

with a pittance!

*Conclusion...*

The church is not to be in the business of food, fun, and frolic. There is nothing wrong with these thing of themselves; but God has given the church a high and noble purpose which is grounded in the spiritual rather than the carnal. Are you concerned about the cry that Jesus might utter as He witnesses the display in the religious world? Let your concern draw

# The Carriage Drive Messenger



Volume 4

April 19, 2009

Number 15

NEWSWORTHY NOTES:

*This section removed to preserve member's privacy*

## WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY FATHER'S HOUSE?

by Bob Pulliam

In Matthew 21:12 & 13 we can read of the incident where Jesus drove the moneychangers out of the temple in Jerusalem. In justifying His action, Jesus appealed to Isaiah 56:7, "My house shall be called a house of prayer."

People today often show shock and surprise that the Jews would actually do such a thing in the temple; but few realize that they did so as an "expedient". Sacrifices were necessary for the Passover (a lamb to be

**Radio Program: WJLS 99.5FM every Sunday at 9:00AM**

**Website: [www.beckleychurch.com](http://www.beckleychurch.com)**

The *Carriage Drive Messenger*  
is published weekly by the  
Carriage Drive church of Christ,  
Beckley, WV  
Editor: Bob Pulliam  
Building Phone: 252-8108

### TIMES OF SERVICES

**Sunday:** Bible Study 10:00am  
Morning Worship 10:50am  
Evening Worship 6:30pm  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study 7:30pm

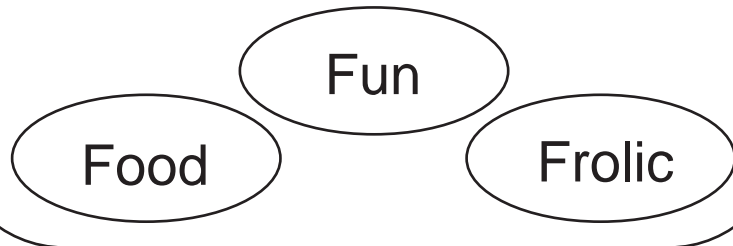
Only Two Weeks Remain  
Before Our

## **Gospel Meeting**

May 3 - 8

*Make Sure It's On Your Calendar!*

**The religious world wants  
to make a three ring circus  
out of the Lord's church...**



more exact). The people came many miles to Jerusalem for the Passover. To help these poor travelers worship God, the Jews exchanged various currencies, and sold the necessary Passover items in the temple area (all for a nice profit).

As I compare the actions of the Jews with the actions of the denominations today, I see little difference. That's right - little difference! The Jew justified his practice on religious grounds - they were helping people worship God. The denominations today build soup kitchens, halfway houses, gymnasiums, recreation areas, hospitals, etc, etc,... all in the name of religion. We are told that these things "bring a lot of people to Christ".

Now I ask, "Where is the difference between what the Jews were doing, and what the denominations do today?" Anyone can create something and find good results to "justify" it. It is the godly and righteous who simply take what God has authorized, and use it to His glory. The church is God's house today (I Tim 3:15). Could it be possible that Jesus is still asking, "What have you done to My Father's house?"!?

*An Interesting Observation...*

Notice that Jesus didn't appeal to a "Thou shalt not" to tell the Jews that they were wrong. Instead, He told them that the temple had a purpose and they were corrupting that purpose! I learn from this that God has told me what He wants me to do. To please Him, I must do just as He says; nothing less, nothing more. We don't go to the Bible looking for "thou shalt nots" to determine what God would have us do! God has given us a pattern that clearly defines the church and its work.

To drive the point further, notice that Paul wrote to the Romans and

told them that the *gospel* is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). He also told the Romans that people are saved by men going forth and proclaiming that gospel (Rom 10:11 - 17). Man today tries to "help" the gospel by offering food, fun and frolic for those who will listen to it. Those who would introduce such into the "church" are simply saying "the gospel isn't powerful enough for 20th century man. We'll give it a little push." Food, fun and frolic have become big merchandise for denominations. If they want to stay in business (yes, business), they have to compete with the high-tech sect down the street that just put in a swimming pool and tennis courts. Sadly, some of our own brethren have followed suit.

*Jesus Fed the Five Thousand...*

Many like to resort to the instance of Jesus feeding the five thousand. True enough, in Matthew 14:13 - 21, Jesus fed upwards of five thousand people. But most never get around to three things in regard to this incident. The first is the parallel account offered in John 6, where after leaving them and them finding Him, He refuses to feed them again. In fact, He rebuked them for following Him for loaves and fishes rather than the spiritual life He offered (Jn 6:26ff). Now in which soup kitchen or "fellowship hall" today have you heard rebuke for coming after food? Jesus did not work the miracle simply to feed a bunch of people, which leads me to the second thing that people never seem to note about this incident. Jesus fed these people for a sign. The point they were intended to see is found in John 6:32f:

*"Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*

As Jesus would say two sentences later, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger..." (v35). This miracle taught the multitudes that Jesus was the life giving force from the Father to save mankind!

The third factor that seems never to be noticed is that this incident was not a case of the church feeding people. The church was not even in existence yet. In fact, Jesus had not yet made that famous promise to build His church (Matthew 16:18)! If such is an example to be followed by the church, then let it be accomplished by the same means. Feed a multitude