Sermon Notes: Shining with Purpose

Introduction:

The Purpose of the Lamp (Luke 8:16; Matthew 6:14-16)

The Revelation of the Light (Luke 8:17)

The Responsibility of the Hearer (Luke 8:18; cf. vv. 4-15)

Levels of Listening

The True Family of Jesus (Luke 8:19-21)

Application: How to Shine

The Messenger

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

The Lord's Day, February 8, 2026

Order of Worship

Greeting: Rick Lowe
Scripture Reading: Heath Reeves (Luke 8:16-21)
Worship Leader: George Hewitt
Communion: Randy Sowder
Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt
(Shining with Purpose)
Announcements / Prayer: Stan Davis

During Sermon

Nursery: Kathy Hanshaw (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
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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. We hope you find your time here to be a source of renewal, hope, and belonging.

Recent Prayer Requests

Drew Burton is requesting prayers for his grandmother. She recently had surgery for melanoma and will be doing immunotherapy. Also, his finance's grandmother had an aortic rupture and had a new valve placed due to a heart attack. **Karen DeFord** will be having hip replacement surgery on the 26th. **Landry Johnson** will be having tubes inserted and possibly have his adenoids removed on the 20th.

Long Term Concerns

Gavin Brooks (son of Keith Huesman's friend, heart issues), **Juanita Brunnemer** (shut-in), **Eric Chamberlain** (Logan's dad, chemotherapy for bone cancer), **John Collins** (Hewitt's uncle, stage 4 prostate & stomach cancer), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend, cancer), **Tonya Dowell** (health issues), **Nancy Duncan** (Rodney Dowell's sister, needs kidney transplant), **Pam Dowty** (Ronnie Sutton's sister, Parkinson's), **Robert Ewing** (GayLee's nephew, bone & liver cancer), **Gloria** (friend of Hagan's, kidney & heart issues), **Moe Handy** (shut-in), **Rex Hembree** (Della's brother, lung issues), **Angie Hewitt** (looking for employment), **Jamie Jones** (Hagan's nephew, coronary artery bypass & kidney transplant list), **Martin Julian** (shut-in), **Neil Kent** (David's brother, lung cancer), **Pam Lasiter** (Lougene's daughter, ongoing health issues), **Sharon Lasiter** (Rosegate Nursing Center, Rm#120, hospice), **Lynn** (Lonnie & Sonya's daughter-in-law's aunt, breast & spine cancer), **Clayton Marrott** (intestinal issues), **Pat Martin** (Amy Wiwczaroski's dad, Parkinson's), **Brett Mason** (Rodney & Tonya Dowell's son, Leukemia), **Leah Raker** (Kent's great-granddaughter, Rett syndrome), **Bruce Roberts** (Lyndsay Trostle's uncle, colon cancer - hospice), **Anthony Ross** (Gay Logsdon's nephew, dialysis), **Heather Schmidt** (Amy Wiwczaroski's cousin, chemo), **Tim Scott** (Cindy Strope's brother, palsy), **Charles Speer** (friend of Ronnie & Angie, blood cancer and is receiving infusion treatments), **Benny Stephens** (oxygen), **Gayle Stephens** (cancer), **Vonnie Stonebraker** (Sowder's neighbor, palliative care), **Barb Surber** (Compass Park, Rm 1304), **GayLee Sutton** (wet macular degeneration), **Blanche Taylor** (shut-in), **Delbert Vibbert** (Lougene's nephew, COPD), **Tiffany Waskom** (Crystal Miller's co-worker, immunotherapy for cancer), **John West** (Dawn Elliott's friend, cancer), **Wanda Weaver** (kidney disease & lupus), **Jimmy Wooten** (Lougene's son, Parkinson's); **Kevin & Mary Wooten** (Lougene's son & daughter-in-law, Kevin - Cardiac Amyloidosis, chemo; Mary - Alzheimer's)

Ministries

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**

How do I become a Christian?

