



Mt. Joy Covenant Brethren Church

*"A Christ-Centered Church committed
to the Word of God and the proclamation of the gospel."*



Bro. Lee Smith, Pastor

494 East Main Street

Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

Located 1 mile east of Mt. Pleasant on Route 31

Church Office: 724-547-3670

Cell: 724-771-1121

Church Fax: 724-542-4285

Church Email: mt.joycbc@gmail.com

Sunday School Email: PrimaryEd@zoominternet.net

MAY WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Prayer Breakfast is on May 2nd at 8:30 am at Mt. Pleasant Dairy Queen

First Love Ladies Bible Study Group will meet at **9:30 a.m.** on **May 4th and 18th**

Sunday Evening Topical Study is on hold

Wednesday Evening Bible Study is held weekly at **11:00 a.m.**

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SCHEDULED HELPERS FOR MAY

Deacons of the month

Merl & Fay Pritts

They can be contacted at 724-320-6311

Specials:

05/03 – Lydia Anderson

05/10 – Laura Smith

05/17 – Ministering Men

05/24 – Children's Story (Gene)

05/31 – John Sutton

Worship Leaders:

05/03 – David Wiltrout

05/10 – Tim Shanahan

05/17 – Gene Hartzler

05/24 – Dave King

05/31 – Tim Shanahan

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**We will be holding a Deacon Call on May 17th. Please be in prayer about who
would best serve the church in this position.**

MAY NEWS BRIEFS

GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER

We continue to collect items for the Good Samaritan Center. Food is the priority, but other items such as hand soap, paper towels, tissues, and toilet paper would also be appreciated. Please do not bring outdated items. They are not permitted to give those out.

DEACON WORK MINISTRY

If anyone has a job they need help with, please let one of the deacons know.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

- News items for the June newsletter are due to the church secretary by May 24th.

- Cindy Fisher is the Church Secretary. Her tentative days to be in the office are Wednesday 9-12 and Thursday 10-1. If you need to contact her, please feel free to call her cell number at **724-261-8788**.
- If you would like to reserve the Fellowship Hall or pavilion, call or email the church secretary.

CHURCH SERVICES AVAILABLE

Sunday Morning Service begins at 10:45. If you have any questions, please call the church.

Sunday School (9:45)

Sunday Evening Topical Study begins at 7:00 p.m. (on Hold)

Wednesday Bible Study begins at 11:00 a.m.



05/01 – Dan Prinkey

05/02 – Dan Dzambo

05/06 – Kara Prinkey

05/16 – Laura Bruner, Laura Smith

05/17 – Ron Tucholski

05/21 – Leslea Eckhardt

05/27 – Daniel Dzambo

05/28 – Maisy Anderson

05/29 – Duke Morrison

05/31 – Clay Prinkey

*Indicates those who have reached their 80th birthday.

NOTE: We would like to have everyone's birthday to publish it in *The Assistant Pastor*. If we have missed your birthday, or have the wrong date, please give the information to the Church Secretary. Thank you!

MAY 2026 BIBLE READING

May 1 – 1 Chronicles 7-9

May 2 – 1 Chronicles 10-12

May 3 – 1 Chronicles 13-16

May 4 – 1 Chronicles 17-19

May 5 – 1 Chronicles 20-23	May 13 – 2 Chronicles 21-24	May 21 – Nehemiah 1-3	May 29 – Job 9-12
May 6 – 1 Chronicles 24-26	May 14 – 2 Chronicles 25-28	May 22 – Nehemiah 4-7	May 30 – Job 13-16
May 7 – 1 Chronicles 27-29	May 15 – 2 Chronicles 29-31	May 23 – Nehemiah 8-10	May 31 – Job 17-20
May 8 – 2 Chronicles 1-4	May 16 – 2 Chronicles 32-34	May 24 – Nehemiah 11-13	
May 9 – 2 Chronicles 5-7	May 17 – 2 Chronicles 35-36	May 25 – Esther 1-5	
May 10 – 2 Chronicles 8-11	May 18 – Ezra 1-4	May 26 – Esther 6-10	
May 11 – 2 Chronicles 12-16	May 19 – Ezra 5-7	May 27 – Job 1-4	
May 12 – 2 Chronicles 17-20	May 20 – Ezra 8-10	May 28 – Job 5-8	

CURRENT LIST OF PRAYER CONCERNS

"Is there any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise!" – James 5:13.
Listed below are some of our church family, friends and neighbors who have been hospitalized, ill, injured, or just on our hearts this past month:

