

# Faith Christian Center Connect

Volume 3

March 2008

## I want to encourage you this month to pray for, reach out to, and speak into hurting lives.

Many worldly advisors only offer a temporary solution. Jesus offers abundant life. First he saves us, and that is for eternity. Secondly he places us in a local church to receive spiritual nourishment and friendships that will last a life time.

The greatest compassion that a person can have on another person is to share the gospel message with them and to offer them the comfort of a local church.

Jesus, when he looked out over Jerusalem, he saw men and women who didn't have a clue about eternity. There were many souls that were on their way to hell. As he looked, he didn't see many people that cared. It broke the heart of Jesus Christ.

Consider how Jesus told his disciples to seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all of life's necessities would be given to them. I believe that is still true today.

I encourage you to look around you, at the lost and hurting people that need Jesus. Take time and tell them the story of how Jesus Christ has saved you and how that they too can have salvation. Tell them what a blessing your church is to you and what a blessing Jesus is to your local church.

Do this and watch the blessing of God overtake you. You are truly a blessing to the body of Christ. Until next time, May you walk in the abundant life that only Jesus can give. Remember Jesus loves you and God has a plan for your life. Jesus saves!

Blessings upon blessings,

*Pastor Chris Kirkendall*

**PS. Don't forget about revival: March 7 and 8 at 7pm Sunday March 9 @ 10:30 am. We will have a nursery and children's church for all services. Invite a friend.**

**Bring your lost friends so they can be saved and your saved friends so they can be refreshed.**

## Compassion Evangelism



**Matthew 9:35 - 38 (TMSG)**

<sup>35</sup>Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. <sup>36</sup>**When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and**

**aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd.** <sup>37</sup>"What a huge harvest!" he said to his disciples. "How few workers!" <sup>38</sup>On your knees and pray for harvest hands!"

**John 14:12 - 14 (TMSG)** <sup>12</sup>The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing. You can count on it. <sup>13</sup>From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I'll do it. That's how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. <sup>14</sup>Whatever you request in this way, I'll do.

**Isaiah 58:8 - 12 (TMSG)** <sup>8</sup>Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The GOD of glory will secure your passage. <sup>9</sup>Then when you pray, GOD will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am.'

"If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins, <sup>10</sup>If

## At a Glance

### Sunday

Adult Sunday School 9:15am  
Youth Sunday School 9:15am  
Sunday Service 10:30am  
Session 5 ISOM 4:30pm

### Monday

Session 2 ISOM 6:30pm

### Tuesday

Skateboard Club 6:30pm

### Wednesday

Wednesday Service 7:00pm

*you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.*

<sup>11</sup>I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places— firm muscles, strong bones. You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. <sup>12</sup>You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.

What a wonderful undertaking; to live a Christian life serving others. Cultures over the years have battled the same battle that we have today. That battle is to show compassion on people.

Bible prophecy explains that in the last days people will be selfish and lovers of themselves. This is because Satan is at work hardening men's heart through the circumstances that they go through.

*continued on back cover*

*Doing The Same Old Thing: In A Brand New Way!*

Faith Christian Center  
1360 Roosevelt Dr.  
Silsbee, TX 77656



# Just a Note

Faith Christian Center Worship Department  
**You mean I have to give it ALL**

A.C.T.S YOUTH GROUP



## The REAL ME is...

### Genesis 22:1-3a:

1 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"  
"Here I am," he replied.

2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, *whom you love*, and go to the region of Moriah. *Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering* on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey.

I read this the other day in conjunction with reading a book I had been trying to finish for quite some time now, and I had to stop and think about what really was going on. I know, sometimes when we read the Word, we just read it and we forget that these were real people with real emotions.

From Verse 2 to Verse 3, if we aren't careful, we just read it and think-"Ah, God told him to sacrifice his only son- and well, He just got up the next morning and did it. What a great story"

But if you add some humanity into that Scripture, there is NO way Abraham was so nonchalant about giving up his only son as a sacrifice. I know I wouldn't be. I'm pretty sure Abraham was distressed and distraught at the task he was to complete the next morning. I'm sure he went and found Isaac doing whatever young teens to do back in Bible times, and just held him close and prayed that God would tell him to do something else- and tell him quick.

You see, Abraham had to wait twenty-four (24) years for Isaac to be born, and now God was just going to up and ask for Him back? I can imagine Abraham's mind after that short discussion with God: "*I can't give up my only son. I was promised an inheritance. God, you gave Isaac to me. I want to worship you. I want to be obedient. I want to follow Your voice and do Your will...but You don't mean I have to give it ALL?*"

### Matthew 19:16-21

16 Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

18 "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself."

20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

This man truly had good intentions. He wanted to obey the Lord. He wanted to be "perfect" as verse 21 states. I'm sure this young man was well respected in the community and in the church. He was morally upright, intelligent, and probably attractive- the entire package. Yet, he knew something was lacking- something wasn't right. So he went to the Source, Jesus. So far so good- Right?

