

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Dos and Don'ts of the Sermon on the Mount

December 14, 2014

Issue 192

In 1958, Cliff Hillegass was working for the Nebraska Book Company in Lincoln, NE when he met Jack Cole, the co-owner of a Toronto book business. Cole was the designer of a series of Canadian study guides called Coles Notes. Jack Cole offered the American rights to Hillegass, and he bought them. Hillegass immediately went to work in his basement writing study guides for sixteen Shakespeare plays. He called his guides "CliffsNotes", and the rest is history.

When we whittle down passages of Scripture into a CliffsNotes version, the passages are often misinterpreted because they are

taken out of their setting, or context. "Judge not lest you be judged" is a good example of a verse that has been taken out of context and misapplied. But at times, a summary of a passage is helpful for the Bible student.

The Sermon of the Mount could be condensed into a list of dos and don'ts. While that sermon is not *just* dos and don'ts, many are still present.

Do...rejoice in persecution, shine the light of Christ, resolve issues quickly, remove things from your life that cause you to sin, be honest, be generous, love your enemies, pray, give, judge righteously, treat

others the way you would want to be treated, produce good works, and hear the words of Christ and obey them.

Don't...mimic the Pharisees, belittle others with your language, cheat, lie, hate your enemy, use your faith for self-promotion, worry about necessities, unfairly judge, follow the world to destruction, or ignore the words of Christ.

That sermon addresses many other issues, but if we could just get a handle on those dos and don'ts, we'd be happier people.

"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Thank you to everyone who attended the annual Christmas dinner last night.
- Maxine Hearn has been sick for the last several weeks with kidney issues and other problems.
- We'll continue our study of the apostles in the auditorium Wednesday night by studying John.
- Please pray for Mildred Walker, Addie Farmer, Judy York, Rick Reed, and the Newells.

**Men's Meeting Tonight At 5:00; Singing Tonight At 6:00
Put Christmas Cards In The Boxes In The Back Of The Auditorium**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Gupton

Pray: Terry Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Garrett

Serve: M. Newell, Billingsley, L. Newell

Pray: Bill Cartwright

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

Hebrews 13:4
"Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

"Never look back unless you are planning to go that way."

Henry David Thoreau

"Three things that do not come back: the spoken word, the sped arrow, and the neglected opportunity."

Ted Chiang

Going Where He Leads

For 13 years I had a Basset Hound named Abe. (I got the name from a story Cliff Huxtable told on "The Cosby Show" about a Bassett named Abe.) He and I would take long walks to the back of our family's property on Hunters Lane. Sometimes I used a leash, but most of the time he followed about 20 feet behind me...at his own pace. He was a hound dog, so he followed every scent. I'd yell for him, and he'd catch up once he was finished sniffing whatever he wanted to sniff. Technically, I was the leader, and he was following me. But in reality, he was calling the shots, and I was just accommodating him.

Christians do that with God far too

often. We sing, "He Leadeth Me," but in reality, we just follow Him whenever it fits our schedules. We have plans, goals, and objectives, and we pray about them. And when God blesses us, we rejoice. But if God has other plans, we cry, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

For instance, a single woman might pray, "God, please lead me to a faithful man...a Southern man who has a large bank account, blue eyes, and an SUV." Or a healthy person might pray, "Lord, keep me and my family from all diseases and accidents. We've done it for this long, just keep doing it." If each person were sincere in those prayers and truly

wanted to go where God led them, they would know that God cares about faith more than bank accounts, and that no one is immune from disease and accidents.

God is not a genie who grants wishes. He is not a Santa Claus who is only concerned with our material well-being. He is our Heavenly Father. We need to go where He leads us. Sometimes He leads us to do things that are uncomfortable. Just ask Jonah. But we know that God's path always leads to peace.

Open your Bible. Follow God. Don't wander around like an old Basset Hound.

James Hayes
