A Preacher’s Perspective

Perfect. That’s a powerful and intimidating word, isn’t it? Remember when Jesus said, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”? When you read this text, doesn’t it make you squirm a little?

One of my very favorite “perfect” stories of Jesus is the time he cleared out the temple, in Matt. 21. He was deeply hurt and offended by the disrespect of the vendors. They had set up booths, not to help with worship, but to profit from the sincere worshipers who were “fleeced” like sheep by these unscrupulous rascals. Jeremiah had called the temple of his day a “den of robbers.” Jesus quotes him.

That temple represented His own body, and His church. To Him it was a place of high worship and deep love.

And He was very angry. He turned over tables and drove people out. To see Jesus in a mood like that must have been terrible to behold. He was certainly always under control, but I would imagine that some of those there might have felt a bit of the complete irresistible power of this Man who could still oceans with a word. They knew His anger was for them.

They stepped back.

In my mind, the scene is one in which many were driven out. There was a kind of invisible barrier to their entrance back into the temple precincts. The boundaries were in their own hearts of fear.

But there were some who felt no fear at all. They were completely at ease and drew themselves eagerly to the side of this powerful Rabbi.

These were the lame and the blind. They came to be healed, and they found what they were looking for.

And the children. They sang to Him, “Hosanna to the Son of David! It was a Messianic song. They could not have really even understood its depth and real meaning.

But they knew it applied to this gentle friend with the terrible power. They liked the temple better in the peace of Jesus, I think. They may have been a bit frightened by all the chaos and the atmosphere of greed and exploitation which had been there just minutes before.

But now, they were free to sing, and to worship from young hearts.

And how Jesus loved their son. The con men were indignant. They challenged Jesus for receiving such praise.

He basked in it. He savored it. He delighted in each skinned knee and each dirty hand and each beautiful face of these pure worshipers. He quoted Psalm 8, and called their praise, “perfect.”

You and I want to never forget the perfection of the hearts of children. Our praise must become like theirs to be acceptable.

VBS is coming soon.

Chuck Miller
Welcome to the West Chicago Church of Christ

If you are visiting with us, we especially want to welcome you. We pray our time together worshiping our Father in heaven will be uplifting and encouraging. You are an honored guest and we want to thank you for being a part of our worship this morning.

Bible classes begin at 9:30 and are available for all ages. Babies can be taken to the nursery located at the back of the auditorium. Pre-school and early-elementary-age children meet in classrooms downstairs. Teens meet in the teen room at the back of the auditorium. The adult class meets in the fellowship room.

Our Community Groups meet every Sunday throughout the year, except for the last Sunday of each month. The last Sunday of each month, we will meet at 6:00 p.m. for a time of praise and fellowship.

A weekly web-cast of our Sunday morning worship services is available by following these instructions:

http://wcfamily.viewnetcam.com
Username: wcfamily
Password: 6302312062
Click “SINGLE” tab
Allow any Active X controls

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our Elders:

Don Brewster       Jay Hearn
Chuck Miller       Rick Root

Our Deacons are:

John Day           Brian Gifford
Jon Miller         Curt Robinson

Sunday Morning Bible Class ..................... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship  ......................... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening (last Sunday of each month) . . . . . . . 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class ................. 7:00 p.m.

This Morning ...

Please take a moment this morning to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack. You may choose to have prayers by the elders, a prayer warrior or by the whole church family. If you choose “whole church family” it will be announced following the sermon.

