

Recent Conferences . . .

April 6–9, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Van Buren, Arkansas, with Pastor Joe Walden. Topics were *Following Jesus* and *Esther*.

April 12–15, First Baptist Church, Langdon, North Dakota, with Pastor Jeff Musgrave. Topics were *One-to-One Discipling*, *The Armor of God*, and *Prayer to the Father, Through the Son, In the Spirit*.

April 20–23, First Baptist Church, Poteau, Oklahoma, with Pastor Phil McGehee. Topics were *Following Jesus* and *Jonah*.

April 27, Northlake Baptist Church, Garland, Texas, with Pastor John Carl. Topic was *Followers of Christ: Fishers of Men*.

May 5–7, Northlake Baptist Church, Garland, Texas, with Minister of Senior Adults Lynn Cristie. Topic was *Ruth*.

May 19–21, East Central Baptist Association, Oklahoma, with Ed Baker, Missionary; Rod Arnold, Evangelism Chairman; and Brian Zinck, Pastor FBC Sallisaw. Topics were *Fishing for Men*; *The Shaming, Nailing and Dying*; and *Praying for the Lost*.

Brochures

New brochures are available. If you would like one or more, please contact me by e-mail, mail or phone.

Devoted to the Word Ministries

P.O. Box 1407

Alma, AR 72921

972-310-8982

www.devotedword.org

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. “

Matthew 6:24

Issue 17

June 2008

An Encouraging Word

A newsletter published by
Devoted to the Word Ministries

Written by Michael Taylor, Bible Teacher

For Personal Study

One would assume that Jonah is the main character in the Old Testament book that bears his name. That assumption is false. The main character is God!

This is evident from the following outline of the book:

1. God gives Jonah a message for Nineveh. 1:1-3
2. God gives Jonah discipline for refusing to take the message. 1:4–2:10
 - A. God disciplines Jonah with a storm. 1:4-16
 - B. God disciplines Jonah with a fish. 1:17–2:10
3. God gives Jonah a second opportunity to take the message to Nineveh. 3:1-10
4. God gives Jonah a lesson in compassion. 4:1-11

(For a more complete outline of Jonah, go to www.devotedword.org and click on Conference Outlines).

It is possible to focus so much on the people we read about in biblical passages that we lose focus of the main character—God. As we read and study, we should continually ask, “What is God trying to teach me about Himself in this passage?” As we begin to understand what God desires to reveal about Himself, we should then begin to pray, “Lord, change me, to be more like You.” God’s Word is not merely for our information, but for our transformation.

Study Question:

Study 1 Samuel 17. What does the story of David and Goliath teach us about God?

Mike



2008 Upcoming Conferences . . .

- June 21–26 Cincinnati, Ohio
(Mission Trip with Northlake Baptist Church, Garland, TX)
- July 16–23 New Brunswick, Canada
(Mission Trip with FBC Bastrop, LA)
- July 27–30 North Tenth Street Baptist Church
Blytheville, Arkansas
- Sept. 7–10 Short Baptist Church
Muldrow, Oklahoma
- Sept. 21–24 Dayton Avenue Baptist Church
Peoria, Illinois
- Sept. 28–Oct. 1 Rome Baptist Church
Chillicothe, Illinois

Study Question Answers . . .

Answers to the Personal Study questions from the April newsletter are as follows:

1. The water in the ceremonial jars represents the Old Covenant. The wine represents the New Covenant.
2. Jesus knows the hearts and future actions of people and of the Father.
3. Numbers 21:4-9.
4. In John 7:45-52, Nicodemus wants to side with Jesus, but is afraid to do so. In John 19, he finally takes a stand for Jesus.
5. We worship in spirit when we get our spirit in harmony with the indwelling Holy Spirit. We worship in truth when we worship in accord with Biblical truth (John 17:17) with our focus on Jesus (John 14:6) and the Father.

Prayer Praises . . .

- Pastor Dale Phelps of Short Baptist Church, Muldrow, Oklahoma, has scheduled a conference for September 7-10, 2008.
- Pastor Blain Craig of Oak Crest Baptist Church, Midlothian, Texas, has scheduled a conference for March 1-4, 2009.
- Doug Lee, Missionary for Oregon Trail Baptist Association in Nebraska, is working on dates for conferences with two of his churches.

Prayer Requests . . .

- For the upcoming mission trip to Cincinnati, Ohio. I will be preaching in three churches there. Pray that this will open the door for future conferences in that region.
- For the upcoming mission trip to Doaktown, New Brunswick, Canada. Again, pray that this will open the door for future opportunities of service.
- For a pastor friend experiencing health problems.
- For four more conferences to be added for this summer and eight more conferences to be added for this fall and early winter. To add twelve conferences at this time would definitely be a “God Thing”!

“...two things have I heard: that you, O God, are strong, and that you, O Lord, are loving. Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done.”

Psalm 62:11, 12

