

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

By Cody Shepherd, Youth Minister, Norton Christian Church

In 331 B.C. Alexander the Great marched towards India with his armies. Alexander had already conquered much of the known world, and he would stop at nothing to have it all. Alexander was a strong leader, and every soldier was willing to follow him, no matter what the cost.

Alexander the Great had a strong campaign to take over the world yet encountered some difficulty upon the arrival at a certain walled city. As Alexander approached the great city, he peered up towards the King who stood firm upon the stone wall and shouted: "My name is Alexander the Great, and I demand you surrender immediately!" Laughing, the King asked, "Why should we surrender to you?" He then proceeded to explain how they outnumbered Alexander's troops, and they were more than prepared to defend the city.

In response, Alexander turned to this 100 choice troops and commanded them to line up in perfect order facing the cliff. Each did so obediently in respect for their leader. Alexander then ordered them to start moving. One by one they began marching toward the edge of the cliff. The first soldier stepped off the cliff and pummeled to his death, as did the second, third, fourth, all the way until the eleventh man.

When Alexander finally yelled, "HALT!" he gazed back at the King who was completely astonished by the obedience of the men and the utter respect they had for Alexander. He surrendered immediately, and Alexander went on to conquer the civilized world.

This King surrendered because of the power of obedience!

Sadly enough many Christians are amazed at the obedience of soldiers such as this. We look at what possible purpose their obedience might play. Our obedience becomes entwined with our own understanding and rational of the situation. In the midst of our selfish justifications, Christ calls us not to question, but obey.

Obedience is not based on knowledge or understanding, but on faith. This is the basis on which the book of James was written. If we have true faith, it leads us to do something about it. Sometimes you are a casualty of the war, but for an ultimate victory.

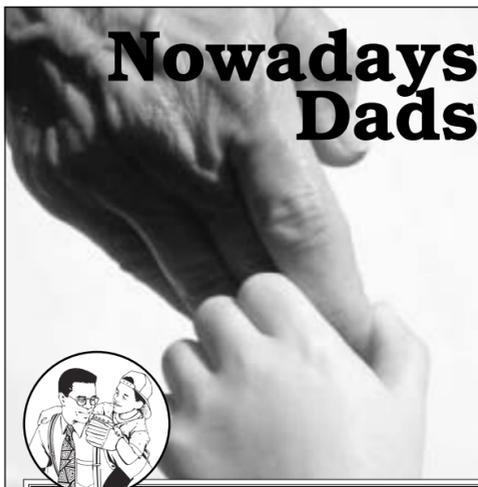
This is what the disciples did. They were willing to obey without thought of themselves. Of the 12 disciples that are mentioned in Acts (Judas was replaced), 11 of them died unnatural deaths for their faith. Only one, John, lived a full life, though under exile on the island of Patmos.

David and his mighty men held the same obedience. In 2nd Samuel 23, the Bible recounts the mighty men's sacrificial achievements of their ventures and their devotion for their king. We all have also heard the obedience that David displayed in fighting Goliath as well as many other things he did in his life.

Why then do we today think that we are only called to live an easy life? I have heard it said that "the easiest place to be is in the center of the will of God". As far as a spiritual look at that I agree fully with the statement. But on a physical level (in which most take it), there is nothing further from the truth. I believe it is much better said by Dr. B.J. Miller when he said, "It is a great deal easier to do that which God gives us to do, no matter how hard it is, than to face the responsibilities of not doing it."

Christ has called us to live lives fully obedient to him. If you are merely living your life in a ritualistic consistencies that many people consider to be "church", then look at what is said in 1st Samuel 15:22, "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." In other words, God cares more about you and your testimony than what you can do.

Right now, Christ wants your life. What are you holding back? He has a plan for His Kingdom and you are a part of it. The ultimate question is will you accept the call of obedience?



Nowadays Dads

- SUNDAY Romans 8:1-17
- MONDAY Romans 8:18-30
- TUESDAY Romans 15:1-13
- WEDNESDAY Romans 15:14-33
- THURSDAY 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- FRIDAY 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
- SATURDAY Galatians 5:16-25

This Fathers Day presents an excellent opportunity to consider some qualities of the "new" fathers of today. New fathers not only have a new family addition but also face a much more "hands-on" role.

First, Dads are totally involved...in the pregnancy as well as the birthing. They hang right in there - no cheerleaders were ever more enthusiastic! Both parents are truly dedicated...both are awake at the same time...and both are exhausted when the birthing is complete. Gone are the days of Dad pacing the floor in the waiting room. Today's dads are "expecting", too.

