THE SWORD

April 27, 2025

LMCC
LAWRENCE & MARDER
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Psalm 28:7 (KJV)
The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusted in him,
and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth;
and with my song will I praise him.

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00 A.M.
Sunday Worship Experience: 10:00 A.M.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.

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Word of Week

Parable: parabolē <G3850>

The literal idea of the Greek parabolē <G3850> is a placing side by side and, therefore, a comparison or similarity. "Specifically," as one Greek authority writes, a parable is "a short story under which something else is figured or in which the fictitious is used to represent and illustrate the real." It's also interesting how parabolē is the word behind "picture" in Hebrews 9:8-9, showing that the wilderness Tabernacle was a "parable" of Christ's heavenly ministry.

It's been observed that about one-third of Jesus' teaching was couched in parables, which begs the question, Why? Why not just be literal and clear? Why be abstract? The answer lies in Matthew 13:13: "Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand."

Our Lord uses the word **understand** (suniēmi; see yesterday's reading) three times in this verse and the two that follow to emphasize why He began to speak only in parables. Those who rejected Him and did not want the truth would not be able to "put the pieces together" from the stories He told. They would not be able to comprehend the fuller meaning he was trying to convey. He was actually presenting deep truths that demanded deep thinking, but the majority just wouldn't get it.

Sadly, that is true today. If our Lord were here today, He would undoubtedly speak in parables. We hear much about "loving God" and "loving Jesus," but much of such talk is nebulous at best and empty at worst. Many people who say such things, *including pastors,* abhor doctrine and deep Bible preaching and teaching. But Scripture makes clear that *only those who love the Word of God truly love the Lord.* Tragically, many books today are written about "loving God" and having a "relationship with Jesus" but never exposit Scripture. They speak of mysticism, feelings, and impressions, but never speak of doctrine and scriptural truth. Scripture, however, could not be clearer that love for God means love for His Word.

While we can, and should, greatly appreciate our Lord's parables, and while we can learn many great truths from them, let us also desire the deeper things of God's Word. Your reading this book, in fact, demonstrates that that is your desire. May God richly bless your faithfulness.

Scriptures for Study: Read the parables in the following passages, noting the contrasts our Lord draws: Matthew 21:28-32; 25:1-13; 25:14-30; Luke 10:30-37.

Minister's Minutes

Victory in the Valleys

"There came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the LORD, Because the Syrians have said, The LORD is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the LORD." (1 Kings 20:28)

ISRAEL had battled successfully against the Syrians in the hills. The Syrians concluded their defeat was because Israel's God was a God of the hills but not of the valleys. Therefore, the Syrians decided to war against Israel in the valleys to defeat Israel. But God sent a prophet to Israel's king and announced that He would give Israel victory in the valleys, too. From our verse we note the limiting of God in the valley, the looking to God in the valley, and the learning about God in the valley.

Limiting of God in the valley. Many folk conclude as the Syrians did, that the valley is where we are beyond God's help. It is easy to believe God is with us on the hills of health, wealth, good job, good family life, few trials, and much sunshine. But when we travel through the valley of heartache, sickness, disappointment, and tragedy we often limit God and think He cannot help us in these dark valleys.

Looking to God in the valley. The prophet's message encouraged the king of Israel to look to God for victory in the valleys. Though the Syrians should attack with a great army there, God promised Israel would be victorious anyway. If you are a weary traveler in the valley today, do not give up on God and think He cannot help you. Call upon Him for help, for He gives victory in the valleys, too.

