

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

A Rhoda Kind Of World

June 22, 2014

Issue 167

In Acts chapter 12, Herod arrested the apostle James and put him to death with a sword (v. 2). Peter was arrested soon afterwards, and it seemed like Peter would soon face the same fate as James. But thankfully “prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God” (v. 5). God answered those prayers in the affirmative, and an angel of the Lord freed Peter from his imprisonment. Overcome with joy, Peter rushed to John Mark’s mother’s house, where the church was praying. But then an unusual thing happened: Peter knocked on the door, and a servant girl named Rhoda answered it, but “because of her joy she

did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate” (v. 14).

If Rhoda had lived in America today, she would’ve probably taken out her phone and taken a picture of Peter and quickly uploaded the picture to Facebook or Instagram... while Peter remained outside the house.

It is difficult to be first in one’s class academically, and few people can finish first on the athletic field. But it is much easier—and sometimes more fun—to be the first person with the big news of the day. Social media makes it easy for somebody to essentially say,

“Hey, everybody! I know something you don’t know!”

There is nothing inherently wrong with knowing a good story before someone else. But it is much more noble to get involved in a situation than just reporting it. And there is a fine line between reporting something interesting and character assassination and gossip.

Live a life that would cause someone else to say, “Look at how dedicated they are to the Lord and His church!”

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Paula Lee Chance had a setback in her leukemia.
 - John Hayes received a good report on his blood work.
 - John Temple, the preacher at Scottsboro, had surgery on his back Friday.
 - Mitch Newell will have knee replacement soon.
 - Rebecca Brown had a minor knee procedure.
 - Also remember Addie Farmer, Mildred Walker, Rick Reed, and J.R. Mitchell.
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A.M. Sermon: “The Marks of Maturity” Building Fund Contribution Is Next Sunday

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Reed

Pray: Billingsley

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: Trent, Baker, Donkin

Pray: J. Walker

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

II Chron. 7:14
“My people who are called
by My name humble
themselves and pray and
seek My face and turn from
their wicked ways, then I will
hear from heaven, will
forgive their sin and heal
their land.”

“Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no
one thinks of changing himself.”

Leo Tolstoy

“We are taught you must blame your father,
your sisters, your brothers, the school, the teach-
ers—but never blame yourself. It’s never your
fault. But it’s always your fault, because if you
wanted to change you’ve got to be the one to
change.”

Katharine Hepburn

A Both/And Situation

There was an article I read on the Internet last week written by a woman who was being torn between attending Sunday morning worship services and attending her son’s soccer game. A person who read the article made this comment: “If we sit in church and wait for them to come through the door we’ve completely missed what it means to be a harvester. Sometimes a soccer sideline conversation leads to a friendship that leads to a coffee that leads to deep spiritual questions and mentorship.” My response to her was essentially this: We can do both. There are 108 hours in a week when we are awake, assuming eight hours of sleep per night. A typical congregation

only meets for four hours per week—Sunday School and morning worship, Sunday night worship, and Wednesday night Bible study. That leaves 104 hours to make meaningful connections in the world and shine the light of Jesus to our fellow man. The number of hours we meet per week is not prohibitive.

It would not be right for me to judge the motives of the woman who made the comment; I can only address what she has said. But I firmly believe that most of the people who routinely miss worship services and Bible studies to attend ball games (or other secular activities, for that matter) are not thinking, “I hope I can connect with a lost soul today”; they

are likely thinking, “I hope our team wins today.”

We also have to acknowledge that children do not understand the nuance of these issues. All they know is that they are getting to play ball instead of going to church. When the worship of God is set on the same level of importance as any other of life’s activities, children notice. And they don’t forget.

We can evangelize *and* worship. We can play sports *and* attend Bible study. We can be salt and light *and* attend Sunday School classes. So it is not a matter of capability; it is a matter of desire.

James Hayes
