

SERMON SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 8:11-21

¹¹The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. ¹²And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.” ¹³And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.
¹⁴Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵And he cautioned them, saying, “Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” ¹⁶And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. ¹⁷And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? ¹⁹When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” They said to him, “Twelve.” ²⁰“And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” And they said to him, “Seven.” ²¹And he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”

SERMON OUTLINE

- I. **Missing Sign #1: A sign from heaven and a deep sigh...**

- II. **Missing Sign #2: Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod...**

- III. **Missing Sign #3: Hardened hearts through sightless eyes, deaf ears, and a faulty memory...**

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Loving God... Loving People... Making Disciples

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Avenue
 Mooresville, North Carolina 28115
 704-664-5275 ♦ www.mooresvillefirstpres.org

March 2, 2008 ♦ Fourth Sunday in Lent ♦ 11:00 A.M.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP.....Dr. Clay J. Brown
 Welcome and Announcements
 Invocation

PRELUDE: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded.....Flynn
 Dr. Steven Mowery

***THE DOXOLOGY: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**....No. 34
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

***HYMN: We Will Glorify**.....No. 337
ANTHEM: We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace.....arr. Hogan
 Chancel Choir

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM.....Carson Daniel Schaeen
 Presentation
 Profession of Faith with the Apostles' Creed.....Dr. Fred Coates

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer
Baptism
Welcome and Blessing

CHILDREN’S SERMON

THE WORD OF GOD READ: Isaiah 52:7-15..... Pew Bible, pp. 648
Bob Campbell

***HYMN:** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*.....No. 255

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Confession
Thanksgiving
Intercession
The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory: *Meditation on Passion Chorale*.....Tucker
Exaltation Ringers

*Response: *All Things Are Yours!* (Verse 2).....No. 687

“Give out of love,” your Word commands. We are your head, your heart, your hands. Your Word you underscore with deeds by using us to answer needs.

*Prayer of Dedication

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

Mark 8:11-21
Journey to Jerusalem: Missing the Signs.....Dr. Brown

***HYMN:** *Here I Am, Lord* (Verses 1-2).....No. 559

*GOING IN GOD’S NAME

Invitation
Charge and Benediction
Response: *Here I Am, Lord* (Verse 3).....No. 559

***POSTLUDE:** *Fugue in A Major*..... Zachau

*** Those who are able** will please stand.

If you are our guest today, welcome! We’re so glad you’re here. For more information on FPC, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and/or take home a “Welcome Home” folder from the Parlor. **You can become a FPC member TODAY** by your profession of faith, transfer of membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Please speak with a pastor following the service.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. **Assisted listening devices** are available from the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of Paul and Willie Allison on their 68th wedding anniversary by their children.

Recent Prayer Requests: Lee Doughton; Edith Thompson; Margaret Sanders; Catherine Craig; Fred Kann; Anita Teeter; Joyce Gilland, Jean Coates’ sister; Terry Stevens; Curtis Blake, Cathy Brown’s father; Martha Andrews; Charles Dixon; Sr. A Tim Irwin, USAF; and QM 3 SW Laban Thompson; and Ben Peacock, USAF.

March Attendance Dash: . During the month of March, all church school classes are encouraged to increase their attendance and participation, with a goal of 30% increased attendance. Church school classes are held each Sunday for all ages, birth through adults, from 9:45-10:40 a.m.

Our eighth annual Talent Show and covered dish supper is tonight in the fellowship hall. The show is open to anyone and, yes, you can still sign up by simply seeing Alan Sledge anytime before this evening. The purpose of the event is to share some fun, some laughs and fellowship with the church family. As usual, childcare will be provided during the show. The meal will be a covered dish supper coordinated by church hostess Jenilyn Fair and volunteers from Circle No. 5, assisted by members of the CE Committee. The church will provide meat and drinks; you will bring the sides and desserts. There will be donation baskets on the tables to cover the cost of the meat. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. followed by the show at 7:00 p.m.

Marti Estes 5K - Mooresville Community Walk of Faith, April 19, 2008: Registration forms for the race/walk are available in the Church parlor or you can register online at:

<http://www.activezach.com/events/eventDetails.cfm?pEventId=2312>, or by clicking on the link on the Church website under Missions. Special thanks to the following contributing sponsors - Ladd McCall and Associates CPA, PA; LKN Capital; Lakeland Realty; Jones, Childers, McLurkin and Donaldson, PLLC; Greene-Robinson Properties; Leigh Madison Company; All Waterways Construction, Inc; Crouch Brothers, Inc.; 5 Star Mortgage.

Gold and Silver level sponsorships are still available but you need to act fast as t-shirt design orders must be made by month end. Sponsorship info can be found in the Church parlor or contact Bob Campbell at 704-662-8286 or 704-491-2289 for more information. Volunteers for event preparation and event day needed; please call Gretchen Little at 704-528-9796 or email at gretchenwittle@yahoo.com if you can help.

Lenten Sermon Series—“Journey to Jerusalem.” The sermons preached during Lent will connect with the Scriptures our “Lent in the Living Room” groups will be discussing and will follow the theme of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem. Here are the Scripture passages and sermon titles:

☐ 1st Sun. of Lent, Feb. 10: Mark 7:24-30, *Receiving Outsiders*.

- ☐ 2nd Sun. of Lent, Feb. 17: Mark 7:31-37, *Proclaiming Good News*.
- ☐ 3rd Sun. of Lent, Feb. 24: Mark 8:1-10, *Feeding Body and Soul—Again!*
- ☐ 4th Sun. of Lent, Mar. 2: Mark 8:11-21, *Missing the Signs*.
- ☐ 5th Sun. of Lent, Mar. 9: Mark 8:22-30, *Opening Eyes*.
- ☐ 6th Sun. of Lent, Mar. 16 (Palm Sun.): Mark 8:31—9:1, *Telling Truth*.

Christian sympathy is expressed to Jack Ahearn and family in the recent death of his father.

Congratulations to Mabel and Michael Culbreth on the birth of their son, Carter Watkins Culbreth, on February 25.

Calendar for March 2 - 9, 2008

- Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Worship with MSM Handbells
9:30 a.m. - “March Madness” Church School Social
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Communion
3:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry in the library
5:00 p.m. - Catechism Club
5:15 p.m. - Alpha & Omega PYF
6:00 p.m. - Covered Dish Supper followed by the Talent Show

Lent in the Living Room groups meet this week

Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - Moms in Touch
2:00 p.m. - Library Committee
7:00 p.m. - Cub Scout Pack 166

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
4:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM – *Cat in the Hat* night
6:15 p.m. - HS Supper Club at Shiki

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Rogers’ home
6:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
7:00 p.m. - Sisters in Christ (No.2) in the Parlor
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Sunday 3/9: **Daylight Savings Time: Set your clocks ahead one hour!**

- 8:30 a.m. - Worship
- 8:30 a.m. - Presbyterian Men’s Breakfast
- 9:45 a.m. - Church School
- 11:00 a.m. - Worship
- 11:00 a.m. - PYF Virginia Creeper Bike Ride
- 5:15 p.m. - Catechism Club
- 6:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. - Committee Meetings

Lent in the Living Room groups meet this week

Looking Ahead to Easter Week: Mark your calendars –
Sun., March 16 Palm Sunday processional & laying down of coats
Thurs., March 20 Maundy Thursday program & supper at 6:30 p.m.
Fri., March 21 Good Friday Service at noon
Sat., March 22 Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m.
Sun., March 23 Easter Sunday services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.