

Be a first class servant

John Claypool was a popular preacher who had a knack for speaking the truth honestly. In a sermon based on Luke 14, he told a story about a practice from the days of the "Wild West." The practice was the selling of tickets to ride on a stagecoach.

Meditation



Dr. Jeff Hensley
Pastor
Kings Mountain Baptist Church

It seems that stagecoaches carried only six passengers at most, but even with a small number of people there were still distinctions of class. Tickets for the stagecoach were sold in first, second and

third classes, but the distinction among the classes had nothing to do with the size of the seat or the kind of food that was served; instead, it had to do with what was expected of the ticket holder in case the stagecoach got into some sort of trouble.

It turns out that the holder of a first class ticket was allowed to remain in the stagecoach no matter what conditions might be faced. A second-class ticket meant that if difficulty arose, you had to get out and walk alongside the stagecoach until the difficulty could be resolved, but if you held a third class ticket then you had to take responsibility for the difficulty. This meant that if there was a problem you had to get down in the mud and do whatever had to be done so that the vehicle could get safely through the

problem or the difficulty.

Unfortunately, this practice is reflective of our human nature because we tend to equate higher classes of people with higher classes of privilege, but Jesus' hierarchy of values is the exact opposite. On the last night of our Lord's earthly life he had gathered with his disciples in an upper room, but they had been walking all day on the dirt roads and their feet very much needed to be washed before they could each recline around the table to eat. In addition, that very day the disciples had been heatedly arguing about who among them was going to be the greatest in the coming kingdom.

It was then that Jesus did something that surprised them. Luke reports that Jesus laid aside his garment, wrapped himself in a towel, and proceeded to

wash the feet of his twelve companions. And when he had finished, he resumed his place at the table. It was then that he said, in essence, "The one who is greatest is not the one who lords himself or herself over you, but the one who is free to do whatever the situation demands because their ego needs have already been met by the grace of God."

According to Jesus, first class status is not about privilege, but about the eager willingness to serve, no matter how menial or seemingly disagreeable the task. This sort of servant willingness represents the highest of all values, and there is nothing that we could do to help make life in our world more radically different or genuinely better than to follow our Lord's example in this regard.

Church Briefs

BBQ Fundraiser

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church, 701 E. Gold St., is having a BBQ fundraiser on January 30 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call the church office or come by to purchase your plate. The cost is \$6 per plate. Deliveries will be made for 10 or more orders and to local businesses.

Gospel Singing

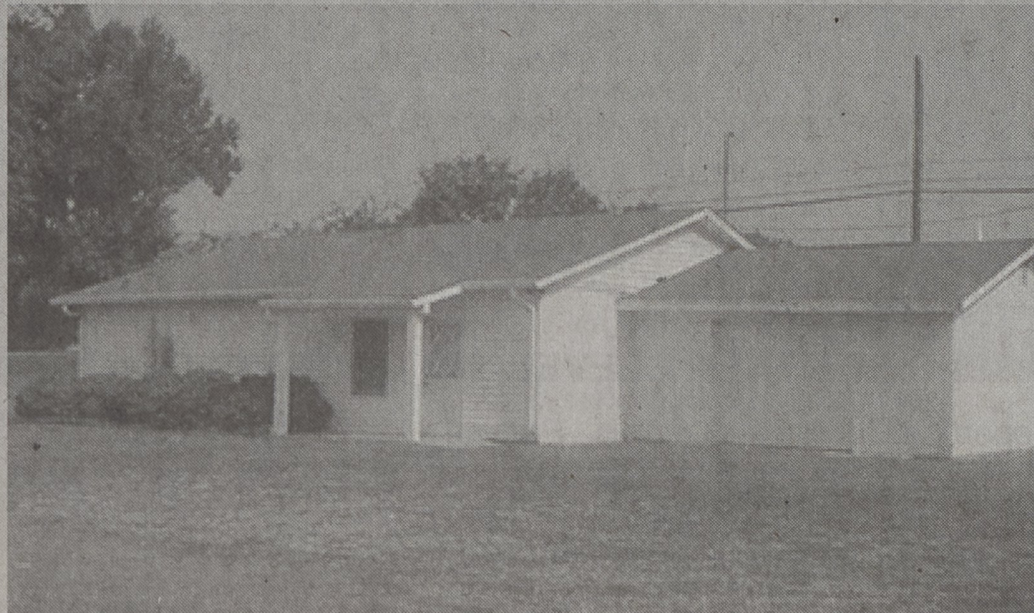
CHEROKEE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, 421 Cherokee St., will sponsor a gospel singing featuring "His Anointed" on Saturday night, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

