



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXXIII June 4, 2017 No. 21

Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to examine the topic of doubt. Are you aware that many people have doubts—even Christian people? Is such doubt sinful? Let's consider a few thoughts together in this brief space.

Last Sunday night we examined Jesus' view of Scripture. We did such in part because I was going to be writing on this topic this week. Remember, when people challenge the Bible and say it is full of contradictions or errors, that Jesus confirmed the OT Scriptures. He confirmed many elements that man tries to deny: Creation, Marriage, Universal Flood, the origin of language, Jonah's great fish account (etc.). If we know Jesus is faithful, then we know we can trust Scripture.

Doubt is something, as a form of temptation, that will arise in our lives from time to time. Doubt then is not necessarily a Christian problem; it is rather a human problem. Since Christians are humans as well they can face the temptation to doubt.

As Christians, we need to strive to not let the temptation of doubt turn to a sinful response. We need to realize we have an anchor for the soul (Hebrews 6:19). James warns about doubt that is the opposite of a confident unwavering faith in God. Doubt in contrast is a disputing within oneself or a hesitation because of reservation. James calls people who doubt "a double minded man."

The temptation of doubt can lead to greater faith. If the doubt is based upon misinformation, then proper study can remove doubt. I think often doubt arises because of the emotions that arise from feelings. Our thinking can become askew and when objective truth is sought from God's Word, again such temptations to doubt can be alleviated. If you struggle with the temptation of doubt, you are not alone. But God has provided what we need to remove the temptation of doubt.

jfb

In case you hadn't already heard the numerous announcements, next week will be my last week as the associate minister at the Elizabethtown church of Christ. I'll be preaching this Sunday June 4th and then June 11th will be my last Sunday at the church in E-town.

Kurt's Kolum
Kurt Montooth

Emily and I will be moving to Frankfort, KY and I'll be serving as the Pulpit Minister at the Holly Hill church of Christ. While we are very excited to start a new chapter of our lives and take on a new adventure, we will miss so many of the good people here in Elizabethtown. I've worked with the church here for almost five years, and Emily joined us here after finishing school in 2014. In some ways, it seems like that was just yesterday but in other ways it seems like it was a lifetime ago! Ministry is always going to be full of challenges but I know for certain we will both look back on our time here fondly. The Elizabethtown church of Christ is full of great and godly people that we will miss dearly. You all have had a profoundly positive impact on our lives and we are grateful for that. Good-byes are always difficult but the best thing about moving so close is that there will be plenty of opportunities to visit. We will miss seeing you regularly but we look forward to limitless opportunities in eternity.

I'll close with an appropriate Bible verse, 1 Corinthians 13:11 (NKJV), "I Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Repentance: Returning to God
Luke 15:11-24**

**P.M. — God is Able
Daniel 3:13-25**

Humility

There was a very, very, rich prince. The kingdom which his father ruled over was extremely wealthy and extremely powerful. So rich and powerful that the prince could have anything he wanted. The friends of the prince wanted power for themselves, and one of his companions was already planning to betray the prince for his own personal gain. The prince wanted to teach them humility and he had several options. First, he could remind them of their fortune by inflicting them harm (financially or physically), he could demote them for their lack of humility, or he could even have the one who was plotting to betray him put to death to prove a point. Yet, to teach them humility, the prince did none of those things. Instead of flaunting his power and position to try to humble them, he put aside his royalty and put on the robes of a servant and served those under him.

I'm not talking about any earthly prince, I'm talking about the Prince of peace, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, Jesus. The most powerful being to ever walk among humans. When Jesus wanted to teach his disciples humility he got down on his knees and did the most demeaning job you could ask a servant to do in first century Judea, wash people's muddy feet.

This is all recorded in John 13 and Jesus talks about why he did this in v.12-16. "12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him."

Jesus did this to be an example to the disciples and us today about humility. If the King of kings and Lord of lords can get down, demean himself, and wash the feet of the man who was about to exchange Jesus' life for 30 pieces of silver (He talks about the upcoming betrayal by Judas in v.21-30) then it shouldn't be that hard for us to forgive our fellow Christians, and it shouldn't be that hard for us to love and serve one another.

This goes further than washing other people's feet. Paul writes in Philippians 2:1-8 how Christ serves the ultimate example of putting fellow Christians first, "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

I hope we can all encourage each other to serve each other like Christ has served us—it's a vital part of God's plan for the church.

Kurt Montooth