



THE BULLETIN

DO ANY OF THESE BOTHER YOU?

Mark Twain famously said, "Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand." While Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) seems to have not been overly religious, he spoke a profound truth about paying attention to verses of Scripture that are difficult to misunderstand, and ones that ought to bring us all to sober attention.

Here's a few plain verses that are heavy with warning and meaning to anyone who cares anything at all about his soul...

- John 14:6 "Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."
- Matthew 7:13, 14 ""Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."
- Galatians 1:8, 9 "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!"
- Matthew 7:21-23 ""Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"
- John 8:24 ""Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.""
- James 2:14 "What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?"
- Luke 13:3 ""I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
- Acts 2:38 "Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
- Mark 16:15, 16 "And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."
- Matthew 6:14, 15 ""For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."
- 1 John 4:20 "If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen."

The Manchester church of Christ

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Our Minister:

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Our Deacons:

Tony Casella- Finance


Fred Hillhouse- Facilities

Doug Paul- Education

Stuart Peacock- Worship

Pete Steffensen- Facilities

David Skerry- Benevolence & Outreach


Don't give God
instructions,
just report for
duty!



Our Family News

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household," Ephesians 2:19, NAS95.

If you're a visitor to our church, welcome! If you have questions, we welcome them; please don't hesitate to ask Park Linscomb our minister (the really tall guy) or any other church member.

Jessica Revelle one of the student leaders of the Harding Spring Break Mission group—she's some for 3 or 4 years in a row—is graduating this spring. Good news! She wants to come to the NE area to work and live. But, of course, she needs work. She would like something in Chemistry, but is willing to take something to get her here. Please, ask, specifically where you work if there are job openings. Let's do all we can to get this Christian young lady to the Northeast.

Monday Night for the Master is May 4 at 6PM—Turkey Pot Pie. Good food and good works!

Next Leadership Training: May 16, 10am to noon. We'll continue to work on devotional thoughts and sermons. Donuts provided.

Menu for this Wednesday's dinner is a "chili and potato bar". Lisa and Susie are the cooks.

Interested in some midweek spiritual inspiration? Log on

to www.gbntv.org/live a brotherhood associated network bringing sound Gospel messages. Share with a friend, too, and see what results from it.

Gander Brook's camping season is not that far away, and many of us like to help provide camperships for kids in our congregation who need help in meeting the camper fee. If you'd like to help, please see Tony Casella, our church treasurer. If you

are needing a campership, please also contact Tony.

Gloria Dion is getting married on May 11, but is not able to come home for a bridal shower (school), so we'd like to shower her with cards and gift

cards. She's registered at Target and Bed Bath & Beyond. See Susie Peacock or Beth King for details.

The New England Lectures were this weekend, May 1-3 at the Holiday Inn in Taunton MA. Park taught a class on *Serving as Leaders in the New England Church*. These annual lectures are a rich way to enjoy the fellowship of other New England Christians and get spiritual uplift, too.

Mark your calendars...



- May 4—Monday Night for the Master, 6pm
- May 10—Mothers' Day
- May 16 Men's Leadership Training class starting at 10AM
- May 31—5th Sunday building contribution
- June 27—Work and Worship Week at Gander Brook
- July 4—first day of regular camping for kids at Gander Brook

Prayer List:

Good Works: Our youth rally, Bible studies in progress, our website, MNFM, food pantry

Health: Lynn Millette, Louise Linscomb, Brian Day, Peggy Mailloux, Mary Jane Parker, Dave Seguin, Gary Chase Jr., Anthony Davis, Natalie Cleavitt, David Lovering, Linda Tetrault, John Matthew, Geneva's nephew, Rich Therrien's brother-in-law

Struggles: Kathy Feuerhelm, Mark Brown & Emma, Linda Tetrault, Jim Kenison, Brethren who have forsaken the assembly.

Leadership: Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents



A Word of Encouragement

"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it." Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

FATHERS, REGRETS, AND PREVENTIONS, PART 2

Last week we began a short series on fatherhood and regret. We started with David's regret about his failures with Absalom, but there are plenty of regretful fathers in the Bible. The high priest Eli would be just one such example. His story is found in 1 Samuel's first several chapters. His sons were blatantly sinful and disrespectful toward their assigned work at the Tabernacle of God. When you read the story you are caused to wonder, "Why didn't Eli rebuke his sons, discipline them, teach them?" By the time Samuel comes to Eli with a prophecy about God's judgment, Eli seems to have recognized his failures, but it seemed to have been too late to curb. What regret Eli must have felt at the shameful behavior of his sons.