Don Seder	Charlie Wiltrout	Merl Pritts	Jeff Niederhiser
Hubie Griffith	Paris & Family	Tim Shanahan & Family	Randy Ulery
Dave Yelle	Linda Wolfe	Kara Wiltrout	Seth King
Danielle Eberhart	Judi Biggerstaff	Cindy Fisher	Marge Hathaway
Kara Prinkey	Charlie Bowman	John Sutton's Friend	Brent McConnell
Don Peters	Mary	Gary Miner	Brianna Grieff
CAHS Bible Club	Paul Miller	Bob's Grandson	Jim Myers
Pritts Family	Marci Grippio		

PRAISE REPORTS

- Praise for God's protection and mercy!
- Praise for Dave Yelle's successful interview!
- Praise that Don Seder had a good doctor visit!
- Praise for the gift of salvation!
- Praise that Patty Morrison is feeling better!
- Praise that Amanda Wiltrout made it through a rough week!
- Praise that Cindy Klingensmith is feeling better!
- Praise that Charlie Wiltrout is feeling better!
- Praise for CAHS Bible Club!

Prayers for many in our congregation & families who are traveling during the last month, for the homeless & hungry, for all those who are suffering from terminal illnesses and for all those who have not been able to attend church services due to sickness. Continue to pray for comfort for all who are grieving loved ones, for our shut-ins, for our unsaved loved ones, for each other, and for healing & unity in our families, our President, Leaders, country & world.

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This year we will hold our Vacation Bible School starting on Monday, June 22nd and ending on Thursday, June 25th. Our theme this year is Rome. Paul and the Underground Church. The time will be from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Always looking for volunteers

Mother & Daughter Banquet



The Mother/Daughter Banquet will be on Saturday, May 9 at 5:30 pm. It will be a covered dish meal with chicken, rolls and drink provided. Our guest, Kathleen Forejt, will give her testimony, sing a few songs and give away her door prize. If you have an embroidered item, please bring it that evening. We would appreciate the men helping to serve.

Commonly Misunderstood and Misapplied Verses: A Litmus Test for Salvation?

For a little bit now, we have been looking at several commonly misunderstood and misapplied verses or passages in the Bible to seek to understand what they actually mean so that we don't fall prey to those misunderstandings and misapplications ourselves (or continue to hold to any of them if we already have). It is my hope that such has been a benefit to you. Before we turn the page from this series of articles (and there are so many others we could continue with!), I want to look at one more that seems to be making the rounds a lot today. I've been especially hearing it in political debates over certain policies. The passage is Matthew 25:31-46 regarding the final judgment where Jesus speaks of Himself separating the nations into two groups at His return. He compares this to a shepherd separating the sheep from the goats and putting one group on one side of Him with the other on the opposite (v. 32). The ones in the position of the sheep are invited to come into God's kingdom that they have inherited and which has been prepared for them (v. 34). Those in the place of the goats on the other hand will be told to depart from Jesus to go into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels (v. 41). These represent believers who will enter into eternal life and unbelievers who will undergo eternal punishment (v. 46). And Jesus points out that the major characteristic of those on the right who are welcomed into the kingdom are that they fed, gave drink, housed, clothed, and visited Him when sick and in prison (vv. 35-36). When they question when they had done that, He points out that it was whenever they had done it to the least of His brothers that they had done it to Him (v. 40). On the other hand, the ones on the other side are characterized has not having done the same to Jesus because they did not do such to the "least of these" (vv. 42-45).

Often, this passage is taken to be speaking of the need to care for the poor. Or, it is argued that this teaches that the treatment of the poor is what matters most to Jesus, above and beyond any other concerns. I even heard a politician recently say that this treatment of the poor is what we will be judged and saved by! Is that what this passage actually says? Not when we look at the details of it in light of what the rest of Scripture teaches.

(Continues on 5)

The first thing we need to understand here is that this passage is NOT speaking about the poor, needy, and suffering GENERALLY of the world but of other Christians in PARTICULAR. Jesus is clear in the passage

that He specifically refers to "these brothers of Mine" (v. 40). Who would Jesus' brothers be? Earlier in chapter 12 where His biological brothers and mother are reported as wanting to see Him, He points out that it is His disciples who are such. "But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" And stretching out His hand towards His disciples, He said, 'Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother'" (Matthew 12:48-50). The same is the case in Matthew 23:8 and 28:10. Also, when Jesus talks about "the least of these" in other contexts, He usually refers to His disciples. We see this in Matthew 18:6, 10. The ones which He speaks of that the sheep fed, gave drink, housed, clothed, and visited are persecuted believers who are in great need and suffer on account of that persecution. Some of which will be put in prison on account of their faith.

