

FAITHFUL IN LITTLE

The servant who was handed two talents heard the very same words from his master as the servant who was handed five. He did not receive less praise. He did not get handed a scaled down reward. When you read the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, notice how the master hands out his money. **Matthew 25.15:** *“And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability...”* The master decided how much to entrust to his servants. The servants did not choose them. None of the servants were judged on the size of what they were given. They were judged on what he did with it.

Consider what the master said to his servants. To the one given five talents, the master said, *“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”* (Matt. 25.21). Then skip down two verses. To the one given two talents, the master said the same thing. He said *“well done.”* He called him *“good and faithful”* (Matt. 25.23). Same promise of doubling his possessions and the same invitation into joy.

Consider the key words that used in these two verses. The word translated “faithful” is *pistos*. It carries the idea of someone who is trustworthy and reliable. The master was not judging based on output. He was judging based on whether this servant could be trusted. Then there is the word “few.” It translates the Greek word “*oligos*” meaning “little, small in number.”

How often do we measure ourselves against the churches that are larger in size? How many times have you counted the cars in the parking lot? Do you judge our success by the number in attendance? Jesus never asked you to have five talents. He asked you to be faithful with what you are given. Do you remember what God said through the prophet Zechariah? “For who has despised the day of small things?” (Zech. 4.10). In context, the people rebuilding the temple were embarrassed by how small it looked next to Solomon's temple. God told them not to despise it. Small is not the same as insignificant when God is the one who placed it in your hands.

So teach a small class. Visit one shut-in. Sing with all your heart in an auditorium that feels empty. Invite one neighbor. The Master is not counting heads. He is looking for faithful servants. And He rewards the same to every one of them.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
2424 McCARRAN ST.
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89030
(702) 642-3141

OCTOBER 4, 2026

WWW.NLVCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. † North Las Vegas, NV † 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: pruittl@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com
Facebook: Northside Las Vegas Church of Christ
YouTube: Northside Las Vegas Church of Christ

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

October 4, 2026

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

The Necessity of Scripture

I read a discussion where someone asked their “pastor” if a Christian should check in on other Christians. There were two things about this discussion that shocked me.

First, the answer shocked me. This pastor supposedly said that it isn't in the Bible. Therefore, Christians have no obligation to check in on one another. Had he not read we are to *“bear one another's burdens”* (Gal. 6.2). What about John who wrote that we are to help our brethren when we see them in need (1 John 3.17,18)?

Second, the response to the answer shocked me. The overwhelming response to this pastor's answer is that the Bible should not be the source of determining what we should do as Christians. Many insisted that asking if something is in the Bible is the wrong question to ask. One even said that if we went to the Bible to find approval for everything we do, the church would collapse. We wouldn't be able to have food drives, build recreation centers, and feed the neighborhood.

Most of the religious world does not believe that the Bible is the authority for what we do as the church and how we live as Christians. Yet how many times did Jesus answer questions by pointing to Scripture? (Luke 10.26; Mark 10.3; Matt. 12.3; 22.29-32).

The Bible is the only way that God communicates His will to man (Heb. 1.1; John 16.14,15). Therefore, we must appeal to the Bible to know what to believe and how to live (2 Tim. 3.16,17; 1 Pet. 4.11). CLP

DO NOT AVENGE YOURSELVES

2 SAMUEL 13:28

INTRODUCTION:

1. When we are mistreated by others, we are to trust in God to handle it. (Prov. 3.5,6; Ps. 37.3)
2. Absalom was a man of great potential, but his life was marred by great tragedy. (2 Sam. 14.25; 13.36,37; 15.23; 18.33)

I. HOW DID ABSALOM RESPOND TO ABUSE?

- A. Grudge: Absalom held a grudge.
 1. Amnon raped his sister Tamar (2 Sam. 13.11,14)
 2. Absalom stewed in anger. (2 Sam. 13.22,23)
 3. Absalom avenged his sister. (2 Sam. 13.28,29,32)
 4. We are not to avenge ourselves. (Rom. 12.19)
- B. Guilt: Absalom showed consciousness of guilt.
 1. **2 Samuel 13.34:** *"Then Absalom fled..."*
 2. Absalom hid for three years. (2 Sam. 13.37,38)
 3. We are all guilty before God. (Rom. 3.19)
- C. Grievance: Absalom had a grievance against David.
 1. Absalom was shunned by his father. (2 Sam. 14.24,28)
 2. Absalom demanded to see his father. (2 Sam. 14.32,33)
 3. We are not to be complainers. (Phil. 2.14)
- D. Guile: Absalom deceitfully stole the throne.
 1. Absalom campaigned against David. (2 Sam. 15.1-4)
 2. Absalom steals the throne of David. (2 Sam. 15.7-10,13)
 3. We are not to be deceitful. (Col. 3.9)

II. HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO ABUSE?

- A. Love your enemies.
 1. **Matthew 5.43,44:** *"love your enemies"*
 2. **Matthew 5.44:** *"bless those who curse you"*
 3. **Matthew 5.44:** *"do good to those who hate you"*
 4. **Matthew 5.44:** *"pray for those who spitefully use you"*
- B. Do not avenge yourselves.
 1. **Romans 12.19:** *"do not avenge yourselves"*
 2. **Romans 12.19:** *"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay"*
 3. **Romans 12.20:** *"If your enemy is hungry, feed him"*
 4. **Romans 12.21:** *"Do not be overcome by evil"*

CONCLUSION: How did Jesus respond to those who hated Him?

WHY DON'T THE ANGELS PREACH THE GOSPEL?

Jesus Himself appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus. An angel of God stood in the house of Cornelius. And yet neither one of them preached the gospel to the man in front of them. Why? The answer tells us a great deal about how God works, and about the job He has given to you and me.

In Acts 9, Saul is on his way to arrest Christians when the resurrected Lord speaks to him from heaven. Saul asks, *"Lord, what do You want me to do?"* (Acts 9.6). Now watch the answer: *"Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."* Jesus could have told Saul everything right there on the road. Instead, He sent him to a disciple named Ananias. And it was Ananias who said in **Acts 22.16**, *"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins."* The Lord appeared. But a man taught the gospel.

In Acts 10, an angel appears to Cornelius, a devout man who prayed and gave to the poor. But notice what the angel tells Cornelius to do. *"Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter... He will tell you what you must do."* (Acts 10.5,6). Though he knew it and was able to communicate it, the angel did not teach Cornelius the gospel. He told him where to find a man who would. Peter later explained that this angel told Cornelius to seek out Peter *"who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved"* (Acts 11.14). But don't miss this. The word "gospel" is the Greek word euangelion. Eu, good. Angelos, messenger. Literally, good news brought by a messenger. And angelos is the same word translated "angel." So in Acts 10 you have an angel whose very purpose was to be a messenger. But instead of delivering to Cornelius the message of the gospel, he told him where to find the message. God reserved the job of delivering the gospel message for His people.

Why would God do it this way? Paul tells us, *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us."* (2 Cor. 4.7). In other words, God put the most valuable message in the world inside ordinary clay pots, normal people like us (cf. 2 Cor. 2.14-16). That way no one can mistake the source of the gospel's power. Paul asked, *"And how shall they hear without a preacher?"* (Rom. 10.14). Sharing the gospel is not limited to the pulpit. It describes every Christian who tells someone else what God has done (Ps. 66.16).

Who is your Cornelius? Who is your Saul? Is there a neighbor, a coworker, or a family member who is waiting for someone to tell them what they must do? God is not going to send an angel to do it. He is sending you. You don't need all the answers. But the simple message can save the person you talk to this week.

CLP