

Lewiston Church of Christ

May 7, 2023



MESSENGER *Growing Friendships, Families & Faith.*



Weekly Services

Sun. Bible Study 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship 10:45 AM
Sun. Day/Evening Groups
Wed Bible Study 6:30 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Joe Bieren: 208-305-1136

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

DEACONS

Education: Shawn Bolm
Finance: Tom Hill
Outreach: Mark Whittaker
Tech & Safety: Eric Kjorness

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building: Ken Vogtman
Custodian: Hannah McKee
Fellowship: Joe/Carrie Bieren
Grounds: Cody/Doyle Dawes
Sing Ministry: Timauri Stearns
Secretary: Renee Hill
Technology: Cody Dawes

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Email:

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Web Site:

www.lewistonchurchofchrist.org

FB:

Class & Sermons online
Check email notification

Monthly Service Schedules:

Posted in the foyer. Please find a replacement if you will be gone.



The Parable of the Listeners

All gospel preachers soon learn that doing the best they can in the pulpit is futile if people don't listen. Your role as a listener is every bit as consequential as is the role of the preacher. And for both preacher and listener, preparation should begin long before the delivery. The powerful 19th century London preacher, Charles H. Spurgeon (1834–1892), put it this way:

"We are told men ought not to preach without preparation. Granted. But, we add, men ought not to hear without preparation. Which, do you think, needs the most preparation, the sower or the ground?"

You came this morning with expectations. What are they? More specifically, what are you listening for? If it is for encouragement, you are likely to find it. If you came for entertainment, you might get that too. If for guidance, that's good as long as the direction offered is rooted in God's word. But that calls for you to dig into God's word long before the preacher steps into the pulpit. Did you come looking for something to criticize? Don't worry, you'll find it. Listeners tend to hear what they are prepared to hear.

Jesus told a parable about four kinds of listeners. The preacher has little control over the kind of soil his message lands on. It is up to you to be fertile enough as a listener to let the gospel seed take root and then grow for the nourishment of others.

NOTE: The statue pictured above is titled, "**The Sower**," by Lee Oscar Lawrie (American, 1877–1963). It stands atop the Nebraska Capitol building in Lincoln. It represents Nebraska's agricultural heritage, a heritage Jesus' listeners shared 2,000 years ago. It serves as a lightning rod for the capitol while casting seeds into the wind to yield growth. A preacher's job is to cast forth the gospel message faithfully. Your job is to let the gospel land on fertile soil. JMS