

Vancleave Church of Christ

Sermon Title: Lord, Increase Our Faith

Scripture: Luke 17:3-5

Prayer Requests and Announcements

April 2, 2023

Jerry Mobley: He is to have surgery on his leg tomorrow, 9:00 AM Singing River Hospital, Pascagoula, MS

Linda Kenney: She suffers with a serious infection and needs our earnest prayers.

Ruby Crum: She is in Children's Hospital, Mobile, AL in very serious condition. She is just 8+ Weeks old.

Emma Wages: She is to have tests run this Friday. Please keep sister Emma in prayers.

East Central: A student recently died from suicide. Our prayers are needed for family and friends.

Ongoing Prayers

Please be sure to update at: vcocministry@vancleavemschurch.org

Ron Webb	Jackie Roach	Maxie Dodson, Jr.	Cheryl Solla	Sue Flurry
David Bosarge	Heath Smith	Zenie George	David Robinson	Tara Forte
Anita Dees	Rick Bedwell	Pete Hankins	Andi Barrett	Lisa Jenkins

A Word of Encouragement for the Week Ahead

"Jesus Christ knows the worst about you. Nonetheless, He is the one who loves you the most."

~ Aiden Wilson (A.W.) Tozer

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 15:12, NKJV)

Announcements / Other:

- In addition to the general contribution, we will take up a **separate collection** today to further support those who are suffering loss from the recent storms in Rolling Fork, MS. Monies collected from this special offering will be sent to the **Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort (CCDRE)**, Nashville, TN. Those of you who wish to learn more about CCDRE can visit www.disasterrelieffort.org or contact them by email: info@disasterrelieffort.org
- Internet and phone service has been restored here at the building. Thank you all for your patience while waiting on the repairs. Network Name: **2Wire029** and Access Key: **3995723302**
- See fliers on table for various, special upcoming local area church events.



Why did the Jews and Samaritans hate one another so much?

(by House to House Heart to Heart)

The nation of Israel was divided into two nations in the days of Rehoboam (1 Kings 12). Israel was composed of the ten tribes to the north, and Judah was made up of Judah and Benjamin. The animosity between the Jews (inhabitants of the Judah, the southern kingdom) and Israelites began immediately after the division, as Samaria was the capital city of the northern kingdom (with Jeroboam as her first king). Rehoboam assembled an army to make war against Israel to reunite the kingdom, but God intervened through His prophet Shemiah (1 Kings 12:21-24). Later, in speaking of the reign of Abijam, Jeroboam's son, 1 Kings 15:6 says "there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life."

Immediately after the division, Jeroboam changed the worship of the Israelites in 1 Kings 12:25-33. No longer did the inhabitants of the north travel to Jerusalem to offer sacrifice and worship (cf Deuteronomy 12:5-14). Instead, Jeroboam set up idols in Dan and Bethel.

Later, after Israel's fall to the Assyrians, they began to intermarry with the Assyrians, contrary to Deuteronomy 7:3-5. This is why the Jews hated the Samaritans as "dogs," or "half-breeds."

The Samaritans were also a continuous source of difficulty to the Jews who rebuilt Jerusalem after returning from Babylonian captivity (Ezra 4, esp v 10; Nehemiah 4, esp v 2).

Eventually, the religion of the Samaritans evolved to the point that they held only the Pentateuch (Genesis-Deuteronomy) as being the law of God, rejecting all the books of poetry and prophecy. Furthermore, they claimed their copy of the Pentateuch was the only original copy (a claim still made today by what few Samaritans still survive). Obviously, this was/is a claim rejected by the Jews.

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For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.
(Galatians 6:8 *ESV*)

A Note from your Preacher:

I have found many great articles and much encouragement from House to House Heart to Heart for many years as a minister. A great source of strength to any Christian, the online version of House to House Heart to Heart can be accessed at www.housetohouse.com