

LUKE 14:24: HATING FAMILY?

How does one explain Jesus' injunction for followers to "hate" their families?

When Christ observed that great crowds were following Him—some obviously for mundane reasons (John 6:26), He challenged them thus: "*If any man cometh unto me and hateth not his own father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren and sister, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple*" (Luke 14:26).

To some this passage is quite difficult for it appears to contradict other biblical injunctions which require love for family both physical and spiritual (Ephesians 5:25; 1 John 2:11).

In ancient times, however, the term hate was frequently employed idiomatically to denote simply the preference of one thing over another. For example, in Genesis 29:31 it is said the Jacob "*hated*" his wife Leah yet the context makes it very clear that he merely loved his other wife Rachel more than Leah (v. 30).

Accordingly, when Jesus demands that we must hate our family members, He is not suggesting that we must literally have ill feelings for them. Rather, the Lord is stressing that we must love Him more than all others even those dearest to us. This is borne out by a comparison of Luke 14:26 with a parallel in Matthew 10:37, where Christ declares: "*He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me.*"

Underline therefore, the word "*hateth*" in Luke 14:26, and in your margin write, literally, love less: see Genesis 29:29-30; Matthew 10:37. —Wayne Jackson

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Times of Worship:

SUN: 9:00am - Worship

10:15am - Bible Study

6:00pm - Worship

WED: 7:00pm - Bible Study

Elders:

Bob Gillen 728-1660

Don Gregory 728-9556

Bill Hollins 455-7590

Bob Kerce 728-8382

David Sullivan 728-5878

Charles Willmore 728-4968

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MONITOR

Vol. XXXV

July 21, 2010

No. 29

CARL'S THOUGHTS:

We really enjoyed our vacation but it is always good to be back home. We missed all of you. This past week Tereisa Adams obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ. Tereisa lives at Kingwood Arms and we are so happy that she has chosen to be baptized into Christ. Look what Paul reveals to us in Galatians 3:26-27 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Then on Monday night, after a series of studies, Brenda Trail who also lives at Kingwood Arms rededicated her life to the Lord and expressed her desire to be recognized as a member at Main Street. I hope that all of you will take the opportunity to meet both of these new members.

Vacations will soon be over and school will resume and all will be back to routine. May God bless you.

Keep your eye on the cross of Jesus Christ!

Wednesday July 21, 2010

FOR THE RECORD

Morning Worship: (July 18)	257
Bible Study	167
Evening Worship.....	175
Midweek Bible Study (July 14).....	126
Contribution: (July 18).....	\$6,613

HOSPITAL

Willie Jean (Bill) White, Man. Medical, Rm. 121.
Polly Hoover, Stone Crest in Smyrna.
Shelba Miller, Adams Place, Rm. 1128.

AT HOME

Dessie Taylor, Fairy Johnson, Kenneth Poff,
Sally Owens, David Browning, Joyce Finchum
Barbara Wright, Joe Sims, Beverly Woods.

READ NEW TESTAMENT THRU:

Steve Barlow, Wayne Johnson

BAPTISMS

Our hearts were made to rejoice over the baptism of Charlotte Johnson & daughter, Sabrina on Tuesday. They live at 78 Glenburg Dr., Phone: 952-3542. Charlotte 4/3, Sabrina 6/4. Sabrina has 4 children, Taylor Johnson 6/5, Spring 7/26, Summer 7/26, Winter 7/26.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to Barbara Kinslow in the death of her brother-in-law, Perry Weston, whose funeral was recently in California.

PANTRY ITEMS

Oats, Cooking Oil, Sugar (small)

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Wilson & Sue Henley on their 69th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, July 25th.

REDEDICATION

Our hearts were made to rejoice over the decision of Brenda Trail to rededicate her life to Christ and to place her membership at Main St. She lives at Kingwood Arms, #308, Phone: 728-0008, F12/24. We welcome her into the family of God.

TIME CHANGE

The elders are now considering changing the time on Wednesday evening from 7:00pm to 6:30pm during the winter months. You may express your opinion on this to any elder. They welcome your response.