Worship Services

GOOD HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 105 N. Cansler St., pastor David L. Moore Sr. and congregation invite you to come out and join them for Sunday worship service beginning at 9 a.m. and every Sunday because they believe there is power in unity and prayer.

KINGDOM LIFE COVENANT MINISTRIES, 114 S. Railroad Avenue, is hosting "Can you hear Him calling?" worship service at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30, with speaker Minister Gladys Byers of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Kings Mountain. For more information, call the Women of Noble Character ministry team at 704-734-0082.

Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week
Life of Worship Church

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To follow is a list of upcoming Churches of the Week. If your church is listed here and you have a special event that you would like listed on your feature week - please contact Lisa at 704-739-7496 or e-mail ads@kingsmountainherald.com

- 1/28 Love Valley Baptist Church
- 2/4 Christian Freedom
- 2/11 Westover Baptist Church
- 2/18 David Baptist Church

KINGS MOUNTAIN

- Long Creek Presbyterian Church
701 Long Creek Road
704-629-4406
- Love Valley Baptist Church
2032 Bethlehem Road
704-730-0075
- Macedonia Baptist Church
1101 S. Battleground Avenue
704-739-6811
- Midview Baptist Church
703 Margrace Road
704-739-6711
- Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354
- Mountain View Agape Church
506 Sparrow Springs Road
704-739-0160
- Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Compact School Road
704-739-4516
- Mt. Zion Baptist Church
220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354
- New Beginnings Church of Jesus Christ
541 Crocker Road
704-730-9507
- New Bynum Chapel Zion Church
N. Cansler Street
704-739-2606

New Camp Creek Baptist Church
863 New Camp Creek Ch. Road
704-487-7128

New Life Family Worship Center
428 Oak Grove Road
704-739-9371

New Way Missionary Baptist Church
105 Waco Road
704-724-0414

Oak Grove Baptist Church
1022 Oak Grove Road
704-739-4833

Oak View Baptist Church
1517 York Road
704-739-7831

Pathway Baptist Church
3100 Parkdale Circle
704-734-0852

Patterson Grove Baptist Church
301 Oak Grove Road
704-739-5826

Peoples Baptist Church
1010 Groves Street
704-739-0398

Progressive Church of Our Lord
1001 Cleveland Avenue
704-734-1070

Resurrection Lutheran Church
600 Crescent Circle
704-739-5580

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church
201 N. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-7466

Second Baptist Church
120 Linwood Road
704-739-4216

Shady Grove Baptist Church
339 Shady Grove Road
704-739-8920

St. Paul United Methodist Church
N. Cansler Street
704-739-1256

Solid Rock Baptist Church
1908 Shelby Road
704-739-4186

Sunrise Baptist Church
208 Mail Road
704-692-3007

Temple Baptist Church
612 N. Cansler Street
704-739-4716

True Gospel Holiness Church
1608 Shelby Road
704-739-6764

Unity Ame Zion Church
948 Unity Church Road
704-228-0328

Vestibule Ame Zion Church
2175 Vestibule Church Road
704-739-7961

Westover Baptist Church
114 Westover Drive
704-739-2187

GASTONIA
Bethesda United Methodist Church
3714 S. New Hope Rd

Grace Community Advent Christian Church
206 West 3rd Avenue
704-739-9230

GROVER
Bethany Baptist Church
423 Cleveland Avenue
704-937-3010

Carolina Praise and Worship Center
201 N. Main Street
704-937-7541

Proclaiming the Word Ministries
7011 Cleveland Avenue
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We want your churches photo for our Church Page!
Please email them, along with a contact number to Lisa at ads@kingsmountainherald.com

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Notice
In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next weeks paper.

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