

Scripture Text:

There is a prerequisite for this lesson – must become a Christian.

Faith is defined as *believing in something you cannot see*. Hebrews 11:1. Faith is the key to Heb. 11.

Service is defined as *the action of helping or doing work for someone*.

The Christian life is one of constant service – Romans 12:1-2

This lesson shows a journey: starting outside the church, serving those around us, then serving ourselves.

Faithful service to:

1. Others

- A. “Do good unto all men.” Galatians 6:10
 - 1. Opportunity: *καιρὸν* (kairon): Fitting season, season, opportunity, occasion, time. Of uncertain affinity; an occasion, i.e. Set or proper time.
 - 2. All men/everyone: *πάντας* (pantas): All, the whole, every kind of.
- B. “Love thy neighbor.” Matthew 22:39
 - 1. Who is my neighbor? Greek: near.
 - 2. The resident next to me? Across the street? Across the country? Across the world? The annoying person at Walmart? The truck that cut me off on the way to church? All answered as yes.
- C. Sometimes, Christians are the only Bible some people will ever read. Matthew 5:16
 - 1. Can others say about you: “He/She goes to Red Hill – oh I know it...” or “Can you believe he/she goes to church? Let alone Red Hill?”
 - 2. I’ve heard it said that the Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn’t falling apart.
- D. Jesus: “Know you are My disciples.” John 13:35
 - 1. Reminded of Moses in Exodus 34:29-35; he had been with God and his appearance was altered. Can others tell we have been altered?
 - 2. “They Will Know We Are Christians”

2. Church Family

- A. "Especially to those of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10
1. Especially: μάλιστα (malista): Most of all, especially.
 2. Faith: οἰκείους (oikeious): Of one's family, domestic, intimate. **The Church.**
- B. Attendance – how faithful & healthy would **Red Hill** be if everyone here were like me?
1. Hebrews 10:25 – assembly; 1 Corinthians 14:23 – whole church
 2. Your being here/not being here has a huge impact on the rest of the body – much like if your dominant arm just quit working.
 3. Presence uplifting to me: Cot Man, Chuck Reed, Shirley Melton
- C. "Once Upon a Pew I Sat"

Once upon a pew I sat,
And heard the preacher ask
"We need someone to teach an adult class,
Now who will take this task?"
Then God sat down beside me there
And said, "Son, that's for you."
"But, Lord, to stand before a class
Is one thing I can't do.
Now Brett or Don would be the men to call,
There's nothing they won't do.
I'd rather hear the lesson taught
From here upon my pew."

Once upon a pew I sat,
And heard the preacher ask.
"We need someone to teach a children's class,
Now who will take this task?"
Then God sat down beside me there
And said, "Daughter, that's for you."
"But, Lord, to stand before a class,
Is one thing I can't do.
Now Kelli or Cayla would be the ones to call,
There's nothing they won't do.
I'd rather hear the lesson taught
From here upon my pew."

Once upon a pew I sat,
And heard the preacher ask,
"We need someone to lead the songs,
Now who will take this task?"
Then God sat down beside me there
And said, "Son, that's for you."

"But Lord, to sing before a crowd,
Is one thing I can't do.
Now Ernie or Phil will do the job,
There's nothing they won't do.
I'd rather hear the people singing
From here upon my pew."

Once upon a pew I sat,
And heard the preacher ask,
"We need someone to keep the door,
Now who will take the task?"
Then God sat down beside me there
And said, "Son, that's for you."
"Saying things to strangers, Lord,
Is one thing I can't do.
Now Orville, he can talk to folks
There's nothing he won't do.
I'd rather someone come to me
And greet me on my pew."

As the years just seemed to pass me by
I heard that voice no more
Until one night I closed my eyes
And woke on heaven's shore.
There were eight of us together there,
To face eternity.
God said, "I need just seven of you
To do a job for me."
"O Lord," I cried, "I'll do the job,
There's nothing I won't do."
But Jesus said, "I'm sorry friend,
In heaven there is no pew."

3. Self

- A. "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Matthew 22:39
 - 1. We must take care of ourselves, too.
 - 2. If you do not properly care for yourself/your soul, how in the world can you be concerned about an erring brother/sister's soul? Galatians 6:1-2, 5
- B. I am responsible for myself going to Heaven or Hell.
 - 1. Goal: take as many with me but cannot make anyone else believe, attend, be faithful, etc.
 - 2. The blame game will not work on the Day of Judgment. Remember, Adam tried to blame God and Eve for his sin. Genesis 3:11-12
- C. Life should be arranged around serving God – NOT trying to squeeze Him in between sports and hobbies.
 - 1. Matthew 6:33 – priority, first
 - 2. Matthew 10:32-33 – I would hate to be on the day of judgment and have the One that died for Me claim to not know me because I attended every ballgame and missed every worship service.
- D. Others are looking at how I treat myself.
 - 1. Everyone from kids, grandkids, co-workers, employers, neighbors, etc.
 - 2. Staying sober, avoiding temptation, etc.

Am I faithful in my service to others? To my church family? To myself?

If I was arrested right this very moment and put on trial for being a Christian – would there be enough evidence to convict me?

*A PowerPoint accompanies this lesson, online: justinreedbible.com
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