Worship Order

Welcome, Announcements, Birthdays . . . . . . Curt Robinson
Kids Connection ................................. Bob Jett
Matthew 3:11-12
Praise Songs ................................. Jay Hearm
#429 O to Be Like Thee
#354 I Gave My Life for Thee
#319 Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone!
Philippians 2:5-11
#771 Lord, Speak to Me
#789-790-791 Medley
Father - Lord, Take Control - On Bended Knee
Communion Message ......................... Don Brewster
Prayers, Pass Emblems
Prayer, Collection - #663 . . . We Give Thee but Thine Own
Sermon ......................................... Chuck Miller
#919 Behold a Stranger
Prayer Cards ................................. Bob Voigts
#162 All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April 28 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Jeff Ieler
April 29 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Shirley Rucker
May 3 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Catherine Henkel

Dates to Remember

TODAY . . . . . . . . . . . . Praise Sunday!
April 28 . . . . . . . . . . . . Clothing Due
April 29 . . . . . . . . . . . . Teen Parent Connection
April 30 . . . . . . . . . . . . Tuesday Ladies Class
May 1 . . . . . . . . . . . . Sinners Anonymous
May 1 . . . . . . . . . . . . Wednesday Bible Class
May 2 . . . . . . . . . . . . Food Pantry Delivery
May 3 . . . . . . . . . . . . NO Mens Prayer & Pancakes
May 4 . . . . . . . . . . . . RCC workday
May 5 . . . . . . . . . . . . Community Groups
May 6 . . . . . . . . . . . . Teen Parent Connection
May 8 . . . . . . . . . . . . Wednesday Bible Class
May 12 . . . . . . . . . . . . Mother’s Day

Records You Helped Make

Contribution ......................... $3,918.80

Nursery Workers
Kelly Ieler, Kim Sitler

Collection Counters
Mike Henkel, Paul Mullins
In Our Prayers...

Betsy, Bob Voigt’s supervisor, has breast cancer.
Sandy Boyd had surgery last week.
Pat Brewster is doing much better.
Al Dorsey is in a rehab facility in St. Charles.
Betty Frazier, Linda Vantreese’s friend, is suffering with several health issues and some depression.
Kathy, Dana Howard’s friend, has cancer. Kathy Mandas, Dana’s co-worker, is going through therapy for her knee which was injured when she fell. Continue to pray for Sylvia Atten, Waseem James, her aunt, Pat Johnson and her parents.

A.J. McCorkle, the brother of Bobbie Whitman’s sister-in-law, passed away last week.

Nadine McCormick is home from Marianjoy and doing better. Bonnie Bingham is her care-giver.

Joan Mullins, Paul’s mother, is struggling with lack of energy. She’s had several tests done and is waiting for results. His father is retiring as an elder from their church in Arizona.

Liz Pritchett, a friend of Joe Voigts, has mouth cancer.
Jackie Robinson had foot surgery on Tuesday. She is doing well, but will be on crutches for 6-8 weeks.

Rose Stirrup, Kelly Ieler’s Mom, had surgery because of lung cancer. She is home from the hospital and doing well.

Heidi Wesner, the wife of the vice president of Service Company, is recuperating from meningitis.

Those suffering with long-term issues:

Herman Aultman – Bobbie Whitman’s brother
Paul & Judy Bertrand – Lynette Root’s parents
Nancy Brewster
Bob & Phyllis Cissne – Cindy Drumheller’s parents
John Day
Doug Dorsey – Al’s son
Brad Fowler – Joan Lockett’s nephew
Josephine Haggerton
Lauren Helton – Josephine Haggerton’s nephew
Kathy Huml – John Pedersen’s sister
Mason Hutchins – friend of Alec Boyd & Rourke Mullins
Sue Lake – Marion’s sister-in-law
John Mark Lango, son of former members Keith & Kim
Debbie Lawrence – Bobbie Whitman’s niece
Don Lemley
Jack Lockett– father of Charlie, Mike, Julie Chavez, Shelley Frosser, Missy Kissane, & Becky Pedersen

Mike Lockett – Joan’s son
Josh Otte – Chris Czernik’s nephew & the son of Marion Lake’s cousin
Henry Phillips, from Rockford Church of Christ
Scott Robinson – Curt’s brother
Kay Schrader
Phyllis Sitler
Bruce Snyder & Cindy Stewart – Bob Voigts’ cousins
Jim Whitman

Moms-to-be:
Fred & Elizabeth Dock – Dana Howard’s niece
Sarah Rentschler – Sally Hearn’s niece
Sarah Tincher – Twins!
Katie Weishaar – Sally Hearn’s niece

