

Sick & in Need of Prayer (JAMES 5:13-16)

- ✦ Jo Byrnes
- ✦ Betty Cannon
- ✦ Joyce Coones (Ayers)
- ✦ Sleatha Gore
- ✦ Essielene Henderson
- ✦ Ethel Jones
- ✦ Faye Kilpatrick
- ✦ Helen Usher
- ✦ Randy McElroy
- ✦ Gary Ogden

Gospel Meetings

- ✦ LAKEVIEW congregation in Lake City
- ✦ Robby McPeak, preaching
- ✦ Monday through Friday, 7:30 PM

—[*Philippians 4:8-9*]—

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

☞ Chiefland Church of Christ ☞

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in *beautiful* Chiefland, Florida
PO Box 2539 ☛ Chiefland, FL 32644 ☛ (352) 493-1242

THINGS ABOVE

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth”

—[Colossians 3:1-2]—

March 22, 2009  Vol. 5, No. 1

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To Do Nothing Is Wrong

By Jamey Hinds

Some are afraid to do something wrong, so they end up doing nothing at all — and they may criticize those who dare to do. It may be that they feel that doing nothing won't bring them any condemnation from the Lord, but it will, as we'll see in a moment.

Sometimes we may argue against doing something that causes us to get outside the comfort and self-deceiving security of ourselves — i.e., what we're personally comfortable with — by saying, “Doing this might lead to something!” Seriously? Should we really make the potential abuse of a certain action the rule?



Using this line of reasoning isn't very sensible. For example, eating food *might* lead to obesity, but we're not going to stop eating, else we'll die. We simply recognize there are potential problems, and should remain vigilant to not allow balanced activities to become unbalanced.

The Lord taught about this attitude of fear that causes some to do nothing in a parable — Matthew 25:14–18 — in which we read,

“Again, [the kingdom of heaven] will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.”

The five talent and two talent men both receive the same praise from their master — “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!” (v. 21). But the one talent man received a harsh rebuke for not doing anything with what he'd been given!

“You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (vv. 26–30).

We might think that doing nothing with what talents or abilities we've been given by the Lord is all right, but we would be wrong. The one talent man didn't do *anything*, and because of this, he shamed himself and his master.

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10). Maybe we feel that doing something might lead to something, but if we do nothing, it's certain we'll be wrong.

“Be *doers* of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22). “For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother” (Matthew 12:50; *and see* Luke 6:46–49).

