can also find us here...  WOODLANDSCHURCHOFCHRIST.org  facebook.com/woodlandschurchofchrist  @woodlandscc  woodlandschurchofchrist  woodlandschurchofchrist |
| Lord Supper | Al Suarez | Jay Dulin | |
| Preaching | Don Hooton | Singing | |
| Closing Prayer | Jay Dunlin | Bobby Cleek | |
| Wednesday | 1/29/2020 | 2/5/2020 | |
| Song Leader | Alan Stilts | Adam Bohanan | |
| Invitation | Jay Dunlin | Jeremy Crump | |
| Closing Prayer | Al Suarez | Keith Arrants | |
| Announcements | Norman Davis | Dwight Osteen | |

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Worship Assemblies
 Sundays at 10:20 am & 5:00 pm
Bible Classes for All Ages
 Sundays 9:30 am & Wednesdays 7:00 pm