

The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to examine the possible connection of one part of Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount* to the next section of His great sermon. As we have studied in class for a few

weeks now we have noted that *The Sermon on the Mount* is perhaps the most well known formal sermon of Jesus. It is not the longest yet still James the Lord's brother seemed to use much of the material from His brother's sermon to build many points in his epistle.

I personally see *The Sermon on the Mount* as a sermon that often builds from one point to another. We have mentioned that until you are humble in spirit you will probably never mourn over sin. Likewise, often those who make an effort to bring peace between an individual and God or between two separate individuals are often attacked or persecuted because of their efforts. But I have to admit I had never seen the connection I have run into this week in preparation to teach our class on Matthew.

Immediately following the last Beatitude regarding being persecuted for righteousness sake, Jesus begins a discussion about His followers being salt and light. Many great thoughts have been penned about Christians being both salt and light. But one thing I did not notice till today (and most of you probably already have noticed this...I'm just a little slow) was that Jesus is basically saying, "Though the world will persecute you because you are my followers, because you are my followers, you are to serve the world as salt and light."

I do not know why I would be surprised that Jesus would teach such a concept! I know my Lord's teaching and this is so fitting with all that He instructs His followers to do. The world will hate you because it hated Me, yet you like Me, must love the same world that hated us.

jfb

Well, it may be hard to believe but yesterday February 27, 2018 marked 10 years to the day since we loaded up two cars and two sick young girls and made the drive to Elizabethtown, Ky. We pulled up to a super nice apartment on Clover Lane that was owned by the Brothers. Henry and Wilma would move in an apartment just around the corner while their house was being restored after a fire. Even though we had heard from a few that it hardly snows in Elizabethtown, shortly after moving we had about 18 inches.

Ten years seems to have flown by quickly. Our girls were at ages (12 and 8) where we were still watching them grow physically. I still remember the kids who either lived in apartments, or who had grandparents who lived in the apartments, and would gather out in the street to play various games (we still refer to them as the "Clover Lane Gang/Crew"). The memories thus far have almost all been quite fond memories.

In 10 years we have experienced so many things together. From efforts in our community like working against the alcohol levy to standing for God and His Word as we fought for the prisoner's rights to be baptized for the remission of their sins. Some of those fights may not have turned out as we desired, yet nonetheless, we are known in the community for standing for what we believe! We have seen a number of baptisms (how I love my new brothers and sisters in Christ). We have walked through the grief of death of many of your loved ones as well as a number of our physical family members (the many acts of kindness shown on those occasions have impacted Brenna and me as well as our girls). We have witnessed new homes being formed through God's great plan of marriage. There is so much more!

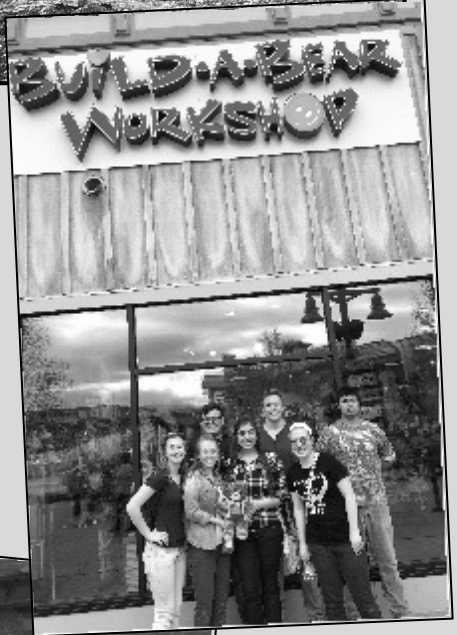
Some would say it is a danger to mention you have been somewhere 10 years (some might say, "He's been there that long?"). But we are thankful to be with people who love God and His Word. We love you all, and we feel that we are loved in return. May God bless us as we all seek to glorify Him in Elizabethtown and the surrounding communities...and in as much as we remain faithful to His Word!

jfb

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Love For the Church, Part 1
Matthew 16:13-20**

**P.M. — Love For the Church, Part 2
Isaiah 2:40-45**



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