

September 2, 2018

“The Voice”

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
Olney, IL 62450
217-218-0803
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Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Visitors are welcome
We offer Bible classes for all ages
We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

John 1:22-23: *Then said they unto him, Who art thou? That we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.*

When John the Baptizer was asked who he was, he said that he was not Christ (**John 1:20**). Nor was he Elias (**verse 21**), though he came before Jesus “***in the spirit and power of Elias***” (**Luke 1:17**). Nor was he the prophet like Moses that God would raise up (**Deut. 18:15**).

Instead, John simply said he was “***the voice of one crying in the wilderness.***”

John took emphasis away from himself and directed it toward Jesus, saying, “***He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe’s latchet I am not worthy to unloose***” (**John 1:27**). He stood in awe of Jesus (cf. **John 1:29**), rather than trying to make others stand in awe of himself (cf. **Matt. 23:5**).

God could use more servants like John, who do what is right at whatever cost (cf. **Matt. 14:3-10**), yet humbly see that doing so simply makes one God’s instrument.

John emphasized God’s message rather than the messenger. He exemplified the need for all “voices” that God uses to seek glory not for themselves, but for God (cf. **1 Pet. 4:11**).

“The Common People Heard Him Gladly”

By Michael Hickox

Mark 12:35-37: *And Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, “How say the scribes that Christ is the Son of David? For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The Lord said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool. David therefore himself calleth Him Lord; and whence is He then his son?” And the common people heard Him gladly.*

Mark 12 contrasts the Jewish rulers, who *thought* they were right, with the “**common people**,” who often *were* right. While the Jewish rulers were largely hypocritical (**Mark 12:38-40**), many of the common people had a genuine interest in Jesus.

John 7 shows a similar contrast. The Jewish rulers at that time had been seeking to punish Jesus since He healed a man on the sabbath day. When Jesus revealed Himself at the feast of tabernacles, the Jewish rulers questioned their officers “**Why have ye not brought Him?**” (**John 7:45**). The officers responded, “**Never man spake like this man**” (verse 46). The Pharisees then asked, “**Are ye also deceived?**” (verse 47).

Notice what they went on to ask in **verse 48:** **Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on Him?**

This was the Jewish leaders’ standard of right and wrong. If the Pharisees agreed that Jesus was a fraud (which they really didn’t - **John 3:1-2**), then they had no doubt

that He was a fraud.

Their perception of the common people who believed Jesus to be the Messiah is in **verse 49:** **But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.**

The contrast between these two broad groups is a theme throughout Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Jewish leaders thought that they already had things figured out, while many of the common people opened their hearts to the truth. The Jewish leaders saw these common people as beneath them, but God saw differently.

A similar tendency can exist today. We must become as fools in order to be wise (**1 Cor. 3:18**). This is a way of saying that we must let go of our worldly wisdom as needed in order to humbly accept the true wisdom that is from above.

Those who are rich, “wise,” popular, or prestigious in this world often have the most difficulty doing this. These people may still accept the simple truth, but it can be more difficult. Sometimes, it is the “common people” who receive the Word most easily.

Whether we are considered common people from a worldly perspective or not, we must have the humble mindset that leads us to accept Jesus’ teachings. We must trust and obey God.

This is what the common people of **Mark 12** did. May we be like them and accept the truth.

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him."—Psalm 103:11-13

"Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife."—Proverbs 26:20-21

Prayer List

Holly
Barb
Harold (Prostate Cancer)
Sandy (Foot Injury)
Betty
Mabel
Norma's Grandson, Ryan (Head Injury)
Cheryl (Breast Cancer)
Norma (Injuries from fall)
Jerry (Throat Cancer)
Mattie (Leukemia)
Tom (Pancreatic Cancer)
Linda & Family
Caleb & Darcy & Family
Rick & Carlotta & Family
Dody
Louise & Family
Joe (Lung Cancer)
Allen S. (Cancer)
Raymond

Daily Bible Reading

September 2 – Ps. 120-122; 1 Cor. 9
September 3 – Ps. 123-125; 1 Cor. 10:1-18
September 4 – Ps. 126-128; 1 Cor. 10:19-33
September 5 – Ps. 129-131; 1 Cor. 11:1-16
September 6 – Ps. 132-134; 1 Cor. 11:17-34
September 7 – Ps. 135-136; 1 Cor. 12
September 8 – Ps. 137-139; 1 Cor. 13

"Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."—Psalm 119:11

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, September 2, 2018

Bible Study: Harold

Worship: Roger

Evening: John

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Darrell

Cleaning Building

Misty

Prepare Communion

Misty

Upcoming Reminders

Sep. 22: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Assignments

Sunday, September 9, 2018

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Darrell

Table:

Serve: Dan D

John

Jim

Travis

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Invitation: Travis

Anniversaries

September 3 - Dan and Lovetta

Birthdays

September 2 - Dan H

September 12 - Sidney