MEN TO SERVE

THOSE TO SERVE, SUN. JULY 25:

9:00AM

Song Leader: Wayne Rigney
First Prayer: Jonathan Hall
Scripture: Adam Willmore
Closing Prayer: Scott Vaughn

6:00PM

Song Leader: Jonathan Hall
First Prayer: Jayson Little
Scripture: Adam Willmore
Closing Prayer: Gene Parker

A.M. "Without Blood" (Hebrews 9:15-22)

P.M.: "Out of the World" (John 15:13-19)

PICK-UP ATTENDANCE CARDS, SUN. JULY 25:

Aaron Vaughn & Andrew Green

NURSERY ATTENDANTS, SUN. JULY 25:

Debbie & Chelsey Farless, Heidi Barnes

THOSE TO SERVE, WED. JULY 28:

Devotional: Bob Kerce
Announcements: Scott Vaughn
Opening Prayer: Bill Hollins
Closing Prayer: John Lawson
Song Leader: Jonathan Hall

Remember to notify David Sullivan if you are not able to serve at your appointed time.

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

02-Jeff & Sandy McCullough
03-Danny & Angela Michaels
11-Alan & Dorothy Bailey
12-Dan & Linda Mullins
22-Bob & Elizabeth Kerce
26-Ricky & Betty West

The tongue weighs practically nothing, yet so few people can hold it!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

03-O.D. Crosslin	16-Juanita Henegar
04-Kiera Livingston	16-Mallory Laine
06-Leon Lawson	17-Glenna Poff
08-Glenda Parker	21-Hannah Rogers
08-Ann Threet	23-Mural Dreaden
09-John Jouett	23-Kathryn Ewell
10-Lorene McReynolds	24-Kimberly Penney
11-Alan Bailey	24-Jeremy Woods
11-Shawna Gibson	25-Mary Whitaker
13-Patsy Sims	26-Dan Mullins
13-Debbie Vaughn	30-Ella Livingston
14-Makayla Reel	31-Wanda Bryan

GOSPEL MEETINGS

July 25-July 28, Fredonia, 7:00pm

Speaker: James Caldwell

July 25-29, Beech Grove

Speaker: Charles Williams

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE

Lessons Graded (7/14-7/21).....	997
Requests For Personal Contact	1
Students served	399

STUDENT COMMENT

Thank you for letting me do this Bible Study. I will try my best on all of them. (Goochland VA)

GIANT-KILLING 101

The people of God are not promised a life of ease, without struggle. In a world characterized by unbelief (1 John 5:19), believers know that they must fight to gain the victory (1Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:6-8). Thus, we must expect conflict and struggle in this old world.

The Old Testament people of God were delivered from slavery in Egypt, and sustained in the wilderness wanderings by the miraculous work of God (the ten plagues, manna, water from the rock, shoes that did not wear out, etc.), but still they had to endure hardships. When they got to the border of the promised land, the ten faithless spies brought back a discouraging report—

there were giants in the land (Num. 14). So disheartening was this report that the people threatened the life of Moses, and sought to return to Egypt (to slavery)! Two things they had forgotten: the God who had miraculously brought them so far could and would do it again, and facing down troublesome enemies is part and parcel of the experience of God's people in this world! With this as a backdrop, what can we learn in killing our giants?

Giants must be identified! The spies had been sent out at God's command, to identify the enemies. They were large men dwelling in walled cities (Num. 13:31-33). In the same way, before we will be successful in killing our giants today, we have to identify them. We must know Satan and his tactics (2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11). We must know ourselves and our weaknesses. Do we struggle with worry, doubt, unfaithfulness, lack of self-control, a biting tongue, or a heart filled with evil thoughts? Identify your giants first.

Have some faith that you and God can win! The wilderness crowd doubted God's power and help. So, they exhibited an "evil heart of unbelief" and refused to fight with God (Heb. 3:7-19). They preferred the privations of the wilderness and the bondage of Egypt to the bountiful land which God promised to give! A lack of faith produced cowardice and disobedience and rebellion. We must learn to take God at His Word and trust in His help to overcome our giants (2 Cor. 5:7).

Squelch discouraging thoughts and talk! The discouraging report of the 10 spies was able to overcome the good report of Joshua and Caleb. Too many modern saints love to be the purveyors of discouraging words. They have no faith, they see only the bad, and never learn to emphasize the positive. It is better to "talk up" the church than to drag it down by faithless verbiage. You will never defeat your giants with negativism and defeatism, either personally or collectively. When we think of ourselves as "grasshoppers," the giants look even bigger. God's faithful people are promised the victory of faith (1 John 5:4). It is time to quit whining and start fighting! Faith without works (obedience) is dead and the dead don't win (James 2:14).

—Darwin Hunter