



Shepherd Tuesday Happenings for December 30, 2008

I never looked at it that way! Sunday morning Pastor Coleman spoke about how the wise men took a different direction after they had seen Christ and our lives will also take a different direction when we encounter Christ. That's one of those messages that not only blesses you, but makes you say, "Hummmmm"

Just Thinking -- A few years ago Robert Fulghrum wrote a book titled "Everything I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten...uncommon thoughts on common things". The focus was children learned the basic needs of life at the foot of a teacher.

I learned a very basic truth of life at the foot of a Rabbi. The rabbi was a portly, light-hearted man who did a weekly lesson on the scriptures or Judaism on a local TV station. I was an 18-year-old cameraman at that station. The rabbi would sit behind a desk, with an appropriate background and after he would start speaking, I would lock my camera in place and sit on the base of the stand. Back then, unlike today, it took many high wattage lights and even with air conditioning, it was extremely hot in front of the camera; but on that day as I sat just feet in front of the rabbi, I was drinking a cold Pepsi Cola, while he spoke. Rabbi Abraham would remind me of that incident for many years remembering how he was sweltering and I was sitting there drinking a cold drink right in front of him.

Each one of his programs began with him reading from 1 Kings 19:11-12. Where God commanded Elijah to go stand on the mountain and wait for the Lord to pass by. There was a cyclone or tornado, but the Lord was not in the wind; there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; then a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire...then came a "still, small, voice".

Followers of Jesus often addressed him as "Rabbi", and they learned by sitting at His feet and listening to His words. They were blessed for their efforts.

I sat at the feet of an earthly rabbi, drank a Pepsi Cola and learned a great lesson that has followed me for almost half a century. The Lord can come in a way you least expect Him, maybe in a storm or maybe in a quiet whisper. The main thing is to place yourself in a position to hear. *"And it was so, when Elijah heard it"* (1 Kings 19:13 KJV)

Schedule Changes at Shepherd – Tonight will be the only Discipleship Training this holiday week. This session will be held at the church at 7 pm. There will be the usual lesson, followed by snacks, and then we will take down the Christmas decorations. Ya'll come and bring some visitors and/or guests.

There will be a **New Years Eve service** at 7 pm on Wednesday in the sanctuary. Let's ring in the New Year together; then you will still have time to get home and see the ball drop on TV.

Starting next Sunday, January 4, Discipleship Training will be on Sunday mornings starting at 9 AM. There will be a children's class, a youth class and two adult classes. This will replace the bi-weekly sessions.

So here is **this week's schedule** (Dec. 30 – Jan. 4)::

Tuesday @ 7 pm – Discipleship Training @ the Church
Wednesday @ 7 pm – New Years Eve Service
Thursday – Happy New Year 2009
Sunday @ 9 am – Discipleship Training
Sunday @ 10 am – Morning Worship
Sunday @ 4:30 pm – Praise Team Practice
Sunday @ 5:00 pm – Evening Worship

Starting **next week**, January 5, the regular schedule will be:

Wednesday @ 7 pm – Pray and Bible Study
Sunday @ 9 am – Discipleship Training
Sunday @ 10 am – Morning Worship
Sunday @ 4:30 pm – Praise Team Practice
Sunday @ 5:00 pm – Evening Worship

Reminder for the Ladies – The monthly arts and crafts meeting is scheduled for next Monday, January 5, at 6 pm. Bring your supplies and a guest.

Alabaster – Have you checked your alabaster box? Are you putting in your spare change? Alabaster Sunday will be in February, it's not too late to catch up. If you don't have a box, they are available in the church foyer.

Missionaries Are Coming – On Saturday, January 24, a missionary couple will be at our church. We will share a meal with them at 5 pm and then hear Steve and Debbie Hofferbert, missionaries to Brazil, tell us about God's work in their field.

Thank you – Pastor Coleman and Loraine would like to express thanks for all the Christmas cards and gifts. They stated that, "The \$250 gift from the church was really appreciated. You are a wonderful church family."

Shepherd Member to be Honored – Congratulations to Shepherd member Tem Frierson, who is to be honored in Washington, DC, next week as the top marketing coordinator in the United States Navy. A Chief Petty Officer, Tem has been in the navy for almost 21 years.



Chief Tem Frierson

He is currently assigned to the Naval Recruiting District in Atlanta, GA. Chief Frierson is the son of Shepherd members John & Savon Frierson, who will be accompanying him to take pictures and glow.

Tem comes from a Nazarene family. His twin brother, Jim Frierson & his sister, Sarah-Kaye Sigafoos, are members of Spartanburg First Church and he is the grandson of Marion Love from Columbia First Church.

There will be no Shepherd Tuesday Happenings next week, January 6; the next edition will be Tuesday, January 13.

Finally – Made your New Year’s resolutions yet? Here are some a fellow tried over the past few years:

2006: I will go to church every Sunday.

2007: I will go to church as often as possible.

2008: I will set aside time each day for prayer and meditation

2009: I will try to catch that guy that reads scripture all night on Channel 4.

Well, he had good intentions...but there is a saying about that too.

Don't forget Discipleship Training on Sunday morning and to come home to Shepherd where you ARE family.

John

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