

Then They Understood

By: Dan Jenkins

When Jesus came into the lives of those fishermen from Galilee, His message sounded so different from anything they had ever heard. He did not teach as those leaders in the synagogue. The Sermon on the Mount ends with these words. “The people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Matt. 7:28-29). His method of teaching was not the only difference between Him and other teachers. His message revealed a New Testament way of living.

When He described how John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecy that Elijah would come, the apostles could not understand how that could be. When He explained that difficult prophecy to them the Bible described what happened. “Then His disciples understood...” (Matt. 17:13).

In Matthew chapter sixteen, there is a description of His confrontation with the Pharisees and Sadducees and their request for a sign. He left them and went with His disciples to another place. He said to them, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” They failed to see how He was not speaking of actual leaven, and they arrived at the conclusion that He was rebuking them because they had failed to bring bread so they could share it. Jesus rebuked them and described them as those who had such little faith. He reminded them of feeding the 5,000 and also of the 4,000. Had they remembered these two events, they should have understood that He was not concerned about getting bread.

It was at this point that the situation changed. “Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of Pharisees and Sadducees” (v. 12).

There is a parallel to this event in our own world when those who are religious leaders fail to reveal the New Testament way of living. An illustration of this is the prevalence of the use of the sinner’s prayers to describe the path to Jesus. This prayer often consists of about twenty words—when one says it, he is told that he is immediately saved. This prayer is not found even one time in the entire Bible.

The first recorded use of it was in 1741, but it was not until the next century that it became widespread. Neither Jesus nor His apostles ever told any man to use this prayer. There is a path to heaven He has revealed to us. I challenge you to study the book of Acts, where many asked the question about what they must do to be saved and heaven’s answer to the question was given. It is far different from saying about twenty words! Consider these words, “Beware of the leaven (the teachings) of pastors and televangelists” who teach a path to salvation no one ever heard of for hundreds of years.

When Doubts Arise

By: Selected

The devil is the Master of Doubts! He has mastered the ability to plant seeds of doubt regarding just about everything! For example: who would have ever thought that someone would doubt what a man is and doubt what a woman is. That's the devil at work! He has all sizes of doubts in his bag—he likes to start with small ones and then work his way up.

Has this Master of Deception ever used one of his “devices” (2 Cor. 2:11) to cause “doubts” to “arise in your heart” (Luke 24:38)? Doubts about God, about Jesus, about the Bible, about the church, about doctrine, about morality, about eternity, etc.? What can you do when doubts start to creep in and settle themselves down in your heart? It is usually helpful to just go back and make sure your foundation in the basics is rock solid.

1. The God of the Bible exists. Of this, there can be NO doubt! “His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made” (Rom. 1:20). “The creation of the world” is on full display 24/7 for anyone and everyone to see, examine, test and draw honest, evidence-based conclusions. Examine the evidence! Reason soundly!

2. The Bible is fully inspired of God. Of this, there can be NO doubt! One of the eyewitnesses affirmed that “we have the prophetic word confirmed” (2 Pet. 1:19). He knew that what was written and what he was writing was of no “private interpretation...but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (1:20-21). Again, the evidence is on full display. Read the Bible. Examine the evidence of Divine origin within its pages! Reason soundly!

3. Whatever the Bible says is from God. When I know (with no reason to doubt) that the God of the Bible exists and that He

gave every word of the Bible, then I can have absolute confidence that what this Book teaches is “perfect...sure...right...pure...true and righteous altogether” (Psa. 19:7-9). I can trust every word!

God teaches in the Bible that there is only one church (Eph. 4:4). No reason to doubt that!

God teaches in the Bible to sing acapella in His worship (Eph. 5:19). No reason to doubt that!

God teaches in the Bible that He wants males to lead the church (1 Tim. 2:8-14; 3:1-13). No reason to doubt that!

God teaches in the Bible that there are only two genders (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:4-5). No reason to doubt that!

God teaches in the Bible that to change His Word leads to anathema (Gal. 1:9). No reason to doubt that either!

When doubts arise, check your foundation! Don't let the devil exploit any weak spots! If God says it, that settles it!



Upcoming Events

Sun. Dec. 7: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning service with a 12:45 afternoon service. Please bring a covered dish/dessert.

Fri. Dec. 12: Ladies Ornament Exchange @6:30pm at the FitzSimmon’s home. Please bring a wrapped ornament and finger foods.

Sun. Dec. 14: Youth devo at the McCoy home after evening worship. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Sun. Dec. 21: White Elephant fellowship after evening worship here at the building. Please bring a wrapped gift and finger foods.

Wed. Dec. 31: New Year’s Eve Fellowship. More details to come.

Sat. Jan. 17, 2026: Midtown will host Ladies Day with speaker Erin Tanner. Registration begins at 8:30am.

February 20-22, 2026: Midtown’s Youth Winter Retreat. More details to come.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Barry Lehtinen who had hernia surgery and will be recovering for several weeks.

Tom Cullen had a sacral fracture in the base of his spine. He has been trying to heal for a month.

Jim Hutt who has cellulitis.

Jerry FitzSimmons is in DeTar and having weekly dialysis treatment.

Jerri Jeffres is at Twin Pines on Mockingbird.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of November 30, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Jack Jobes
Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer.....Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Lupe Escojido

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread.....James Cammock
Cup..... Ron White
Offering..... Bryant Siegel
Assist..... Blake Jacobs
Assist..... Luke FitzSimmons
Assist.....Caleb Lehtinen

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Kirk FitzSimmons
Closing Prayer..... Benny Horton

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Ron White/
James Cammock

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassCody McCoy
Song LeaderLuke FitzSimmons
Devotional Benny Horton

Other

Prepare Communion for Dec.....

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Zain Terry.....Nov. 30
June Fielder.....Dec. 1

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Give, and it will be given to you: good measure,
pressed down, shaken together, and running over
will be put into your bosom. For with the same
measure that you use, it will be measured back to
you.
Luke 6:38

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of November 23, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....84
A.M. Worship.....109
P.M. Worship.....74
Wednesday Worship.....53

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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