Sermon Notes: “The Choice is Yours

Scripture Reading: Matt 7:13-14; Jas 2:19; Jn 3:16, 36; Lk 13:23-24; Matt 5:6, 6:33; 2Thess 1:6-9; Rev 20:14-15, 21:8; Rom 6:22-23

The Messenger

Weekly Newsletter of Whiteland Church of Christ
Loving God / Loving People

The Lord’s Day, September 28, 2025

Order of Worship

Greeting: Eric Wiwczaroski

Scripture Reading: Chase Tichenor (Matthew 7:13-14)

Worship Leader: Lonnie Hewitt

Communion: Mickey McDaniel

Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt
(The Choice is Yours)

Announcements / Prayer: Stan Davis

During Sermon
Nursery: Cindie Cottingham (Sub: Megan Johnson)
Pre-K & K: Gina Sowder & Edie Short
1st-3rd Grade Bible Hour: Lavana Tichenor

Schedule of Services

Bible Studies: Sunday 9:30am & 5:00pm / Wednesday 7pm
Worship: Sunday 10:30am

Connect with Us

Church Office	(317) 535-1627
Church Text:	(317) 953-5095
Website:	www.whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Email:	info@whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Prayer:	PrayerRequest@whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Social Media:	www.Facebook.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC_Youth
	www.X.com/@Whiteland_COC
Online Worship:	www.YouTube.com/@WhitelandCOC

Mail In Contributions

Whiteland Church of Christ / PO Box 85 / Whiteland, IN 46184

Leadership

Elders
Stan Davis (317) 507-1936 / Ed Tichenor (317) 412-2416
Minister
Ronnie Hewitt (317) 966-2029

Welcome

Thank you for being with us today. May you find your time here to be a source of renewal, hope, and belonging.

Prayer Requests

Rick & Ladonna Lowe: Passing of Ladonna's mom, Donna Hall. Funeral was Friday. **Virginia Short**: Currently on oxygen. **Della Turnbill**: Medical issue this past week. She is to have a heart monitor inserted soon. She has Cardiac CAT scan on October 3rd for watchman device installation. **Helen Shoopman**: Knee injection, doing better, no surgery needed. **Ronnie Sutton**: Knee issues, undergoing therapy. **Mary Walton**: Upper respiratory infection, on antibiotics. **Nick**: Wanda's son, severe migraines and malnourished. **Benny & Gayle Stephens**: Benny has lung issues, on oxygen. Gayle diagnosed with cancer, undergoing intensive treatment, in isolation. **April Ashley**: Headaches, dizziness, spinal fluid leak, had a spinal tap and tests.

Long Term Concerns

Samantha Brazel, GayLee's granddaughter (residential facility in Colorado). **Gavin Brooks,** son of Keith Huesman's friend (heart issues). **Juanita Brunnemer** (Shut-in). **Brandon Chance**, Edie Short's nephew (deployment). **Susie Crecelous**, GayLee's friend (bone cancer & lupus). **Edie Culin**, Wiwczaroski's friend (stage 2 rectal and lymphoma cancer). **Cindy Davis** (waiting for surgery). **Frank Denzio**, John's brother (kidney & liver issues). **Pam Dowty,** Ronnie Sutton's sister (Parkinson's). **Robert Ewing**, GayLee's nephew (bone & liver cancer). **Gloria**, friend of Hagan's (kidney and heart issues). **Moe Handy** (shut-in, severe shoulder & back pain). **Rex Hembree**, Della's brother (lung issues). **Angie Hewitt** (severe migraines, looking for employment). **Jamie Jones**, Hagan's nephew (coronary artery bypass and is on kidney transplant list). **Martin Julian** (shut-in). **Neil Kent**, David's brother (lung cancer). **Pam Lasiter** (ongoing health issues); **Sharon Lasiter** (cancer treatments). **Lynn,** aunt of Lonnie & Sonya's daughter-in-law (breast and spine cancer). **Clayton Marrott** (intestinal issues). **Leah Raker**, Kent's great-granddaughter (Rett syndrome). **Anthony Ross,** Gay Logsdon's nephew (dialysis). **Tim Scott**, Cindy Strope's brother (palsy, being treated with steroids). **Megan Setser,** Wanda's neighbor (recovering from brain tumor surgery). **Lonnie Shoopman** (non-Hodgkin lymphoma). **Vonnie Stonebraker,** Sowder's neighbor (palliative care). **Blanche Taylor** (shut-in). **Delbert Vibbert**, Lougene's nephew (COPD). **Mary Walton** (shut-in). **Tiffany Waskom**, Crystal Miller's co-worker (immunotherapy for cancer). **Wanda Weaver** (kidney disease and lupus). **Heather Wiwczaroski**, Eric's sister-in-law (recovering from spine surgery). **Jimmy Wooten** (Parkinson's); **Kevin & Mary Wooten** (Kevin - Cardiac Amyloidosis, chemo; Mary - Alzheimer's).