Once home, the already sleep-deprived Dad shares getting up in the middle of the night to wails of hunger, changes diapers, and shares household responsibilities. He is totally "smitten" with his new child.

Today's dads are no better than yesterday's dads, the duties and responsibilities have simply changed somewhat along with the culture. Have you noticed that more fathers accompany their children to church these days? As you worship with your family this Father's Day, especially remember the "nowadays dads"...leading the way in a new generation.

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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NORCATUR NEWS

By NORCATUR NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Birthdays and anniversaries: Arnold Jackson, Ethel Miller - June 12; John and Laurie Milnes - June 14; Greg and Mary Long - June 15.

Vacation Bible School will be coming to Norcaturn Methodist Church in June, possibly on Monday, June 21 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (one day only). We are looking for participants and helpers. We will work with whatever ages we can get. Norcaturn and Clayton area children are encouraged to attend. Contact Alice Barnett at (785) 693-4571.

The third Annual Decatur County Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) will be held June 18-19. Luminaries may be purchased for \$10, in memory or in honor of someone. If you would like to buy one, contact Chris Dempewolf.

The Decatur Community High School journalism department will be accepting used cell phones, toner cartridges and printer cartridges all summer. They may be dropped off at the Norcaturn city office.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

It's time to begin the summer reading program in Norcaturn. Books may be read anywhere from June 1 to Aug. 9. Fun days will be June 29, July 1, and July 6 and 8, with an awards ceremony on Aug. 10. The theme for this summer is "Discover New Trails... Read!"

With this theme in mind, we would like to let the youngsters know what Norcaturn was like in "the good ol' days". We need 3-4 people to come in and tell about life around Norcaturn years ago: your farming ways, chores, schooling, downtown Norcaturn, coming into town for groceries, etc. If you are interested, contact Chris at (785) 693-4461.

If you or your club would like to make cookies for the summer reading program, contact Chris at the number above.

There is one more small project going on at the Norcaturn City building this summer. We are converting the room across the hall from the library into a mini Norcaturn museum. If you have any Norcaturn memorabilia you would like to donate, please bring to the Norcaturn City office. This could be club books, pictures, high school items, etc. Anything would be appreciated.

Doug, Chris, Sharee and M.J. Dempewolf, Dave, Patty, Kaitlyn and Sam Stapp, Marian Dempewolf, Bob Dempewolf, Linda Schliep, Kortney Stapp and friend Jared attended the Dempewolf reunion on Saturday in Wichita. There were approximately 50 people attending. Traveling furthest were Myron and Diane Klodesty from California.

NEW ALMELO

By BETTY OTTER

On May 23 Russ and Marcia Aumiller attended the baptism of their grandson, Matthew William Vahling at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Hays. Josh Vahling and Missy Vahling were the godparents. Nicole Vahling and Jeremy Rumbach were also there. Matthew is the son of Jeff and Kathleen Vahling, Hays.

On May 23 a graduation Mass was held at the St. Joseph's Church, Brandon Otter, son of Frank and Lavonne Otter; Nathan Becker, son of Paul and Linda Becker were the seniors. Valerie Wagoner, daughter of Vince and Lisa Wagoner, and Levi Ninemire, son of Jim and Peggy Ninemire, were the 8th grade graduates. A reception was held afterwards at the Parish Hall.

Memorial Day services were held at St. Joseph's Cemetery on May 31. Father Vincent Thu Laing celebrated Mass in memory of all that were buried there. Deacon Stan Chapin gave the homily on how Memorial Day came to be and

its meaning. The names of the person buried at the cemetery in the last year and also the names of all veterans that are buried there and the ones buried overseas. The avenue of flags and the decorated graves made a beautiful setting.

Memorial weekend visitors at the home of Marion and Marilyn Otter were Steve Otter, Wichita; Joy and Hilaria Huff, Denver, Colo. and their daughter, Arleen.

Family coming home Memorial weekend to the home of Alfred and Betty Otter to help work on a project for their dad were: Mike Otter, Cimarron; Tom Otter, DeSoto; Mark and Anna Otter, Marshall; Karl Otter, Great Bend; Charles Otter, Salina; Jim and Jolene Moss and family, Jewell.

On June 1, Carson Vincent Ritter was born at Olathe Hospital. He weighed 8 pounds 6 ounces and was 20 inches long. He is the son of Will and Tina Ritter and has a sister Allyson, 4. Grandparents are Alfred and Betty Otter, New Almelo; and Vincent and Mary Ritter, Leoville.

The paper you read for the news you need!

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

