

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

994 Old Spanish Trail
Slidell, LA 70458-5016

PHONE/ FAX: (985) 643-4826

October 5, 2015

Preacher's Point

By *Dan Schillinger*



Wake up! Christian Parents --Part 2 of 2

It is well-known that many of our children raised in the church are leaving by their second year of college. Two major reasons for this are worldly influences and neglectful parents.

If we want to combat worldly influences, it is imperative we get involved in our children's life. Stop relying on others to teach them about God because God has given you that responsibility. Before you can teach them, you must be committed to serving God yourself. You cannot tell children how they should not do certain things if you are doing them. Your children will follow you actions, not your empty words. In other words, practice what you preach. When your children see your dedication to God and how you strive to be a good example, it will make a deeper impact on them.

One generation can either cripple the church or strengthen it. The next generation is in your hands, so I hope you will wake up and take on the responsibility God has given you. Otherwise, we might hear the following words: *"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children."* (Hosea 4:6).



The Word of God!

Today's Sermons

a.m. "Truly Free"

Romans 7:14-24

p.m. "Worth Any Price"

Matthew 13:44-52

Welcome Visitors!

We are pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you to our service. We think you will find our congregation family to be one that enthusiastically embraces newcomers and warmly welcomes them into our fellowship. We hope you feel right at home as you join us in worship, praise and thanksgiving.

Upcoming Sermon Series

Beginning in about three weeks, the elders are planning to begin a Sunday morning sermon series on discerning God's will as it pertains to matters of marriage, divorce and remarriage. Dan will present the first lesson but the elders will preach most of the remaining sermons.

“REMEMBER IN PRAYER & ENCOURAGE”



With Visits, Calls, & Cards

The Family of Jaime Molina - suffering diabetes-related stresses on an ongoing basis, especially the children Lacey and Bubby.

Roger Whitley (in-law of the Moragnes) - suffering from emphysema in North Carolina..

Angel Mangus (of Houston, TX, niece of Carl Mangus) - afflicted with inoperable stage 4 brain cancer.

Jase Roig (premature infant son of Colton Roig) - growing and showing some signs of good development, though he is still afflicted with an arachnoid cyst in his brain, and cardiac openings that have not yet healed.

Marie Peterson - had a hysterectomy this week and is recovering in room 309 at Ochsner Medical Center, North Shore, on E. Gause.

Tod Grabert - facing serious back surgery tomorrow in the Lacombe Hospital involving the removal of some present hardware.

Walter Acker, Jr. (“Butch”) - recently hospitalized with fluid congestion in his heart.

Dwight Jones - still healing very well following his recent prostate removal surgery. He is out and about some, but not yet returned to work.

Ronald Molina (Gerald's brother, in E. Tennessee) - diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Mildred Tymkiw - staying now at her daughter's home here in Slidell as she strives to recover from complications following her recent heart-valve surgery. She is walking some now.

Jerry Kimbrough (former member here, now at the church of Christ at S. Baton Rouge) - diagnosed with cancer in his eye, and will be undergoing chemotherapy soon.

Ken Jones - thanksgiving that he has now recovered pretty well from his annual September post-traumatic stress syndrome.

Shirley Ervin - thanksgiving that she is healing well following recent neck surgery and is striving now to return to normal activity levels.

Lucille Delaney (Dorothy's daughter-in-law, near Hattiesburg) - recovering from about a foot of her intestine being removed.

Stephanie Smith (sister of Kevin Cox) - needs surgery for her right shoulder, but a calcium deficiency won't permit this now.

Anna Jones (Mr. Dale's daughter) - hospitalized briefly a week ago for an unexplained loss of vision in one eye.

Jaimie and Jessica (two of Molina's daughters) - that they would get their spiritual life together.

Margaret Schillinger - experiencing some limited relief from her recent knee-pain flare-up.

Fairie Roig - also has a recent flare-up of pain in her right knee.

Zach Steele - for success and healing through the process of receiving his long-awaited bone marrow transplant.

Rosa Nuñez (good friend of the Vargas family) - having serious painful health problems.

Jessica Fowler (Jesse and Shirley's granddaughter, a resident of Lockport, LA) - has some vexing problems besetting her.

Roy Carter, Jr. - healed completely now from an apparent insect bite.

Terri Jones - pray that she'll come to feel

better through her negative phases in her Epstein-Barr disorder.

Dale Epperley - awaiting a new prosthesis that will relieve the pain and inflammation in his leg.

Gerald Molina - still seeing doctors for spinal stenosis.

Sharon Honoré (sister of Anita, and a member at the Crowder Blvd. church) - has advanced breast cancer.

Clara Leonard - overall pain continues to subside somewhat, though her ankle bothers her now.

Bobby Leonard - awaiting test results from his recent appointment with a kidney specialist.

Devon Nelson (Roig's grandson) - George asks that we pray for him that he will stay focused on soon enlisting in the U.S. Army.

Pray for all who are travelling.

Pray for Latino evangelism in our area.

Pray for our elders: Courtney Cheri, Dwight Jones and Gerald Molina.

Pray for President Obama and all our elected officials.