Hear the Word (Romans 10:17) / Believe the Word (John 20:31, Acts 16:31) / Repent of your sins (Luke 13:5, 15:7) / Confess Jesus to others (Matthew 10:32-33) / Be Baptized in the name of Jesus for salvation (1Peter 3:21, Romans 6:4-5, Acts 2:37-38)

Announcements

Celebrations This Week

Birthday

14th Chaz Redden

Anniversary

14th Rex & Karen DeFord (23yrs)

Area Wide Singing & Chili Supper

Our annual singing has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 28th at 5pm. We are inviting sister congregations to join us. We need some help with desserts for the fellowship supper. If you can assist with this need, please let George Hewitt know.

Morning Glories' Ministry Brunch

The next brunch for the women will be Saturday, February 14th, at 10am in the fellowship hall. See Inez or Della for more information.

Winter Blues Youth Event

There is a youth event scheduled for all our kids on Saturday, February 21st from 1-4pm, here at the church building. For more details, please see Eric and Amy.

Assistance Needed

We are looking for a couple more people to assist in the sound booth during worship services. If you are willing to help with this, please see George.

Ministry Updates

There are a few updates on the main bulletin board from our missions. Please take the time to stop and read them and pray for our missionaries and their ministries.

Cleaning Crew – February 8-14 (Team 1)

Finance Record for 2026

Weekly Budget: $3,474.56 Last Sunday Offering: $5,650.00

Attendance

Sunday: AM Bible Study (14); Worship (52); PM Bible Study (13)
Wednesday Bible Study (13)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, February 8	Leviticus 22-23
Monday, February 9	Leviticus 24-25
Tuesday, February 10	Leviticus 26-27
Wednesday, February 11	Numbers 1-2
Thursday, February 12	Numbers 3-4
Friday, February 13	Numbers 5-6
Saturday, February 14	Numbers 7

The Posture of Christlikeness

Every day without thinking about it, we adopt different postures – physical and spiritual. A slouched posture communicates fatigue. A lifted head communicates confidence. But the posture of the heart communicates something far deeper. It communicates who we trust, who we follow, and who we belong to. Scripture consistently shows that God is not just merely concerned with our actions, but with the posture behind them.

Paul said in Philippians 2:5-8 says, "*Have this mind in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by the taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance of man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.*"

Paul opens with: "Have this mind among yourselves…" He's saying Christlikeness isn't automatic. It's intentional. The Christian life isn't shaped by feelings or circumstances but by a deliberate posture of the heart. Christ emptied Himself – meaning that He didn't cling to His rights. He didn't demand recognition. He didn't insist on His status. Understand, humility isn't thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less. Spiritual maturity begins with the willingness to adopt Jesus' way of thinking. Humility is not as much a personality trait as it is a decision.

Jesus shows us that true greatness is found in letting go, not holding on. Jesus was "in very nature God," yet He did not cling to His rights, status, or privileges. The kingdom flips the script: greatness is not measured by what you grasp but by what you're willing to release. We imitate Christ the most when we loosen our grip on entitlement, ego, and the need to be first.

Again, He shows us that humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less and then allowing yourself to serve others. Jesus didn't deny His identity; He leveraged it for the good of humanity. Humility is not self-deprecation. It's strength under submission. It's choosing to serve even when you could demand to be served.

Servanthood is the shape of Christlikeness. "He took the form of a bond-servant." Jesus shows us that servanthood is not a task list; it was His identity. Therefore, ministry is not just something we do; it's something we are. Christlike servanthood always bends low.

Jesus modeled for us that obedience is the pathway of transformation, not just for us, but for those we serve. Our Savior was "obedient to the point of death." Therefore, obedience wasn't convenient, but costly. Obedience is not measured by ease but by one's surrender. God shapes us most deeply when we obey Him in the places that stretch us. The cross wasn't an accident, it was obedience lived to its fullest expression.

Christ's Humility is not just an example – it's empowerment. Paul doesn't say, "Try harder." He says, "Let the mind of Christ be in you." We don't imitate Christ by willpower alone. The Spirit forms Christ's mindset within us. But transformation is cooperative: God works in us as we yield to Him. Philippians 2:5–8 teaches that the path of Christ is the path of humble surrender, servant-hearted love, and obedient self-giving – and this is the mindset we are called to embody.