Missionaries

Jason & Devan Pierce (Resident Missionary, Freed-Hardeman University); **Caleb Pierce** (Student, Bear Valley Bible Institute); **Steve & Renee Gaudreau** (India Missions); **Shults-Lewis Child & Family Services**

Administration Record

2025 Budget: $178,787.94 Weekly Budget: $3,438.23

Last Week's Offering: $2,511.00

Attendance Last Week 78

Celebrations This Week

Birthday

28th Harrison Day

Oct 2nd Kathy Hanshaw

4th Tonya Dowell

Anniversary

29th Rodney & Tonya Dowell (18yrs)

Oct 4th John & Rhonda Denzio (45yrs)[

Assistance Needed

We need some more members to help clean the building. If you are willing to assist with this ministry, please see Cindie Cottingham

Youth Announcements

Eric and Amy would like to meet with the parents of all our youth (18 and under) after worship service this morning. Also, there is a weenie roast planned here at the building for Friday, October 3rd (6-9pm). All our youth (birth to 18) and their parents are invited. Please sign up on the sheet on the Youth Bulletin Board so they have enough food for everyone.

Boys to Men Campout

Mark your calendars for the annual campout. This year, it is set for October 10-11, beginning at 6pm. All ages are welcome to join us. There will be more information shared as it gets closer.

Morning Glories Ministry Brunch

The next brunch will be Saturday, October 18th at 10am in the fellowship hall. All our women are invited to join in with this ministry and fellowship.

Help Needed

Tana Kay is seeking assistance with moving two couches out of her old apartment. One of the couches needs to be disassembled to fit through the door and down the stairs. Please contact her if you are available to help.

Also, her new address is 7901 Rea Road; Apt. 162; Indianapolis, IN 46227

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, September 28	Zephaniah & Haggai
Monday, September 29	Zechariah 1-6
Tuesday, September 30	Zechariah 7-10
Wednesday, October 1	Zechariah 11-14
Thursday, October 2	Malachi 1-4
Friday, October 3	Matthew 1-4
Saturday, October 4	Matthew 5-6

Meditation of God's Word

Servanthood

As Jesus makes His way to Jerusalem to be executed, the mother of James and John requests that her sons be given a preferred seat, next to Jesus, in the kingdom of heaven. Both the disciples and their families have become preoccupied with status rather than serving. They have missed the whole point of Jesus' leadership. Jesus tells them plainly that His style of leadership stands in stark contrast to the world's. He teaches that the greatest must be the servant. Leadership is about adding value, not getting perks. Therefore, in Matthew 20:25-28, He teaches that we lead by serving and serve by leading.

"*But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles domineer over them, and those in high position exercise authority over them. 26 'It is not this way among you, but whoever wants to become prominent among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever desires to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.'*" (NASB)

Again, Jesus is addressing the disciples' misunderstanding of leadership and greatness, as they were focused on prominent positions in Jesus' kingdom, reflecting a desire for status and power.

Jesus contrasts the leadership styles of the world with His own. He points out that the rulers of the Gentiles dominate and exercise authority over their subjects. In stark contrast, He teaches that true greatness in His kingdom is found in serving others. He emphasizes that whoever wants to become prominent must be a servant, and whoever desires to be first must be a slave. This teaching is captured in Jesus' own example, as He came not to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.

This passage challenges us to rethink our understanding of leadership and greatness. It calls us to adopt a servant's heart, putting the needs of others before our own and leading by example. In a world that often values power and status, Jesus' teaching reminds us that true greatness is found in humble service.

When we embrace a servant's heart, we align ourselves with Jesus' mission and purpose. This means looking for opportunities to serve others in our daily lives, whether it's through small acts of kindness or significant sacrifices. It's about putting others' needs before our own and seeking to uplift and support those around us.

Furthermore, this passage encourages us to examine our motivations. Are we seeking recognition and praise, or are we genuinely striving to make a positive impact in the lives of others? True servanthood is selfless and seeks no reward other than the joy of serving God and others.

In a practical sense, we can apply this teaching by being attentive to the needs of those around us, volunteering our time and resources, and showing compassion and empathy in our interactions. It's about being the hands and feet of Jesus in a world that desperately needs His love and grace.

As we reflect on Matthew 20:25-28, let's ask God to help us cultivate a servant's heart and to lead by example in our communities. May we find joy and fulfillment in serving others, knowing that in doing so, we are following in the footsteps of our Savior.

...Ronnie Hewitt