

Weekly Bible Reading – Week 8

- Sunday* Luke 17:20 – 18:34
- Monday* Luke 18:35 – 19:44
- Tuesday* Luke 19:45 – 20:47
- Wednesday* Luke 21:1 – 22:13
- Thursday* Luke 22:14–65
- Friday* Luke 22:66 – 23:49
- Saturday* Luke 23:50 – 24:43

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray” (James 5:13).

Jo Byrnes • Joyce Coones • Sleatha Gore

Essielene Henderson • Faye Kilpatrick • Gary Ogden • Pat Hunt

Ray & Margery Knisley are out of town

— Group 1 & Group 3—

- **Group 1** meets tonight after services at the home of Jamey & Cindy Hinds.
- **Group 3** meets next Sunday night (6:30 PM) at the home of Jamey & Cindy Hinds.

— Upcoming Area Gospel Meetings —

- *Lakeview* in Lake City with **John Zellner**—today through Wednesday, 7:30 PM.
- *Trenton* with **Dee Bowman**—today through Friday, 7:30 PM.
- *Spring Warrior* in Perry with **Steve Dewhirst**—next Sunday through the following Friday, 7:30 PM.

— This Week’s Birthdays —

Bryan Bailey Jr. (*today*) and Brian McElroy (*today*)


↪ Chiefland Church of Christ ↪

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in beautiful Chiefland, Florida
Post Office Box 2539, Chiefland FL 32644 • (352) 493-1242

Things Above

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

— Colossians 3:1-2 —

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Jamey Hinds, preacher

Bearing Grudges

By Kyle Pope • via Biblical Insights (Sep 2008)

As I grow older I have noticed a tendency in character that I wish I did not see: the tendency to easily hold a grudge. When I was younger, if someone did something against me, or did something that in a way hurt my feelings, I found it relatively easy to let the matter “roll off my back” and forget about it. Yet, as an older man, with a few more hurt feelings “under my belt,” and a few more situations that I wish I could forget, what once might have easily been viewed as “water under the bridge,” now tends to pool together, dam up and linger a little too long “under the bridge” (so to speak).



Understanding why something may happen doesn't justify or excuse its occurrence. Bearing a grudge is wrong because it reflects a lack of forgiveness. Jesus taught in both the model prayer and His comments immediately after the prayer, how important forgiveness is. He declared: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Mt 6:14, 15). To some degree, this forgiveness is to occur whether the person who has "trespassed" against us ever repents of the wrong they have done. Jesus also taught: "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses" (Mk 11:25). Clearly, if we want to be forgiven by God we must be forgiving of others.

Bearing a grudge is an unattractive quality. It is an ugly thing to see in one's self or in others. It makes the one who feels it bitter, resentful and distant. Forgiveness, on the other hand, and the sweet disposition that accompanies it are qualities that are appealing, admirable and approachable.

In June 2004, the nation mourned the passing of its 40th president, Ronald Reagan. Among the many touching testimonials that were made about him, one struck me more than any other.

After he was shot in 1981, Reagan recorded in his diary that he found himself struggling with how he could pray to

God while harboring hatred in his heart for the disturbed man who tried to kill him. To address this, Reagan's first prayed to God for the soul of the man who shot him and then prayed for himself. Imagine, after having someone explode a weapon in your direction that lodged a bullet inches away from your heart, taking the time to first pray for him.

As impressive as this example is, it is nothing compared to the example of our Lord. He, who was God in the flesh, as life was slipping away from his fleshly body, considered those who had torn His body to shreds, slammed a thorny crown on His head and pierced His hands and feet with nails, appealing to heaven, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Lk 23:34). If Jesus could ask for the forgiveness of those who carried out His crucifixion, what wrong could anyone ever do to us that would justify bearing a grudge against them?

Bearing a grudge requires that we maintain a disposition toward the other person that can hinder our very worship of God. Jesus taught that harboring anger towards our brother can place us in danger of judgment, and that holding them in contempt can place us in danger of hell (Mt 5:22). He taught that before we bring our "gift to the altar" we must first do what we can to make things right in our relationships with others (vv. 23-24). Holding a grudge will prevent the spiritual sacrifices we offer in worship to God to become unacceptable. We must strive to prevent this from happening. 