



# The Planter

"The seed is the word of God", Luke 8:11



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## New and Improved

His ministry is exploding, His popularity expanding, and His teaching exposing, but His opponents are exasperating. Luke relates the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. His antagonists had already reasoned in their hearts that Jesus was a blasphemer (5:20), and now they will get more vocal in their criticism. They represented what was, the status quo. As it was, the Pharisees and scribes held sway over the people and kept them in line with their self-serving interpretation of the Old Law. Jesus comes along and changes their rules, sharing God's truth, God's values, and God's priorities. It clashed with their comfortable norms.

JESUS CHANGED WHO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW GOD (27-30). This starts with His calling of Levi, the tax collector. A hated class, publicans not only collected taxes from their fellow-Jews for the Roman Empire, they lived well by taking more than was required by Rome (cf. 19:8). So, they were considered traitors and thieves. Jesus gave Levi the chance to overcome his sinful past. He expands that opportunity to others, whom the Pharisees and scribes call "tax collectors and sinners" (30). This "rabble" was beneath these spiritual "giants," but not beneath the Son of God. He wanted them to follow Him. What a needed reminder for us as we seek "prospects" to follow God today.

JESUS CHANGED HOW ONE SHOULD LOOK AT THE LOST (30-32). Instead of hopeless and useless, Jesus saw them as spiritually sick, but valuable, souls in need of His healing. The compassion He demonstrated in helping the physical outcasts like the leper and paralytic He now shows to the spiritual outcasts like the tax collectors and the other people at Levi's table. If anyone ever had a reason and right to look down on sinners, it was Jesus. But that seems to be the farthest thing from His mind. How do they look from our point of view? How do we show it?

JESUS CHANGED WHAT KIND OF OUTLOOK A FOLLOWER CAN HAVE (33-35). That Jesus could so freely enjoy a fellowship meal with this "rabble" clashed with their own concept of "faithfulness" (the Pharisees had disciples, too, 33). It wasn't that John's approach

pleased them any better (see 7:30-35), but they attempted to use John's methodology against Jesus to pit them against each other. Jesus alludes to what lay ahead for Him, when He would no longer be with them, and what lay ahead for them when they would be persecuted for their faithfulness to Him. Though there would be tough times ahead, He wanted them to focus on the joy they could experience in their daily walk with Him. This is so helpful to us, not to worry about the troubles of the future but to strengthen our relationship with Jesus each day. This helps us now and later.

JESUS CHANGED WHERE PEOPLE SHOULD TURN FOR TRUTH (36-39). While the scribes and Pharisees wanted people to submit to their shallow righteousness and tainted view of the Law of Moses, Jesus wanted people to accept the new revelation He came to earth to bring. He came to fulfill the law, both to reveal it and accomplish it (Mat. 5:17-18; Luke 16:15-17). What He was teaching could not be superimposed on the Old Law; such a patchwork approach did not honor the Law and did not accurately represent Jesus' teaching. There was perfect harmony between them, but His new way was superior in every way to it. To these religious leaders, whose pride and position were at stake, that idea was repulsive. But for those truly in search of God, this was what they were looking for!

We're 2,000 years removed from this cultural situation. However, we must still be very careful that we do not allow the traditions and customs that we inevitably establish to be on a par with Jesus' doctrine. That requires diligent, regular Bible study. It means approaching God's Word without a tainted, preconceived point of view. Evaluate based on what it says, not what we prefer. This will change who we approach, how we approach them, and what we approach them with. But, oh what a great "product" we have to share!

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**April 6, 2025**

Sunday Morning  
Opening Prayer Carter Logan  
Closing Prayer Joseph Tucker

Scripture Reading Dan Logan

Sunday Evening  
Opening Prayer Payton Payne  
Closing Prayer Charles Logan

**Remember in prayer:**

Gartrelle Davison is recuperating at home from a broken arm.

Larry Jones, Liz Jones, Heidi Street, Don Duncan, Randall Glaze, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Carrie Price, Stefan Hoglund, Tammy Henderson.

**Oak View Nursing Home:** Betty Floyd, Jane York.

Today we will have our **Fellowship Meal** after our morning services; **Our Kid's Sing and Singing/Devotion** will be at 1:00 pm

**Ladies Day** April 27.

**Youth Day** May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 pm with **Jayse Pruitt** speaking.

Record for the week of March 23, 2024  
10 am 11 am 5 pm Wed Contribution  
70 60 58 69 \$3825.00

**Worship Service Assignments for April**

Announcements: Adam Cordell

Lord's Supper: Steve Fletcher

Eldon Alexander Jim Warnock Payton  
Payne

**Weekly Assemblies**

**Sunday:**

Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study: 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship: 5:00 p.m.  
First Sunday 1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

**How Can We Know the Bible is True?**

There are several facts that prove the Bible is true. First, we have more ancient manuscripts of the Bible than any other ancient writing. "Parts of the New Testament have been preserved in more manuscripts than any other ancient work. There are over 5,800 complete or fragmented Greek manuscripts, 10,000 Latin manuscripts and 9,300 manuscripts in various other ancient languages...."

Bruce M. Metzger wrote, "In evaluating the significance of these statistics...one should consider, by way of contrast, the number of manuscripts which preserve the text of the ancient classics. Homer's Iliad...is preserved by 457 papyri, 2 uncial manuscripts, and 188 minuscule manuscripts."

When reading the Bible there are many scientific truths revealed that "science" did not discover for hundreds or thousands of years. Until modern times a medical cure for disease was blood-letting. The sick person went to the barber who would open a vein and drain "diseased" blood out of the body. That is where we get the barber pole. The red stood for blood and the white stood for the bandage. When modern medicine discovered what the Bible taught from ancient times, that the "life of the flesh is in the blood" (Leviticus 17:11), it was horrified. The barber was "demoted" and the "doctor" elevated. Our first President died due to blood-letting. This is just one example.

Add to this the fact that apostles died for the cause of Christ rather than recant what they were teaching about Him and His Church.

**Elders:**

Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

**Deacons:** Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

**Minister:** Hugh Glaze

**Song Leader:** Adam Morgan