

## **WHO AM I?**

### ***1 Chronicles 17:16***

***“Then David the king went in and sat before the Lord and said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house that You have brought me this far?””***

There are, what I call, “the forgotten books of the Bible.” Those are the books that we seldom read because they may not capture our attention as easily as other books. When you read the first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles you might get the impression that God intended them to be a cure for insomnia, unless you remember that God inspired this book for a purpose.

In ancient Israel, it was important for people to, not only know their national history, but also who they were individually. Each Israelite was not only a part of a nation; they were a part of a tribe. They also had an identity as members of clans. That's why genealogies are a big part of some books.

1 Chronicles 17:16 comes at a time in his life when David might have been disappointed. He has just been told that he will not be allowed to do one thing that he had dreamed about. God sent Nathan to tell the king “You shall not build a house for me to live in” (1 Chronicles 17:4).

If David were like me, his response would have been immature. Unlike me, he responded as a spiritual giant. Rather than get upset with God, he asked in wonder, “Who am I, O Lord God, what is my house that You have brought me thus far?” Rather than feel a sense of entitlement, David realized that he was undeserving of God's grace. God help us to develop the same attitude. Rather than moan, I ought to ask “who am I that God has blessed me so much?”

**--Ron Harper--**

# *The King, The Donkey, and the Fruit Tree*

## *Mark 11:1-14*

I know the title of this article sounds like an introduction to a terrible joke, but go with me on this. Mark 11 begins the famous narrative of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Jesus tells two of his disciples to go find a colt (as Mark puts it; others say donkey) that has not been broke to ride and bring it back for Jesus. Jesus rides the animal with no problems. (Having dealt with young, untamed horses and donkeys before, I can say this was a miracle.) Of course, you know how the story goes from here. What you may not be as familiar with is when Jesus, on his way to Bethany, cursed the fig tree for not bearing fruit. Yes, that's in the Bible, too.

For a fuller description of these events, you can read Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, and John 12. However, I want us to look at ourselves and see who or what in this story we are most like.

First, the King. Of course, we want to be like Jesus. If we are in Christ, we become a member of his body. Therefore, people should see Jesus when they see us. Jesus knew he was king. He accepted the praise of the people. I am not saying we should accept praise, rather I am saying the opposite. We, as the body of Christ, should be giving praise and glory to the king.

Second, the donkey. Have you ever met a stubborn Christian? Don't answer that... This donkey was one who had not been broke to ride and, oh yeah, did I mention it was a DONKEY! I often find myself being like this animal: stubborn and wild, not wanting to submit to the authority of the one directing me. Fortunately, Jesus has a way of breaking us from what the world would have us to be.

Lastly, the fig tree. After Jesus leaves Jerusalem and goes to Bethany, he becomes hungry and tries to eat from a fig tree. However, the tree had no fruit. We often use John 15 as an assurance verse where Jesus says, "Abide in me and I will abide in you," concerning the vine and its branches. However, Jesus also said if a branch does not bear fruit, it will be cut off and cast into the fire. Are we bearing fruit for Christ or are we dead like the fig tree?

Think about it. Which of these are we most like? Are we giving our king the praise he deserves or are we being stubborn and unfruitful?

**Joshua Houston**

## PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Edna Vance, Rick Acklin, Lester & Ann Clark, Wayne Mobbs, Peggy Gilbert, Mary Williams

## SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

## NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

### **\*MEMBERS**

**ADAMS PLACE:** Nora Fann\*

**DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA:** Jean Nickens\*

**NHC:** Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton\*, Sue Reeves\*, Ernestine Taylor\*

**STONES RIVER MANOR:** Margaret Davidson\*, Jeweldean Hall\*, Virgie Leonard\*, Laura Wisner\*, Lillian Whitworth, Edna Vance\*

## MILITARY:

Tony Berry



There will be a baby basket shower for **Leslie Conway** the basket is located near the kitchen.

There will be a bridal basket shower for **Charley Smotherman and Mara Bloomfield** who will be married on December 17<sup>th</sup>. They are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Target and Williams Sonoma. Charley is the son of Kelly Smotherman and the grandson of Charles and Ruthe Burton

## NEWS & NOTES

- Salem Creek is hosting a **shoe drive for the homeless**; please donate gently used shoes now - November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Gift bags for Shut-Ins.** This year we are asking members to bring in items from a suggested item list anytime up to December 10<sup>th</sup> when we will pack a bag for each shut-in. Anyone wanting to participate is invited to meet at the church building on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. to pack a bag and deliver them. Please see Larry Benson with any questions.
- **Stones River Manor** is collecting items for their Santa Store. Please donate new items; **all donations are due in by November 30<sup>th</sup> to the Manor.** Printed copies of the donation list are in the foyer.
- **Youth Devo** – Tonight at the home of Wendell and Carol Wilson. Also, bring a \$10 gift for the gift exchange.
- **IMPORTANT** - In preparation of the **2017 Membership Directory**, please check your information for any additions or corrections. A printed copy of this list is in the foyer.
  - \***check out the bulletin board for activities and weekly updates.**

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We're on the web!  
[www.salemcreekcoc.org](http://www.salemcreekcoc.org)

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday  
 Morning Worship 9:00 am  
 Bible Classes 10:15 am  
 Evening Worship 5:30 pm

Wednesday  
 Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May) 10:00 am  
 Evening Bible Classes 6:30 pm

### ELDERS

B.K. Ham  
 Jim Hatfield  
 Jon Holland  
 Andy Mitchell  
 Randall Phifer  
 Keith Short

### MINISTER

Ron Harper

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

### DEACONS

Rick Acklin Rick Corum  
 Larry Benson Andy Melton  
 Michael Bowman Brian Melton  
 Craig Buckner Alan Pepper  
 Joe Byars Wendell Wilson

### FOR THE RECORD

*November 20, 2016*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>AM worship</b>	<b>209</b>
	<b>Bible classes</b>	<b>153</b>
	<b>PM worship</b>	<b>145</b>
	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>\$7,033.00</b>

**Wednesday PM Bible classes**  
**Wednesday AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)**

*\*When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. ladies class will be cancelled\**

### *To Our Honored Guests...*

*We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!*

*We were honored by your presence!*

### GREETERS

*Please be at the door  
 30 minutes prior to service*

### November 27

Drew & Amanda Mitchell

### December 4

Jim & Gayle Glover

