

St John Church of Christ

February 16, 2020

Order of Worship

Worship Leader: Jerry

Gathering Song: No. 31 Be Still

Welcome: Tom

Scripture Reading: Gary

John 10:11 - 18

Songs

No. 524 I Know Whom I Have

No. 391 Savior, Like a Shepard
Lead Us

No. 601 My God and I

No. 470 Victory in Jesus

No. 837 I Need Thee Every
Hour

Prayer: Chris

Song No. 382 Why Did My
Savior Come to Earth

Communion: Stan

assisted by

Fred, Darrel, Orrin

Song: No. 469 Faith Is the
Victory

Lesson: Jesus the Way,

John Chapter 10:7 - 10

Song No. 930 Jesus, the Loving
Shepard (1st verse)

Prayer: Richard

(CCLI #244012t9)



Our New Testament was originally written in Greek, and sometimes a study of the original words our English Bible translated can be a surprising source of enlightenment. The Greek word, *aggareuein*, is found three times in the New Testament and translated with the sense of “compel” (Matthew 5:41; 27:32 and Mark 15:21).

Aggareuein isn't a Greek word but a Persian loan word. The Persians had an amazing courier system. (Our Pony Express was modeled on it.) Herodotus described it:

Nothing travels so fast as these Persian messengers. The entire plan is a Persian invention, and this is the method of it. Along the whole line of road, there are men (they say) stationed with horses, in number equal to the number of days which the journey takes, allowing a man and a horse to each

Forced to be Happy

day; and these men will not be hindered from accomplishing at their best speed the distance which they must go, either by snow, or rain, or heat or by the darkness of night. The first rider delivers his dispatch to the second, and the second man passes it to the third; and so it is borne from hand to hand along the whole line, like the light in the torch race.... The Persians give the riding post in this manner the name *aggareion*. - Herodotus 8.98

Similarly, it was the law under the Greeks (and later the Romans) that anyone could be compelled to provide a horse or to act as a guide to keep the messenger service going. William Barclay notes, “This business of impressment was one of the bitterest and most constant humiliations that subject nations had to endure” (New Testament Words, p. 31). Thus Simon of Cyrene was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus. There was nothing

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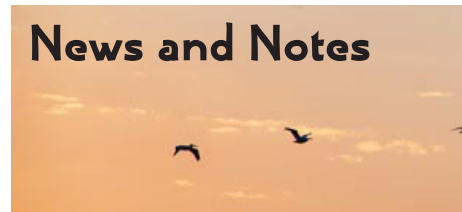
remarkable about this, but the law was severely abused. Many soldiers simply stole the belongings, livestock, or boats of the people claiming the rights of aggareion but now notice the instructions of Jesus: "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." Why?

Consider how we react when things don't go as we had planned or if someone abuses us. We could give in to anger and so multiply the impact of the abuse, or we can smile, pick up the burden, and look for the blessing.

Imagine a Roman soldier who impresses a poor peasant to carry his heavy armor. The peasant could grimace and begrudgingly count each step of the mile and not a foot more before he dumps the armor in the dirt. His day is ruined, and he'll probably resent and talk about the injustice of his experience till the day he dies.

On the other hand, imagine a Christian peasant who is forced to do the same. It wasn't what he had planned to do, but, with the words of Jesus in his ears, he picks up the load and starts down the road. The soldier is expecting what he usually got: abuse, but instead, the cheery Christian begins to ask him about his home, his family, how he is enjoying his tour of duty. All the while, the Roman is counting the steps and grins to himself as they pass the first mile. But as they go farther - a mile and a quarter, a mile and a half, a mile and three quarters - the soldier realizes this peasant didn't forget to count. The soldier wasn't getting

something for nothing. The peasant was giving him a gift! He begins to listen more closely to what the smiling Christian says and is even grateful for the prayer the peasant offers at the end for his safety. And what did the Christian receive by going two miles? He has changed an injustice into a joyful gift, and we can too!



Big Changes on Wednesday Nights

Kay and Joy have done a wonderful job fixing dinner for everyone every Wednesday night. We want to thank them for their hard work (and great meals). After much discussion, we've decided to stop serving dinner. Classes will still be from 7:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. and we hope to see you!

This week will also mark the last of our series on the "Seven Churches of Asia." It is being replaced by a discussion class in the front of the auditorium on "Parenting." Richard and Shelly will be hosting the series.

The evening children's classes and the Wednesday afternoon Bible study will not be changed. The class is growing and everyone is invited to come study Paul's letter to the Ephesians at 2:00 P.M. for this community Bible Study.

"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance. It is laying hold of His willingness."

A Quick Prayer Request from Mexico

Hello Friends and Family!

This Saturday the 15th we will be holding our FIRST ever Community Service Saturday at church. IF you remember, we have recently bought land and built an auditorium on a newly developing part of town. The event will be a day where our church brothers and sisters provide free services of their professions for the public. We have several nurses, a dentist, a lawyer, a midwife, a family doctor, and someone who cuts hair, and two preachers who will offer counseling. We are quite excited and are praying that this be the first of many events and that it be a way to meet the community and connect them to Christ.

ALSO, our Casa Compasiva team will be traveling on March 3&4 to a pueblo 4 hours from Oaxaca where we will be giving a Prenatal Clinic with class and appointments following. Of course God is mentioned throughout our class and we will pray for each momma in her appointment, so we ask for open hearts also. We are told that this area is open to receiving visitors but there are very few if any Christians there, so this will be especially challenging. We pray we may have wisdom and show the love of Christ to the women and children. Children... we have been planning on taking clothing and coloring books and doing games with the children. Our contact just told me today that there are 200 children in the pre-school alone! Soooooo..... we pray the Lord will help us figure out that area also!!!!

As I was talking to our contact in that pueblo, a former client of Casa Compasiva popped me a message asking if we could go to her pueblo sometime soon. We may have opened a can of worms! But we are excited to see how God will use us to connect young families to Christ.

Please keep us in your prayers!!!
Tish