How do we avoid the regret? Last week we began by talking about a father's example—attitudes, actions, words, everything. This week we'll consider the teaching part of fatherhood.

Besides the provision of the necessities of life and showing love, teaching is the number one job of a dad. Children enter this world completely ignorant of how the world works. God gave children parents for a reason—to teach them! The book of Proverbs often speaks as a father teaching a son. The entire book seems to be mostly a collection of principles, pieces of wisdom, and insightful nuggets that one might teach to one's son. And the promise given to the son who listens is long and satisfying life (Prov. 3:2). A slightly different aspect of this truth is that the father who doesn't teach is depriving his children of a long and satisfying life.

So how do you teach?

Modeling

The first place I'll stop on this whirlwind tour of fatherly teaching is modeling. We talked about it last week, but I'll emphasize it again here, because a child's ears will always be closed to the oral teachings of a man who is not practicing what he preaches. As the poem goes, "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day; I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way: The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear, fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear." (Edgar Guest)

Recognize and Use Teachable Moments

A father needs to recognize "teachable moments". Teachable moments are those precious opportunities, when the child is sincerely asking why. When they are just not getting it and are looking for help. When they are standing in awe of the night sky, or a gorgeous sunset, or a baby's innocence. When disaster or failure or tragedy strikes. And sometimes, when you yourself just start to spontaneously (and appropriately) share your thoughts

with them. They are the moments without the pride of "I've got this", the moments without the "I know, I know" attitude; when the walls are down and curiosity's up. They will happen; they do happen; and when they do, you have to recognize them and take advantage of every second those windows are open—in a globally connected world, they don't happen as often as they used to.

Taking Time

Time is precious to us all, and finding the time to teach children is hard. Some frustrated and selfish parents have been known to spout-off, "That's what they have teachers/youth ministers for!" But the father who fails to carve out, chisel out, blast out the time to teach his children will pay with heart-breaking regret. Teachers and youth ministers may do some good, but poll after poll, year after year teens name their parents as their primary influence in life. Without you deliberately taking the time to teach them the spiritual things, the Biblical stories, the godly ways, the responsible life, etc., the only thing left is the school of hard knocks. If you don't know how to do this, run, do not walk, to a brother who is doing it or has done it well and get some help.

Use All Avenues

Teaching, as any good teacher will tell you, is not a one-tool endeavor; it's not, for example, just a lecture. Rather, effective teaching uses a box full of tools: discussion, question and answer, testing, correction, doing a "post-mortem" on a failure and a success, training, coaching, praising, pointing out (discreetly, of course) the successes and failures of others and discussing the whys, allowing consequences, modeling (as mentioned above), and even punishment—to name just a few.

Explaining

Explaining is another one of those tools of teaching, of course, but I mention it specially here, because there are ways of teaching that are basically just "Do this; don't do that," that aren't very effective. The question, "Why?" isn't always a challenge to authority—sometimes it's a genuine and legitimate question. You see, while "Do this; don't do that" might work for a few kids, most want and need an explanation. Explanations helps kids (and adults) to apply the principles to a much wider range of life experiences. Explanations take more time, but they better equip kids for the life that they will face now and in the future. Take the time and explain things.

Be a father who teaches, not a father who regrets.

Park Linscomb

Our Congregational Calendar for May 3 through May 16

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am BD Matt K.	4 MNFM, 6pm	5 Anniv. Beth & Karl King	6 Bible class 7PM BD, Sue Bell	7	8	9 BD, Mary Roukey
10 Mothers Day Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Nicole Cordaro BD	11	12	13 Bible class 7PM Angela Beard BD Casey Peacock BD	14	15 Joyce Day BD	16 Men's Leadership Training 10-noon Marge Simon BD

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week			SERVICE	SUNDAY, MAY 3	WED., MAY 6
Sun	May 3	Numbers 27-28	<i>Call to worship</i>	Barry Fogal	
Mon	May 4	Mark 8	<i>Songleading</i>	Gary Diaz	Stuart Peacock
Tue	May 5	Numbers 29-30	<i>Scripture reading</i>	Justin Silva	
Wed	May 6	Numbers 31	<i>Communion</i>	Fred Hillhouse	
Thu	May 7	Mark 9	<i>Devo thought</i>		Fred Hillhouse
Fri	May 8	Numbers 32	<i>Closing prayer</i>	Stuart Peacock	
Sat	May 9	Numbers 33	<i>Coordinator</i>	Ken Simon	
			<i>Tech</i>	George Abood	



Proverbs 9:8, 9 “Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, Reprove a wise man and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, Teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning.”

Young men, please consider coming to the Men's Leadership Training class on May 16 at 10am. Come learn to lead.

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