Pray for our men and women in our armed forces, both here and abroad!

* * * * *

The Old Testament Narratives: Their Proper Use

Adapted from Fee & Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (3rd edition)

The Bible contains more "narrative" than it does of any other literary type. Over 40 percent of the Old Testament is narrative, and it is the single most common type of literature in the entire Bible. The following Old Testament books are largely or entirely composed of narrative material: Genesis, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Dani-

el, Jonah, and Haggai. Moreover, Exodus, Numbers, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Job also contain substantial narrative portions. In the New Testament, large portions of the four Gospels and almost all of the Acts are also narrative.

The Nature of Narratives

Narratives are stories. Narrative, though, is a better term to use than "stories" because story has come to mean something that is fictional, as in "bedtime story" or "a likely story." It also tends to mean a single story with a single set of characters and a single plot. The Bible, on the other hand, contains what we often hear called God's story--a story that is absolutely true, crucially important, and often complex. It is a magnificent story, grander than the greatest epic, richer in plot and more significant in its characters and description's than any humanly composed story could ever be. Bible narratives tell us about things that happened--but not just any things. Their purpose is to show God at work in his creation and among his people. The narratives glorify him, help us to understand and appreciate him, and give us a picture of his providence and protection. At the same time, they also provide illustrations of many other lessons important to our lives. All narratives have a plot and characters (whether divine, human, animal, vegetable, or whatever). The Old Testament narratives, however, have plots that are part of a special overall plot, and have a special cast of characters, the most special of whom is God himself.

Three Levels of Narratives

In Old Testament narratives the story is being told, in effect, on three levels. The top level is that of the whole universal plan of God worked out through his creation. Key aspects of the plot at this top level are the initial creation itself; the fall of humanity; the power and pervasiveness of sin; the need for redemption; and Christ's incarnation and sacrifice.

The middle level centers on the line of God's chosen people that results in the nation of Israel. These are the themes of the call of Abraham; the establishment of an Abrahamic lineage through the patriarchs; the enslaving of Israel in Egypt;

God's deliverance from slavery and the conquest of the promised land of Canaan; Israel's frequent sins and increasing disloyalty; God's patient protection and pleading with them; the ultimate destruction of northern Israel and then of Judah; and the restoration of the holy people after the exile.

The bottom level consists of all the hundreds of individual narratives that make up the other two levels. Examples include the narrative of how Joseph's brothers sell him to foreign caravaners heading for Egypt; the narrative of Gideon's doubting God and testing him via the fleece; the narrative of David's adultery with Bathsheba, and many more.

We must carefully note that every individual Old Testament narrative (bottom level) is at least a part of the greater narrative of Israel's history in the world (the middle level), which in turn is a part of the ultimate narrative of God's creation and his redemption of it (the top level). This ultimate narrative goes beyond the Old Testament through the New Testament. You will not fully do justice to any individual narrative without recognizing its part within the other two.

Sometimes a narrative is made up of a group shorter, individual narratives; such a narrative may be referred to as a "compound narrative." An awareness of these levels of narratives will help us to be more discerning in our application of Old Testament narratives in our own lives and in our service to others. When Jesus taught that the Scriptures "... bear witness to me" (John 5:39), he could *not* have meant every short individual passage of the Old Testament. He *did* mean those individual passages, including narratives, that are messianic or otherwise identified in the New Testament as a type of Christ (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:4). These are an important part of the Old Testament, but only a small portion. He also meant the ultimate, top level of the narrative, in which his atonement was the central act, and the subjection of all creation to him was the climax of its plot. Thus he taught that the Scriptures in their entirety bear witness to him and focus toward his loving lordship.

What we have, then, are individual narratives (sometimes of a compound nature) within a major

narrative within an ultimate narrative. Some of the compound narratives are composed of a large number of individual narratives. In the New Testament we have individual narratives (such as the triumphal entry, Luke 19:28-46) within the larger narratives (Luke-Acts), within the ultimate narrative of God's whole story as it is told in the Bible. The Old Testament is similar. For example, the large compound narrative that we call the "Joseph narrative" (Genesis 37- 50) contains many shorter individual narratives about Joseph. These include the narrative of his first dreams (Genesis 37:5-11), the narrative of his rise and fall as a slave of Potiphar (Genesis 39), the narrative of his burial of Jacob in Canaan (Genesis 50:1-14), etc. Yet all are part of the great, entire Bible narrative.

There is nothing wrong with studying any individual narrative all by itself. Indeed, that is highly desirable. But for the fullest sense, you must finally see that individual narrative within its larger contexts.

A



Ω

Our Leaders!

Elders

**Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina**

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

**Jesse Fowler
James Richardson
Hector Urbina**

Our Services

<i>Sunday Morning Bible Class</i>	9:30 a.m.
<i>Sunday Morning Worship</i>	10:30 a.m.
<i>Sunday Evening Worship</i>	5:00 p.m.

<i>Wednesday Evening Bible Class</i>	7:00 p.m.
---	------------------

<i>Stitches of Love</i>	Tuesday 9:30 a.m.
--------------------------------	--------------------------