

## The Greatest!

Paul Franks, Associate Editor, *Magnolia Messenger*, Kosciusko, MS

Jesus is the greatest personality the world has ever known. Although He never wrote a book; yet, the greatest book ever written was written about Him — the Bible. He never commanded an army or a navy and He never sought political power. He was not known for being a world traveler. In the land where He lived while on earth, going east or west, He never traveled more than 50 to 75 miles. Going north or south He never traveled more than 125 - 150 miles except when He, as an infant, was taken to Egypt.

Jesus has been described as a "Master Teacher." As the Master, He employed several methods of teaching. Frequently, He used parables. On one occasion, He said that the kingdom was like a fishing net. You cast the net and you will find some good and some bad fish. The kingdom is like that, you will have some good and bad people.

At other times, He used object lessons. When a question was brought up about paying tribute to Caesar, Jesus asked for a coin and using the coin, He taught that man is to meet his obligation to both Caesar (government) and God. In other words, you can give to Caesar and give to God at the same time. Jesus also taught by asking questions. There are more than 1,000 questions in the New Testament. For example, Jesus asked His disciples, in Matthew 16:13, "Who do people say that the son of Man is?" Jesus was not looking for information; it was a leading question.

We are going to meet Jesus face to face one day. If we live and die in rebellion to His will, we will be lost eternally. If we yield and are submissive to His will, He will walk with us every step of the way. Christ is tough on rebels but sweet with the surrendered. Romans 11:22 sums it up: "Behold the goodness and the severity of the Lord."

We are all going to die. When that day comes, who do you want to meet — a tough Lord or one who opens His arms wide and clasps you to His bosom and loves you forever? There is just one Jesus. He is the greatest! The personality we meet depends on our attitude and disposition. You have to decide.

### TRUTH: THE KEY TO FREEDOM

To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teachings, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31, 32).

Like Pilate, many ask, "What is truth?" God's Word is truth (John 17:17). Jesus is truth (John 14:6). When we know God's Word (the written word and the living Word), we experience real freedom. Truth is absolute. Whatever the circumstance, whatever the culture, whatever the specific situation, truth is truth. Period.

The mighty message of truth must not be confused with the weak vessels who proclaim it. Truth is truth, no matter who speaks it.

Truth is consistent. Human interpretations are not. Human applications may not be. But the truth never changes. When our views and God's truth collide, we must be willing to admit our error and change our outlook to coincide with the Father's. Too often, we attempt to distort God's Word and make it fit our position. Then we become slaves to our own interpretations.

In order to appreciate and enjoy the freedom we have in Christ, we must know Jesus — the living Word and the ultimate Truth.

- Jay Hanley, Vernon, TX (*Bulletin Digest*) -

*The master key to success is knowing the Master.*

## News & Notes

**NEW CONVERT CLASS: Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class** in Room 401.

**SECRET SISTER MEETING: This morning following dismissal of the a.m. service.** The sisters who are participating in this program will gather at the front of the auditorium to choose their Secret Sister from submitted applications.

**CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.** All ladies are invited to participate.

**MEN'S ENRICHMENT CLASS: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.** Men are urged to come and spend an hour with your brothers and be encouraged.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Feb. 2nd, 8:00 a.m.** at EJ's Restaurant in Chester. Sign-up sheet on the desk.

**NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL: Next Saturday, Feb. 2nd, 2:30 p.m.** at Fox.

**FELLOWSHIP DINNER & EARLY SERVICE: Next Sunday, Feb. 3rd about noon** at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** at the church building.

**MEMBER VISITS:** Calls are being made for Elders and Minister visits with members that can be scheduled in your home or to meet here at the building. Schedule an appointment so this outreach can be completed ASAP.

**PANTRY:** Peanut butter & jelly.

**COUPLES FELLOWSHIP: Thursday, Feb. 14th at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of David & Janet Malcomson, 320 Fifth St, East Liverpool, OH. All married couples invited. Child care services will be available. Sign-up sheet on the desk.



**2019 ARK ENCOUNTER TOUR: June 28th.** \$85 (includes transportation, ticket and buffet meal **at park**). Your payment secures your seat and all fees are refundable until **May 31st**. We will **leave around 5:00 a.m.**, stop for breakfast, **arrive at the Ark about 10:00 a.m.**, and **leave about 7:00 p.m. and return about 12:00 a.m.** For more information contact: Dean Spencer (304) 491-0439, or Tracy Knight (330) 831-5544.



**PRAYER REQUEST:** For **Matt & Susie Rice Family** (Keith & Elaine McClung's daughter & son-in-law) 201 Wexford St, Raeford, NC 28376. **Matt's brother, Chuck** is in ICU with a serious undiagnosed health condition. Also, pray for **Leon Sharp** (Elaine McClung's dad) who has serious health issues, and **Chris Haught** (son of Skip & Sue) and family who are dealing with health issues.

**SEND CARDS:**

**Bob & Patty Eddy**, 4898 Oroszy Ave., Lorain, OH 44052.

**Alex Harless**, 1322 North 4th Street, Toronto, OH 43964.

**SICK & SHUT-IN: West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh:** Mary Jane Bowers. **At Home:** Shirley Beagle, Lois Hissom, Beulah Walker, Charlie Delong, Jenny Rhodes, Arlen & Joann Webb, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Doris Dunham.

**CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.