



## Taking Action On Sins Against Children

**W**ith the Michael Jackson verdict looming and an eighteen year old girl lost and presumed dead in the island nation of Aruba, the country's attention has turned to crimes against children. There is, seemingly, no more horrible crime than that committed against innocent children for whom life has so much potential. The consequences of such crimes are life long for both the victim and the perpetrator, but especially for the victim as he still has his entire life ahead. Much care, love, and devotion is necessary to nurse such an individual back to mental health and recovery from his ordeal. Too, while we have less sympathy for the perpetrator (and for good reason), this individual needs help and while justice must be served in a nation that is governed by law, a compassionate nation will do what they can to get help for such an individual.

When offenses come in reference to children (or anyone) we ought to take to heart the words of Jesus in Luke 17:1,2 "It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones." But Jesus continues in that very same passage with these words, "Take heed to your-

selves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him" (Luke 17:3,4). There is forgiveness available, but it would be infinitely better if the harm had never occurred in the first place. So what can we do to prevent such horrors in ours and the lives of others?



First, we must begin with ourselves. Unfortunately, we live in a world where each of us has the potential to commit horrible crimes. The Bible says that all have sinned (Romans 3:23) and that there are none that are righteous (Romans 3:10). Sin is something that we must grapple with on a daily basis and 1 Corinthians 10:12

still says, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." But we're not simply at the mercy of our own personal passions in this regard. The Bible gives us the tools in order to overcome sin in our life. We absolutely **MUST** apply these tools in our own personal lives to prevent such awful tragedies. These tools include: A. prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17), B. confessing our faults to one another (James 5:16), C. studying God's word (2 Timothy 2:15, Psalm 119:11), D. leaning and relying upon our spouse (1 Corinthians 7:1-7), E. exercising self examination and personal restraint (2 Corinthians 13:5), F. understanding the fear of God (Hebrews 10:31). There are more, no doubt, but if these are used and applied properly, it would go a long way toward eliminating sin in our life.

Second, we must educate our children on the potential dangers. Certainly educating children in regard to such dangers is a concern in the scriptures. On several occasions in the book of Proverbs, the writer addresses his "son" and gives warning concerning the evils of the world. Proverbs 1:8 states, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother" and in Proverbs 1:10 we read, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent

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thou not." We need to make sure that our children understand that anyone can be a sinner, not just those who "look like" sinners. This means we have to instruct our children on what is and what isn't appropriate behavior for that is the only way in which they will know who is and isn't a sinner. The boy scouts have a great program in this regard. Every year they encourage parents to go through standard safety materials with their child so that he will be aware of the various dangers that are in the world and how to react to those dangers when confronted. These materials are available to anyone who wants them on the Internet and by request.

Third, we must exercise constant vigilance. 1 Peter 5:8 states, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Unfortunately,

we live in a society where almost everyone must be a suspect when it comes to protecting our children. Someone, somewhere, is always lurking around the corner just waiting for that opportunity. And such could happen any place and at any time. We simply can't afford to let our guard down. We must maintain a sober attitude toward these things and not allow poor judgment and distraction to cloud our vision.

When these crimes occur, admittedly, we feel helpless. But we don't have to be helpless victims. We can take preventative action in our lives and for the lives of our children. For the sake of our children, we simply can't afford not to be proactive. While other individuals are responsible for their evil behavior, we must also take responsibility by not giving such individuals the opportunity to behave wickedly. Admittedly, even when we are proactive, there are still cases in which individu-

als are affected, but we can drastically reduce the risk through our behavior and vigilance. I hope that no one I know ever has to go through something as horrible as having their child harmed by one of these predators and I ask that you join me in prayer that our children will never experience such.

Kevin Cauley

"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life..." Proverbs 6:20-23

**"For the sake of our children, we simply can't afford not to be proactive."**



### Bible Studies for the week of June 12th, 2005

- AM Sermon..... Beatitudes—Blessed are They Who Hunger...
- Scripture Reading..... Matthew 5:1-12
- PM Sermon..... The Book of Job
- Scripture Reading..... No Reading
- Sunday Class ..... The Book of Hebrews
- Wednesday Class..... TBA

## The Submissive Heart of Rahab

**W**e are introduced to Rahab the harlot in Joshua 2. Most of us are familiar with the story of Rahab hiding the spies sent by Joshua to spy out the land (Joshua 2:1). Rahab made some interesting comments in her discussion with the spies when she went up to the roof before they lay down (Joshua 2:8). She told them, "I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. And as soon as we hear it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is

the God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath" (Joshua 2:9-11 - ESV).

Rahab and her fellow citizens in the city of Jericho were Gentiles, yet they knew about God and what He had done for His people, Israel (Exodus 14:21; Numbers 21:24,34,35) because of what God had said to Pharaoh through Moses, "And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to show in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth" (Exodus 9:16).

What made Rahab different from the other people of Canaan? She became convinced by the evidence that the God of the Israelites was indeed the God of heaven and earth (Joshua 2:11). However, it's not enough just to know and understand the evidence; one must have a heart that is willing to submit to that evidence (Matthew 7:21;

Romans 6:17; Hebrews 5:9). Jesus said, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself" (John 7:17). The leaders of Judaism, in Jesus' day, were unwilling to believe in Him because they did not have submissive hearts (Matthew 15:1-9; cf. Isaiah 29:13; Ezekiel 33:31). In contrast, not only was Rahab willing to believe the evidence - she had a submissive heart as well.

Let us be people with willing, submissive hearts, submitting to God's word. The writer of Hebrews tells us, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Mike Riley  
El Paso, TX



"It's not enough just to know and understand the evidence; one must have a heart that is willing to submit to that evidence."

## Records for the week of June 5th, 2005

Sunday Bible Class .....	56
Sunday AM Worship.....	63
Sunday PM Worship.....	51
Wednesday Night Study.....	44
Contribution .....	\$1592.35
Budget.....	\$1662.00



# Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

## Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Please remember the following in prayer: Helen Gentry, Hughetta Hand, John Stuckey, Neva Welch.
- Don't forget our shut-ins: Opal Hull and Edith Mischler.
- Our weekly potluck is next Sunday. Please bring a dish and a friend!
- The children's home truck will arrive here on July 11th. Along with the food and goods that are donated, they are requesting furniture, but no more clothes. Also, be sure to check your canned goods to make sure they are not out of date when you donate them.
- Perry Foster is off to National Guard boot camp as of this past Tuesday. Let's remember him in our prayers.
- Our weekly Bible study at the nursing home is this Thursday at 2:00. If you have an opportunity, come study with us. The residents love our visits.
- There is a gospel meeting beginning today in Forum. The speaker is Joe Spaulding.
- Our pantry item is: Bath Soap.



## Welcome!

Visit our web site: <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

## Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class: .....	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: .....	10:20 AM
Sunday Evening Worship: .....	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class: .....	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class: .....	7:00 PM

## Serving Each Other

	June 12th, 2005	June 19th, 2005
<b>Sunday Morning</b>		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Bill Fort
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Bruce Foster
Scripture Reading:	Brent Moore	Barrett Brown
Lord's Table	Bob Moore	Glenn Williams
	Michael Morrell	Bob Phillips
(assist)	John Gass	Jerry Roller
	Jack Gentry	John Gass
Closing Prayer	Irvin Hand	Ken Smith
<b>Sunday Evening</b>		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Rusty Windle
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Quigley
Scripture Reading:	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table	George Eddings	Jerry Roller
	Bob Phillips	Matthew Morrell
Closing Prayer	Leon Duncan	Dan Hand
<b>Wednesday</b>		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Glenn Quigley
Opening Prayer:	John Gass	Clay Bozarth
Invitation:	Rusty Windle	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	Bob Phillips	Glenn Quigley

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