Then Jesus says in verse 21, "*If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.*"

Add some humanity. The young man just stands there baffled that *someone actually knew* what was keeping Him from being whole and complete: his material possessions, his money, the overtime at the job, the prestige that came from being financially well-off. He thinks to himself, "*But Jesus you don't know how hard I've worked. I went to the best school in the country. I worked my hardest. I did my best. Surely, You want me to be rewarded for all my labor and time to become a respected member of the community. Surely you don't want what I've worked so hard for. Surely not...Surely YOU don't mean I have to give it ALL?*"

### Genesis 22:3-5, 9-10

3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Abraham was ready to obey the Lord. He understood that the Lord was faithful and just. He decided to trust the Lord with his most prized possession: his son. He understood that there was a reason for everything.

### **Grab the Word: Ecclesiastes 3:1**

### **Matthew 19:22**

22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

The young man in Matthew 19 was saddened by this revelation.

He was not ready to part with the riches of his current lifestyle. Even though he was an upstanding citizen, morally righteous, he didn't understand that He had to give every part of his heart to the Lord.

### **Check out Matthew 6:24.**

Each person in these stories had a choice to make: the choice to give it **ALL**. Sometimes, we don't feel like it. Sunday mornings roll around, and we don't feel like coming to church, worshipping, lifting our hands, praying, etc. However, the LORD has already decreed what we are to do:

**Psalms 134:2**, "Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD." (Notice this is **neither request nor a suggestion** Also, notice that it says "**in the sanctuary**"- **not in the car, at home, watching TV- but in the sanctuary- the importance of coming to Church.**)

The decision is all up to us. What is awesome about the Great God that we serve is that if we decide to heed his voice he will bless us. Instead of ending like the rich young ruler, our ending can be like Abraham's.

### **Genesis 22:15**

15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

In closing, let me sum it up.

1. God has called you to worship him with your everything, all your heart, mind, and strength.

2. It is YOUR decision to give him

your All.

**3. If you heed his call, He will bless you beyond comprehension.**

**Who are you going to be? An Abraham or a Rich young ruler?**

Make a Blessed day.

*Justin Kirkendall.*

"The Father is **looking** for worshipers. So, if you are looking for God and you just **can't find** him, then **stop** what you are doing **and worship** Him—and He **will come and find** you."

-Joseph Garlington



When you look in the mirror, what do you see? Do you see some one who has been picked on about their weight, made fun of because of your glasses, or been called names because of the clothes you wear? Do you see some one who has every reason to be happy, but is missing something in their life, or someone who has been the bully, calling names and making fun because deep inside you hide your hurt? Do you find your self worth in the way you look, people you date, or the sports you play? WHO IS THE REAL YOU???

We all have hurts and things about us we would like to change, but it is ok to let what's on the inside out. When we hurt on the inside we tend to show ATTITUDE on the outside. This is only a cover for the person you are inside. Psalms 44:21 say that God knows the innermost secrets of our heart. He knows who the real you is....do you? Don't be afraid to show it.

In Genesis 1:26 says "Let us make man in OUR IMAGE". There you have it, the written word of GOD says the real us is made in his image. We have a spirit man inside of us that is crying out for the things of the Lord. God knew you and created you just the way you are and loves you. God didn't accidentally make your nose to big, feet to small, or your chin to pointy. Girls, Your self worth is not found in the shape of your body and Guys, yours is not found in the good looks, perfect hair and newest fade of shoes.

Be authentic!! Be who you are in Christ no matter what. 2 Corinthians says "come out from among them and be separate." You don't have to be like everyone else and fit in with the crowd. Why do we want to blend in when GOD created us so unique. Stop pretending! God makes all things new!!

I was reading in Matthew chapter 9:9-13 were the Lord called Matthew. The Lord is speaking of his desire for mercy and not sacrifice seemed to be the main point and has always stuck out to me, but this time I read "as Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, "follow me!" So he got up and followed him." There IS A PERIOD AT THE END OF THAT SENTENCE. Matthew made no excuse. Jesus said it and Matthew did it. I used this reference to say this, LIVE!! LIVE your life for the Lord. Jesus has already called you to follow him. Don't let your life be run by your inadequacies, your friends, or even the guy or girl you are dating. Get real with yourself and Get real with GOD. Make "you" time everyday to read your Bible and Pray. Make time to read your Bible and pray with your parents. Get involved In the youth group for guidance and support!

We all seek love and acceptance from someone, some friends, in some school, by some mom or dad, or by some boy or girl, but realize you already have love and acceptance from the Lord Jesus Christ. I'll see you at church! Get excited and don't miss out on Sundays and Wednesdays.

God bless you,

Jamie Cullen