Armed forces:
Josh Aultman – Bobbie Whitman’s grand-nephew,
Ryan Gleason – Dana Howard’s nephew, staying in U.S.
Kristen Hauser – a friend of the Avey’s, Afghanistan
Jacob Headtke – U.S. Marines, RCC alumni
Joey Wertz – the friend of Lynette Root’s friend, Iraq
Jonathon Young – a Warrant Officer in the army

Missions:
City of Children – Ensenada, Mexico
Obadiah Doka – Nigeria
Living Room Café – Chicago
Mission Lazarus – Honduras & Haiti
Shults-Lewis – the teens, their families, the workers
Enoch & Jeannine Thweatt – Taiwan
Teen Parent Connection - West Chicago
Joe & Allison Voigts – Korea
Students of Joe Voigts – China
Ayodele Waleola – Nigeria

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. James 3:17-18
**Vacation Bible School**

This year’s **Vacation Bible School**, “It’s a Blue Ribbon Life,” will be held from Monday, June 17, through Friday, June 21, in the evening. There are lots of opportunities for you to get involved, so please see Cindy or Sally as soon as possible!

**Education Changes**

One of the projects of our new elders/deacons is to do some overhaul of our class planning. We hope to have a year-long curriculum plan which will include our adult classes as well as the teens and children. Cindy Drummel has agreed to be our consultant/coordinator for the adult classes as well as continuing her role as education director. All who are interested in teaching adult classes should channel those requests to Cindy who will help the elders fit them into the schedule.

**Clothing**

Today is the last day to donate clothing for the Rockford Church of Christ clothing giveaway which is held this Saturday, May 4. Please label and place any donations at the far end of the foyer. DO NOT bring any donations to the building after today unless you speak to Sally.

**Directories Are Ready!**

Directories are ready and available in the foyer. Please take the one with your name in the upper right-hand corner! There are extras if you would like more than one. Please let me know if there are any errors! Laminated phone lists are available on the same table. There should be plenty for everyone to have a copy.

**Congratulations!**

Carson Boyd, Tim & Sandy’s son, is graduating with a Master of Accountancy (obtained in 4 years) from Lipscomb University on Saturday, May 4. Congratulations, Carson!

**Harding’s Chicago Cubs Event!**

Tuesday, May 14, Harding University is hosting their annual Cubs Game and Pizza Dinner. Dinner is at 5:45 p.m. in Addison and the game is at 7:05 p.m. at Wrigley Field. Cost is $12. We must RSVP by May 3rd. Seats are limited, so the sooner we RSVP the better.

**Rockford Christian Camp**

Sessions are quickly approaching – yippee! Be sure to check the website, www.rockfordchristiancamp.org for important and new registration information. Mark the following dates on your calendar. Please note that the grade listed is the “Last Grade Completed.” ALSO, dates published previously were wrong. These are correct!

- May 24-27 Memorial Day Retreat (Grade 7-12)
- June 21-23 Young Adult Retreat (Post H.S. to 35)
- July 12-20 Senior Week (Grade 9-12)
- July 20-27 Intermediate Week (Grade 6-8)
- July 27-Aug 3 Junior Week (Grade 2-5)
- Aug 30-Sept 2 Labor Day Retreat (Grade 7-12)

Be sure to visit the **RCC Cabin Keepers Foundation** section of the website to join us in this “locust” project. A small monthly donation from you helps us to build up our facilities and keep fees as low as possible.

**Rockford Christian Camp**

Rockford Christian Camp work days are scheduled for Saturdays, May 4 and May 18. Work starts at 8:00 a.m. For specifics see Chuck or Don. Teens are especially welcome!

**Auto-Cad Champion**

Auto-Cad is a very powerful technical computer softward application used by architects, engineers, contractors, and draftsmen. Way over my head! Charlie Hearn won the state competition in Auto-Cad a few days ago. Ask our engineer/science geeks (like Bob Jett, Tim Boyd, Joanne Johnson and Terri Bray) and they can tell you what an excellent achievement this is. Good work, Charlie!