

## GOING DEEPER

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, he was crucified and raised near Jerusalem. The distance between Bethlehem and Jerusalem is about six miles. The events that shook the very universe to its foundations occurred just six miles apart.

On Sunday morning, we have been studying Luke's Gospel. We have seen Jesus begin his ministry in Nazareth, we have walked with Jesus as he traveled from Galilee through Samaria to Jerusalem. We have seen that all of Jesus' ministry took place within 120 miles. As we read Luke's Gospel we never get the sense that Jesus is rushed or frantic. Rather, we see Jesus live a simple and focused life.

When I think about what Jesus did in his short span of life and what Jesus accomplished in his narrowly traveled life, I am amazed and I am convicted. Many of us travel more in a week than Jesus traveled in his whole ministry. In comparison with Jesus, our lives are busy, busy, busy. All too often our lives are too complicated and distracted.

Jesus lived a life that was narrow. Narrow in time, narrow geographically, and narrow in focus. Jesus lived a narrow life and yet Jesus accomplished more than anyone has ever accomplished. Jesus lived a simple and focused life. Jesus lived a life that was an inch wide and a mile deep.

Do we confuse busyness with accomplishment? Do we confuse activity with growth? We can be very busy doing good things, and yet we can give little attention to things that bring about true Christ-like growth. Imagine spending a little less time on busy activities and a little more time on the simple spiritual acts that lead us deeper into Christ. Things like worship, study, fellowship, and service.

Jesus lived a simple and focused life. I am trying to live a simple and focused life. But, I have to tell you that it is more difficult that I thought it would be. Our culture constantly bombards us with the message that quantity is to be preferred over quality, busyness and activity are preferred over intentional focus, and choice is better than growth.

LET'S GO DEEPER

LET'S GO SIMPLE

LET'S GROW

Grace & Peace  
Derek

### Sunday Conference call:

To listen to our Sunday morning service live,  
call 1-800-914-8405 followed by 4896244  
**YOU MUST MUTE YOUR PHONE**

## Family News & Notes

- **Misha Kimbell** has received good results from her brain scan.
- **Joe Rodgers** is still at Methodist University.

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**HEALTH ISSUES:** Joe Albritton, Cindy Caldwell, Tim Edge, Jerry Frederick, Sonia Henry, Ken Joines, Misha Kimbell, Peggy McGowen, Bill Newport, Banks Ready, Jerry Richardson, Joe Rodgers, Chris Rogers, Louise Schmittou, Tonya Smith, Jamie Vorhof, Helen Weathers, Eddie & Margaret Whalen, Lula Whittle, Jane Winstead.

**REHAB:** Richard Fraley,

**HOSPICE CARE:** Katie Culley, Ann Estes

**SHUT-INS:** Valeria Canada, Robert Coleman, Maxine Drewery, Lorene Edge, Evelyn Fowler, Sallye Giles, Irmagene Hall, Margaret Jones, Jackie Lorenson, Dot McEwen, Billy & Betty Moore, Dorinda Murphy.

**FAMILY:** Jeanette Barnes, Bubba Davis, Allyson Kelly, Sandra Morris, Jane Mullins, Willie Pyrdam, Steve Robbins, Terrance Simmons, Mike Wolbright.



### SYMPATHY

Goodman Oaks would like to extend our sympathy to **Johnny Blue** at the passing of **Betty Blue**. A Memorial Service will be scheduled later.

### SHOWER

There will be a wedding shower for Emma McKean, bride elect of **Alex Williams**, **Today, May 7, from 3:00PM until 4:30PM**. They are registered at Target and Bed, Bath & Beyond.

### CHILDREN'S EDUCATION MINISTRY

**Tonight** our Basic Training children will be leading our **PM** worship at Goodman Oaks. We will have a combined service from **5:00-5:30**, followed by a divided service for our ladies at **5:30** in **Room 22**.

### NURSERY WORKERS

#### May 7

**10:00 (0-24 mos)** Emily Beard, Cassie Walker,  
Mason Branning  
**(2 years)** Amanda Massey, Lynn Bicknell  
**5:00PM:** Jennifer Kuykendall, Tammy Behl

#### May 14

**10:00 (0-24 mos)** Daphne Eddlemon  
Tonja Johnson, Misha Kimbell  
**(2 years)** Jennifer & Allison Davis  
**5:00PM:** Tricia Massey, Gwen Coker

## LOSE YOUR LIFE AND FIND IT

You cannot kill the person who has chosen to die.

This is essentially how Jesus began his great Sermon on the Mount, only he said it more poetically: *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven* (Matthew 5:3).

Most people do not consider poverty a blessing. Countless hours have been spent trying to find a way to solve poverty and hunger in the world. Countless pieces of legislation have been created to avoid the dangers of poverty. Yet our Lord tells us that unless we are bankrupt *in spirit*, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

The "poor in spirit" are those renounced in spirit. They have come to recognize that without Jesus in their lives, their lives are destitute. They have found that the only way to find their life is to lose it in Jesus.

When we want nothing but God we have everything. A bird will fight with himself for hours trying to get through a window to have what it cannot have, but when he gets the 'call of the great outdoors' it flies off singing. Jesus calls us by his Gospel to let go of ourselves and follow him, which is true blessedness.

### SINCEREST THANKS

We had a wonderful graduation ceremony last night and Goodman Oaks would like to extend our great appreciation to our Thursday School staff, on another successful session. All of your hard work and dedication is a great example of the servants we should be. Again, we thank you as we reset for the fall.

If you are interested in helping out with this wonderful program, please contact **Alan Underwood**. There is no job too big or too small when it comes to our children, who are our future.

### YOUTH NEWS

#### PIZZA NIGHT

Our Pizza Night will be this **Wednesday, May 10**. Be sure to bring \$3 in change, to help cover the cost of food and drinks. We will start at 6:00PM.

#### GRAND ISLAND MISSION TRIP

If you would like to go to Grand Island this summer, please let Jared know by **Today, May 7**. The dates for this year's trip will be **Tuesday, June 20-Monday, June 26**.

#### SENIOR SUNDAY

This year we will be honoring our graduating Seniors on **Sunday, May 21**. Please join us as we celebrate this great achievement with **Atticus Nelson** (Desoto Central), **Kayley Underwood** (Harding Academy), **Deja Henry** (Southaven), **Noah Hammett** (Lewisburg), and **Jacob Robinson** (Hernando).