Learning about God in the valley. When God promised victory in the valley, He said that in the valley they would "know that I am the LORD." Thus the valley would be a learning experience. In the valley they would "know" the Lord in a better way. We will learn important truths in the valley we will never learn on the hills. For one thing we learn that God can help in the valleys just as much as anywhere else. The Psalmist recognized this encouraging truth when he said, "God is . . . a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Announcements

- Let us keep all those who have lost loved ones, and those hospitalized, in our thoughts and prayers.
- We would like to wish a happy birthday and/or anniversary to everyone who is celebrating this week.
- Attention, church family! To ensure that all announcements and print requests are processed in a timely manner, please submit them by **Wednesday at 7:00 PM** of the preceding week **to church@landmcoc.org**. We understand that emergencies may arise, and we will do our best to accommodate urgent requests. However, **verbal, written, or texted announcements during the Sunday worship experience are strongly discouraged** to maintain the flow and reverence of our service. Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our worship experience focused and organized!
- If anyone would like to assist with transportation for Crossroads/LMCC Food Distribution please see brother Mac Fulbright.
- Lawrence and Marder 5-Year Luncheon will be at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen (3520 Oak Lawn Avenue, Dallas, TX) on August 16, 2025 from 3PM-6PM. Cost is $60 per person ($12 for 12 and younger) and must be made no later than August 3, 2025.
- LMCC Ladies Annual Mother's Day Luncheon will be on Sunday, May 4th at 1 pm. It will be at Celebration Restaurant (4503 W Lovers Lane, Dallas, TX). Please let Sis. Samantha Sanders know by April 30 if you will be attending. You will be responsible for paying for your own meal.
- If you would like to volunteer to help with the 5-Year Congregational Dinner or the 100 Year Anniversary please see Felton Davenport, Mac Fulbright, Reginald Osborne, George Robinson, Gary Walker.
- Sunday Morning Worship experience can be watched on the church website: www.landmcoc.org/broadcast; Church Facebook Page and YouTube Channel. Please "Like" and "Share".
- Children's Worship Hour is for children Pre-K through 4th grade.
- Church Zoom Information for Adults and Youth Wednesday Night Class: **Meeting ID: 915 0578 2664 Password: 859242 Call In Number: 1-346-248-7799**

Continuous Announcements

- Every 2nd Sunday Marsalis Avenue host a Zoom Grief Support Meeting at 4PM (Meeting ID: 880 4065 3591, Passcode: 411521)
- California Avenue Church of Christ in Bakersfield, CA host a Sunday Evening Spiritual Encouragement Hour each week on Zoom at 7:30PM central time (Meeting ID: 875 1387 3553, Passcode: 1020cal#)

What is the Plan of Salvation?

I Peter 1:20 (NASB) says, "For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you." Before God said let there be light, the plan for mankind's salvation had already been created by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Before God formed man from the dust of the earth, the heavenly trinity had already established a plan for the redemption of mankind. Before God beheld that all He created was "very good" and decided to rest on the seventh day, the Godhead formulated a mystery that would be revealed to reunite mankind with God. We must be thankful to God that His love for us reached back before there was an us. In knowing this, we should follow after the WORD that was made flesh and dwelt amongst us without hesitation. Jesus the Christ is everything that we need (II Peter 1:2–4).

Hear the Gospel of <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Romans 10:14). One must hear the glorious message that Jesus the Christ sacrificially died for the penalty of our sin, and that he was raised from the dead by the power of God.

Believe in <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Hebrews 11:6). One must believe that Jesus was more than just a man, but the Christ.

Repent in the name of <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Luke 24:46–47). Repentance is required; however, it is not said to take away sin, but rather it produces in us a desire to be vindicated by Jesus the Christ.

Confess that <u>Jesus the Christ</u> is the Son of God (Acts 8:36–37). A person must be willing to make the greatest proclamation ever known to mankind, and that is Jesus the Christ is the Son of God.

Be baptized for the remission of sins in the name of <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Acts 2:38). Baptism is not a sign of salvation, but rather a New Testament requirement for salvation. The action emulates our Lord and Savior's death, burial and resurrection.

Being faithful until death like <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Philippians 2:4–8). If we stay faithful to God's will, God's word and God's way, we will have a home not made with hands awaiting us some day.

What is the Plan of Salvation? How do I become a Christian?
The Answer: <u>JESUS the CHRIST</u>

Sermon Notes for April 27, 2025

Speaker: Ramon Hodridge

Text: Healing in the House

Title: Galatians 6:1-2

Notes:

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org

QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST