

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 4, 2021 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:13

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dave Havar
Presentation study—2:00 Terry Post
(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil McIver
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Daniel 2:31–45
Sermon Terry Post

Quick takes

1. Welcome to guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Terry and Judy Post today. Mr. Post is scheduled to give the 2:00 Bible study and the sermon during the 3:00 church service.
2. Upcoming speakers—We are pleased to announce the following guest speakers coming to our congregation.

■ Today	Terry Post
■ Dec. 11	Richard Crow
■ Dec. 18	Scott Hoefker
■ Jan. 8	Blake Silverstein
3. Wednesday-night Bible study on Dec. 8—The next Wednesday-night Bible study is scheduled for Dec. 8.
4. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service: Mickey Ashcraft, David and Becky Bonilla, Timberly Dunnam, Elaine Holloway, Annette Payne, Ruth Roe, Sonny Rosenberger, Ronnie Shirley, Elaine Townsend and Donna Weese.
5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "The Left and the Masses" by Thomas Sowell.
6. Among Friends—This week's article is "Matthew 25:1–13" by Dave Havar.
7. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 46 pages. (This edition has 11 articles and 354 headlines.)

Prayer updates

Timberly Dunnam, who recently had scans on her back, was diagnosed on Tuesday with some “disk loss.” The family is waiting to hear from Longview Orthopedics. Doctors are now considering if Timberly is dealing with a degenerative-bone-loss disease.

In the Nov. 20 bulletin, we mentioned that **Doyle Welborn** had hip-replacement surgery on Friday, Nov. 19. At the church service on Nov. 27, we orally mentioned that Mr. Welborn had a very difficult week—since he had fallen on Sunday, Nov. 21, and broken a femur. Mr. Welborn reports that the injured femur was on the right side (which was the same side of the hip replacement). When the doctor repaired the femur, he operated in the same area as the original surgery. Hence, a six-inch incision became a 13-inch incision. Mr. Welborn reports that he had three days of in-home physical therapy this week and expects to have two days of in-home physical therapy next week. He and **Karen** appreciate your prayers.

In the Nov. 20 bulletin, we mentioned that **Leslie Harroff** hurt her lower back and hip. Because of intense pain, she was scheduled for an MRI. Since the pain has diminished, the MRI has been postponed until January. She appreciates your prayers.

Judy Biggs reports that **Brian** is slowly improving and that she anticipates that doctors are considering to remove his gallbladder as his general health improves.

In the Oct. 16 bulletin, we mentioned that **Jimmy Rogers** of Denton had a PET scan to confirm lung cancer in the lower part of his right lung and that he anticipated five treatments of radiation. He reports that he has completed four treatments of the radiation with the final treatment scheduled to be given on Monday. (He is pleased to report that he has suffered no negative reactions to the radiation.) Since that time, there has been an additional diagnosis—a cancer spot in the upper part of his stomach. Because of the small size and the location, the doctor decided not to perform a biopsy—but the doctor is planning to attack this spot with chemotherapy in January. (Mr. Rogers, who has dealt with many health challenges, reports that chemotherapy has been harder on him than the radiation.)

Ruth Roe again requests prayers for son **Tim** (in Ore City) as he deals with intense pain in his back, shoulder and knees that affects his sleep.

New prayer requests

Andrew McIver requests prayers because he has been experiencing digestive issues. (He has lost 15 pounds since the Feast of Tabernacles.) He is scheduled to visit a gastroenterologist on Dec. 10.

Many months ago, we announced that **Cassandra Jenkins** (daughter of **Shirley Spearman**) had a leg amputated. Recently, she had surgery to remove parts of her hand. (Last Thursday, she had surgery to deal with infection in that area of her body.)

Jessica and **Julie Lewis** (daughter and 5-year-old granddaughter of **Mickey Voyce**) are feeling better—after being diagnosed with covid.

Brandi West (daughter of **Stan** and **Roxanna West**) is feeling better—after being diagnosed with covid.

After **Paxtyn Smith** (12-year-old granddaughter of **Stan** and **Roxanna West**) recovered from strep throat, she was diagnosed with covid.

Lee Stolley of Big Sandy, who traveled to Arizona for Thanksgiving, was diagnosed with covid while there.

Jerry Stevens of Merrill, Wis., died on Oct. 13. Please remember his wife, **Linda**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Hank Green of Deridder, La., died on Nov. 23. Please remember his wife, **Mary**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Patrick Read of Ethel, Ont., Canada, died on Nov. 28. Please remember his wife, **Jo-Anne**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Don Ellis of Crossroads died on Nov. 28. Please remember his wife, **Lois**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

“Matthew 25:1–13”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 4, 2021.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At a Bible study on Wednesday, Dec. 1, I began a series covering Matthew 25. The first study was about Matthew 25:1-13. Following are some of the ideas mentioned in that Bible study.

This section of Scripture is called the parable of the 10 virgins. The main characters in the story are 10 virgins and the groom. The main props are a lamp and oil to burn in the lamp.

First 10 verses

Here are brief comments about the first 10 verses.

■ Verse 1: All 10 were awaiting the wedding.

■ Verse 2: Five were wise and five were foolish.

■ Verses 3-4: The foolish had no oil for their lamps, but the wise did have oil for their lamps.

■ Verse 5: Before the groom arrived, they all slept.

■ Verses 6-7: When the groom came at midnight, all the virgins arose and attempt-

ed to trim their lamps.

■ Verses 8-9: The foolish virgins asked to receive oil from the wise, but the wise were not able to provide any.

■ Verse 10: While the foolish virgins went out to buy oil, the groom came and shut the door.

Significance of the oil

It is realistic for Bible students to question the identity of the oil mentioned throughout the parable.

A common theory among religious people is that the oil pictures God’s Spirit. That makes sense.

But I recommend that you view the oil in broader terms. Consider how the oil pictures preparation and expectations. Consider how the oil pictures obedience and repentance. I like some of the general principles found in Revelation 14:4-5.

Revelation 14:4-5—“These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being first-fruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their

mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.”

Good to help others

As we consider the discussion between the foolish and wise virgins in verses 8-9, I want to remind you that a parable usually has a specific meaning that does not eliminate other lessons.

At many places in the Bible, we see that it is good for people to ask others for help, and it is good for people to provide help.

Luke 10:33-34—“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.”

Acts 9:39—“Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.”

James 1:27—“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

Personal responsibility

But verses 8-9 in the parable are stressing the importance of personal responsibility. That is the specific lesson in those specific verses.

Romans 14:12—“So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”

1 Corinthians 3:14-15—“If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

2 Corinthians 5:10—“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

Doesn’t Christ know everybody?

When the foolish virgins wanted to enter the wedding (verse 12), the groom said: “I do not know you.”

That sounds like what the Son of God

said in Matthew 7:23: “I never knew you.”

Psalms 139:7—“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”

Matthew 10:30—“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

Working through firstfruits

Matthew 20:15-16—“Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good? So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.”

John 12:47-48—“And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

1 Corinthians 15:23—“But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.”

James 4:17—“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

Revelation 20:5—“But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished . . .”

People will be surprised

Matthew 8:10-12—“When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The Lord knows who are His now

2 Timothy 2:19—“Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.’”

Keep watching

Matthew 25:13—“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”