Sermon Notes: The Path of Discipleships (Matthew 4:18-22)

The Meaning of Discipleship

The Call to Discipleship (Luke 9:23-24)

The Cost of Discipleship (Luke 9:24)

The Practice of Discipleship (Phil 3:14)

Conclusion

The Messenger

Newsletter of Whiteland Church of Christ

Loving God / Loving People

The Lord's Day, Sunday, May 17, 2026

Order of Worship

Call to Worship: Randy Sowder
Scripture Reading: Chase Tichenor (Matthew 4:18-22)
Worship Leader: George Hewitt
Communion: Rex DeFord
Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt (The Path of Discipleship)
Announcements / Prayer: Ed Tichenor

Bible Hour During Sermon

Nursery: Hanna Redden (Sub: Kathy Hanshaw)
Pre-K & K: Gina Sowder & Edie Short
1st-3rd Grade: Tammy Burris

Schedule of Services

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

Connect with Us

Church Office (317) 535-1627 Prayer Text Line:(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

Recent Prayer Requests

Gina Sowder is doing better after having a reaction to some meds.
We extend our sympathy to the **Wiwczaroski family** following the passing of Eric's uncle, Bill Wiwczaroski, this past Wednesday.
Gene Doan, Rhonda Denzio's dad, saw an oncologist to discuss biopsy results on Friday.
Elise Short, Edie's mom, will be re-evaluated in 4-5 weeks for possible gall-bladder surgery.

Long Term Concerns

Rhonda Aliff (Pat Stinson's daughter, lupus, recovering from neck & spine surgery); **Suzanne Bielski** (Lonnie & Sonya's doctor, chemo treatments for cancer), **Gavin Brooks** (son of Keith Huesman's friend, heart issues), **Eric Chamberlain** (Logan's dad, infusion therapy for bone cancer), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend, treatment for Hodgkin's), **Tonya Dowell** (health issues), **Pam Dowty** (Ronnie Sutton's sister, Parkinson's), **Nancy Duncan** (Rodney Dowell's sister, needs kidney transplant), **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), **Susan Hembree** (Della's sister-in-law, severe abdomen issues), **Lonnie Hewitt** (recovering from neck surgery), **Keith Huesman** (recovering from broken neck), **Brittney Jackson** (Rodney Dowell's niece, cancer has metastasized), **Jamie Jones** (Hagan's nephew, coronary artery bypass & kidney transplant list), **Martin Julian** (shut-in), **Lillian Kelley** (mother of George's friend, Chelsea, Hospice), **Neil Kent** (David's brother, lung cancer), **Alana Lockridge** (14yr old daughter of Nicole, friend of GayLee, residential hospital), **Lynn** (Lonnie & Sonya's daughter-in-law's aunt, breast & spine cancer), **Amanda Magner & daughter, Alina King** (Amanda, Marsha Lowes' granddaughter & former member, iron infusion treatments for bone cancer), **Pat Martin** (Amy Wiwczaroski's dad, Alzheimer's), **Brett Mason** (Rodney & Tonya Dowell's son, Leukemia), **Don Meyer** (Ronnie Sutton's stepson, recovering from massive stroke), **Norma Nelson** (Della's friend, heart & lungs), **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), **Barb Surber** (Dementia; Compass Park, Rm 1304), **Delbert Vibbert** (Lougene's nephew, COPD), **Tiffany Waskom** (Crystal Miller's co-worker, immunotherapy for cancer), **Wanda Weaver** (lupus & kidney disease), **John West** (Dawn Elliott's friend, cancer), **Jimmy Wooten** (Lougene's son, Parkinson's), **Kevin & Mary Wooten** (Lougene's son & daughter-in-law, Kevin - Cardiac Amyloidosis, chemo; Mary - Alzheimer's), **Tim, Megan, & Ayden** (Wanda Weaver's neighbors: Ayden, 14yr-old, chemo treatments for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma)

Cleaning Crew – May 17-23
(Team 3)

Finance Record for 2026
Weekly Budget: $3,474.56 Last Sunday Offering: $3,303.00

Attendance Last Week
Sunday: AM Bible Study (21); Worship (71); PM Bible Study (---)
Wednesday Bible Study (21)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, May 17	2Chronicles 25-27
Monday, May 18	2Chronicles 28-31
Tuesday, May 19	2Chronicles 32-34
Wednesday, May 20	2Chronicles 35-36
Thursday, May 21	Ezra 1-3
Friday, May 22	Ezra 4-7
Saturday, May 23	Ezra 8-10

Celebrations This Week

Birthday
18th Heath Reeves, Lougene Wooten
20th Pat Stinson

Anniversary
18th Adam & Megan Johnson (12yrs)

Announcements

Family Love Feast Fellowship

Today is fellowship Sunday. We hope you will stay and have lunch with us. There is plenty to go around. Immediately following our fellowship, we will have our evening Bible study and then be dismissed for the day.

Church Workday

We have scheduled a clean-up day around the property for Saturday, May 30, starting at 8am. We need some help with hedge trimming, weed eating, and cleaning up curbs around the parking lot.

Senior Recognition Day

Mark your calendars: We will be honoring our 2026 High School graduates (Isaiah Boner & Ashton Hewitt) on Sunday, June 14th. We will have refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following our morning worship service.

Gospel Singing & Ice Cream Social

The Franklin Road Church of Christ is hosting a singing on Saturday, June 6, starting at 5pm. There will be an ice cream social following. There is a flyer on the bulletin board.

Gospel Meeting

The Stop 11 Road Church of Christ is hosting a meeting with Neal Pollard for June 7-10th. There is a flyer on the bulletin board with the times and their address.

www.facebook.com/faithappliedddaily

"Guarding the Gate of the Soul"

Words are never just words. Scripture consistently treats them as spiritual instruments that can build up or tear down, healing or harming, preserving life or inviting ruin. Scripture reminds us that the mouth is not merely a tool of communication; it is a gate. And every gate must be watched. Proverbs 13:3 "*He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.*"

Solomon's imagery is simple yet profound. A gatekeeper stands watch, alert to what enters and what exits. In the same way, the wise believer stands guard over his speech. He understands that careless words are not just harmless but are spiritual liabilities.

Jesus taught that our words reveal the condition of our hearts. He said in Luke 6:45, "*The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*" If the heart is the well, the mouth is the bucket that draws from it. What we say is never accidental; it is the overflow of who we are becoming.

The proverb promises that the one who "*guards his mouth preserves his life.*" This is not merely about avoiding trouble, although wise speech certainly does that. It is about cultivating a life shaped by righteousness, peace, and self-control. Guarded speech preserves life because it prevents unnecessary conflict. Many wounds in relationships are self-inflicted through unfiltered words. It protects our witness: A careless tongue can undo years of faithful influence. It nurtures humility: When we pause before speaking, we acknowledge our need for God's wisdom. It strengthens spiritual discipline: Self-control in speech trains the heart toward self-control in all things. Guarding our words is not silence; it is stewardship.

The second half of the proverb offers a sober warning: "*He who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.*" The image is of someone who speaks without restraint—no filter, no caution, no prayerful pause. Unrestrained speech leads to destruction because it magnifies pride. The unguarded tongue insists on being heard rather than being helpful. Gossip, slander, anger, and exaggeration all thrive where lips are wide open. Words spoken in haste often leave scars that apologies cannot fully erase, as well as dishonors God.

Guarding our mouths is not a matter of willpower alone. It is a matter of formation—allowing the Spirit to shape our hearts so that our words naturally reflect Christ.

...Ronnie Hewitt