

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

April 5

2009

Editor's Note: The following articles were written by Steve Niemeier who will begin his meeting with us next Sunday, April 12. I hope every member has been working and praying for the success of this effort. We have confidence that Steve will do his job well. We encourage every member to attend and invite your friends and neighbors to come with you. (JH)



“Our Gospel Meeting”

Sometimes we look at a gospel meeting through very tainted vision. A week of going to services and listening to lessons on top of our normal week of working and all that we do in our normal week. It is usually a very busy week that goes by fast and yet we become tired and somewhat burdened by the activities of rushing around to get to services every night.

A gospel meeting no doubt changes our normal week into a week where every night we are privileged to come and associate with our brothers and sisters and be edified. We sing and pray and listen to one speak to us from God's word. While the activities of this world are swirling all around us it is a week that is set aside for us to gather daily in much the same sense our New Testament forefathers did (Acts 2:46).

It is a week that we can hear a different voice from the pulpit yet speaking out of the same guide book. It is a time the elders have decided to provide a spiritual feast for the flock here. It is a time that the whole community will see a new sign advertising special messages that will be presented. It is a time that we all get to gather

as a congregation of the Lord's people and worship Him.

Years ago some folks called a week like this a revival. Today we have moved away from that term for one reason or another. Yet, it is a week that the members here should use as a week of reflection and “revival.” Many of us do become “stale” in our routines and this week will certainly bring a change in our normal weekly routine.

It is a week that many visitors will come and visit us. We should try and be as gracious of a host as we can be. We are God's people through His Son and our visitors need to see this is our actions. Plan to be here early, meet our visitors, talk with them and encourage our visiting gospel preacher. This is a week that we should look forward to and participate in with enthusiasm.

✍ Steve Niemeier



I'M SORRY, I CAN'T DO THAT

Many times we have trouble saying “no” to our children, family, friends or employers. We can get ourselves “overbooked” and find that our time is flying by and we do not know where it goes. Many ask us to do favors and we want to help and we should help but unfortunately we may over extend ourselves and take time away from us spending it with God or our families as we should.

Families have been put into terrible financial conditions because of the inability to say “no” to children who constantly want things. Sometimes we actually become the “hindrance” to our children's learning or a family member overcoming an addiction or a brother or sister in Christ learning to stand on their own two feet. We find it easier doing it our self than spending the time to teach or train another to do it. We also find it easier to give in to our children instead of standing our ground and being firm in the training of the child as we should be.

While we struggle with these things we must understand the importance of teaching and sometimes saying “I'm sorry, I can't do that.” While we sometimes make excuses for enabling others let us look at a very important reality of things we can not do for another. In the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 we find the five wise virgins could not supply oil to the lamp of the five foolish

virgins. If they did they could run out of oil and not be able to enter in when the bridegroom comes. When the bridegroom came the foolish virgins had gone to buy the oil. When they returned the door was shut. They cried out to let them in but were told that they were not known.

Just like these five foolish virgins were expected to have their own oil for their own lamps, so are we. We cannot expect another person to carry our lamps or give us of their oil. Let us explain in language we may understand better. Another person can not do the following for us.

1. Obey the gospel of Christ for us— Acts 9:6; Romans 10:16
2. Worship God for us— Eph. 5:19; 1 Cor. 11:27-30; 2 Cor. 9:7
3. Live a faithful life for us – Titus 2:11-15; 1 Cor. 15:58
4. Be restored to faithfulness for us – Gal. 6:1-2
5. Give an account for us – Rom. 14:12
6. Go to heaven for us – II Cor. 5:1; John 14:1-3

It is imperative that we learn this lesson quickly. It may be that we are relying on another person to fulfill our responsibilities to God for us. Parents need to learn that the training of a child is to be structured in such a way to assist them in being able to do the above things on their own. Parents cannot stand in judgment for their children!

We need to do all we can to help each other but there are some things we can only encourage another to do as we can not do it for them.

✍ Steve Niemeier



The “Golden Rule”

“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them for this is the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:12)

How many times did we hear this when we were growing up? Our selfish ways as a child were met with this teaching and instruction. As we get older we need to refresh ourselves with this simple thought also. No matter where we are socially, professionally or spiritually we need to humble ourselves to this thought process.

I have seen men and women both who were “promoted” because of following this rule who forgot it the moment they were put into a position of authority. Unfortunately many men who are selected to serve as elders in congregations forget this rule also. An elder is one who serves in the capacity as an overseer. He is a “steward” of the congregation he is a part of (Acts 20:28). He has no “law making” authority but only “law abiding” direction. He is to make sure the flock that he is overseeing is being fed and protected. This means from those outside, inside and from him as a shepherd. Thus, he must follow the law of God and abide in this law. He does have judgment authority according to the law and must make his judgments within the jurisdictions of the law. Peter uses the phrase “*not lording over*” in 1 Peter 5:3.

Likewise an elder’s wife is to have the “golden rule” embedded in her heart also. She is not an elder. She has neither authority nor oversight. She is the wife of the elder and he could not be an elder without her but she must remember that she is not the elder. This is also true for deacons and their wives as well as preachers and their wives. Neither of these roles has any authority except what is given by the law of God. They have certain functions and duties to fulfill under the guidelines of an eldership but all parties are bound by the law of God including the “Golden Rule.”

✍ Steve Niemeier

<i>Belleville church of Christ</i>	
<i>5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258</i>	
www.bellevillechurch.net	
Schedule of Services	Elders
Sun. Bible Study. 9:30 a.m.	Charles Carpenter. . . (317) 839-3873
Sun. Morning Worship. . . . 10:30 a.m.	James Hahn. (317) 745-1507
Sun. Evening Worship. 5:00 p.m.	
Wed. Bible Study. 7:00 p.m.	
Evangelist	Deacons
James Hahn. (317) 745-1507	Leon Nevins (317) 272-2966
	Don Perry. (765) 676-5825
	Alvin Stanley. (317) 831-3514