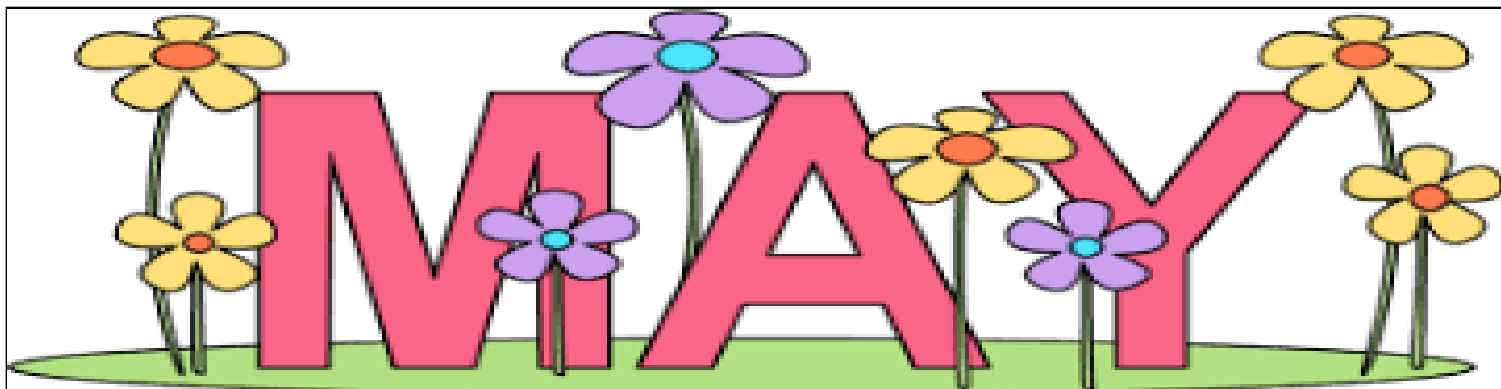
There are two points Jesus is making in this parable: One is that Jesus is so connected with His people that however you treat them can be said to be how you treat Him. That's seen in Him equating Himself with His needy followers that whatever was done or not done to them is the same as if it were done or not done to Him. This has something to say to those who think that they can have Jesus while having nothing to do with His church. He so much identifies with the church that to neglect the church is in essence to neglect Him. At least, that's the way He takes it. We notice this as well when He appeared to Saul also known as Paul on the way to Damascus. He didn't ask him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting My church?" or "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting My followers, disciples, or people?" No. Instead, it was, "Saul, Saul, why are You persecuting *Me*" (Acts 9:4, emphasis mine). According to Jesus, to persecute Christians who belong to His church is to persecute Him. So, however you treat believers is also how you treat Jesus.

The second point made in this parable is how you treat God's people reveals whether you have saving faith or not because true faith will result in a love and affection towards Christ's followers leading you to care for and serve them. Jesus can't be indicating that doing such makes you saved or earns you salvation because the Bible is clear that our salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone and not by any works whatsoever we have done or could ever do (Ephesians 2:8-9). To turn the treatment of believers into factoring into the basis of our salvation, even in the slightest, would be to contradict everything else Scripture says about our salvation. This evaluation by our Lord of the two groups the nations can be divided into is not to DETERMINE who is a sheep or goat but to DEMONSTRATE the identity of each. It is best to see the treatment of those in Christ's family as being FRUIT or evidence of one who has been saved by God's grace alone through their faith alone rather than the ROOT or cause of such. A true believer will demonstrate their faith by caring for other believers and seeking to minister to them when they are in need. The unbeliever without faith would not have such concern because they wouldn't view them as their own family.

Now, does this mean that we should not be concerned for the poor, needy, and suffering of this world or neglect to do good to them? Absolutely not! Just that this passage is not speaking of such here and should not be used to guilt people into supporting or not supporting a particular political position. The question for us from this passage is not "Are we tangibly caring for the poor and suffering of the world?" but "What is our relationship to the church, God's people, and what does that say about our faith?" We can talk about the importance and need to help the poor from another passage that actually deals with such. But this passage is not that and therefore shouldn't be treated as if it does.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Lee





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:30 am – Men's Prayer Breakfast
3 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship	4 9:30 a.m. First Love Bible Study	5	6 11:00 am Adult Bible Study	7	8 6:20 pm Deacon Meeting 7 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting	9 5:30 pm Mother/ Daughter Banquet
10 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service	11	12	13 11:00 am Adult Bible Study	14	15	16
17 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Improvement Fund Offering	18	19	20 11:00 am Adult Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship	25	26 6:00 p.m. BCE Meeting	27 11:00 am Adult Bible Study	28	29	30
31 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship						

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MAY 2026



"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be
glory both now and forever. Amen."

2 Peter 3:18