

# The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at  
2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri  
Website: [westlakechurchofchrist.org](http://westlakechurchofchrist.org)

Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

Volume 9, Issue 45

Evangelist and Editor:  
Dempsey Collins

Nov. 30, 2008

Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

## What if Someone Spit on You?

*by Mary Ann Palmer*

“It is just too hard to live life as a Christian.” Have you ever heard someone say that or perhaps felt that way yourself? There are times when we may think that temptations in life are just too strong to overcome. The burdens we bear seem too heavy and overwhelming. When I think of all the things I need to be doing as a Christian, often I am overwhelmed. Then I reflect back on the picture painted by the New Testament of the things that Jesus went through before His death, and I wonder if He was overwhelmed through it all. The Bible says that Jesus was tempted in all points like we are (Heb. 4:15). Think how you might react if you were treated the way Jesus was.

Consider the details surrounding the crucifixion. Suppose one of your best friends betrayed you. How would you react? Would you trust the Father to take care of the situation? Suppose you had a heavy burden bothering you and you called your closest friends to come over and pray with you and support you. When you left the room for a moment and returned, you found them nodding off or perhaps laughing and having a good time. It might not seem like they were very sympathetic to your problem. How understanding would you be to their lack of concern?

Imagine having your closest friends desert you when you needed them the most. Suppose you were arrested for something you did not do, yet no one spoke in your defense. Perhaps a friend even lied about knowing you. Think of the hurt you would experience, knowing that those who were close to you did not try to help you. How loving would you be towards them?

What if someone spit on you because you profess to follow Christ? Would humility guide your reaction? Would you refuse to “get even?” If someone beat a loved one of yours and left them to die how forgiving would you be? Could you ask the Father to forgive them? Could YOU forgive them?

There must have been times in Jesus’ life when He was overwhelmed. Consider the compassion He had on the multitudes because of their needs (Matt. 9:36; Mark 6:34). Think about the long days when He healed the sick (Matt. 4:24; 14:14; Mark 6:54-56). When He prayed in the garden before His death, how exhausted and overwhelmed He must have felt knowing His path, yet Jesus prayed for God’s will to be done (Mark 14:33-36). If Jesus was overwhelmed, it did not affect His trust in God. When Judas betrayed Jesus, God used it to fulfill His plans (Matt. 26:14-16, 21-25). When friends or even family betray us or treat us wrongly, we wonder why, and we are grieved by their actions. What we need to realize is that God may use this situation in our lives to bring about His will. We may not understand it and we may never know the reason for it, but if we trust in God as

Jesus did, God will help us through it. Is our faith strong enough to withstand mockery, ridicule, denial by friends, hatred from others, and daily struggles?

Will we let the cares and burdens of this life overwhelm us to the point we are no longer effective in our service to God? How did Jesus make it through everything He had to endure? Jesus said, "...The Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please Him" (John 8:29). Jesus' desire was to always do God's will. If that is our desire, regardless of what we encounter, God will help us and give us the strength we need to endure our trials in life. We do not have to feel overwhelmed because we can trust in a loving God to help us through every trial in life. For He Hath said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5).



## **I Was Lost – But You Were in a Hurry**

*Author Unknown*

I attended your church this morning. You wouldn't remember me. I was there hunting for something. I think I would have found it if you hadn't been in such a hurry. You sang hymns about a loving Lord, I felt a tight, choking sensation and my heart beat faster. Your minister's message was thrilling. I realized I was lost, and from the way he spoke, it seemed important to have a savior.

At last, the minister finished his appeal and asked you to stand and sing another of the beautiful songs you know so well. I swallowed a lump in my throat and wished I knew the joy of which you sang. I was about to answer God's call, when I heard a buzzing beside me. When I glanced around, you were putting on your little girl's coat. You were telling your young son to gather up his toys. I looked on my other side and saw you touching up your lipstick and rearranging your hair. Looking in front of me, I saw you frown at your watch as if time were running out.

Seeing what I saw, I didn't want to look any more. My eyes burned, my throat hurt, my feet wouldn't walk down the aisle – I could see that you really didn't care. This salvation the preacher had been telling me about was not important to you. I only wanted to get away. I was afraid that if I left then, you would wonder what I was hunting for. So, I waited until services were over and walked out among you, alone and lost.

Lost, because you were in a hurry. Lost, because it appeared you didn't really care if I was saved.

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Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

James 5:16