

Echo Hills

Church of Christ

June 22, 2014

A Place of New Beginnings

"Nearby stood six stone water jars ..."

You may recognize that statement from John chapter 2 where Jesus attended a wedding celebration. A rather embarrassing thing happened there at that party, they ran out of refreshments. They ran out of wine. Jesus took something ordinary, just water, and transformed it by his presence and his power into sparkling wine. John said that this was the first of the signs by which he would reveal his glory (John 2:11). The Apostle wrote his Gospel account, which is very different from the other three, around 7 signs or miracles for the first half of the book and the last half about the last 7 days of Christ's life on earth.

Numbers have significance in the Bible. The number 7 is considered a perfect number, the number symbolizes completeness. If you think about it, our lives are run by the number 7. How many days in a complete week? That's right, we can't imagine our lives without those seven days. We know what we are going to do on Tuesday, and we look forward to Saturday and then of course Sunday. Another number with significance is the number 6, it is the number for man and also for sin. It is a little less than perfection, that is 7. So the number 6 is less than perfect and less than complete. Let's apply this knowledge to unraveling the mystery of the 6 water jars. Why were they there, those 6 water jars? Things don't happen by accident in the Bible. The meaning is those water jars represent man. John explains that they were used for the purification of the Jews. They were there for a religious purpose. The Jews made a ritual out of washing. It was more than cleanliness it had a religious purpose. The Pharisees washed their hands many times a day and before eating they would wash and then let their hands drip dry from the elbow. So what you have symbolically is man standing there with his religion, with his rituals, and his regulations, but notice, he is empty. The first thing Jesus did to the 6 water jars was to fill them. Then he miraculously transformed them into something that gave joy. Now I want you to see this, you can be religious, you can have your good works, your good deeds, you can pray and go to church and you can still be EMPTY! When you don't make yourself available to God, when you don't wait on him, when you are not following the Lord he can't bless and use you. You see God cannot bless those who rebel against him. But when we are striving after the Lord, when we are obeying his will and asking him to fill us with his Spirit the Lord blesses us. Jesus fills us with the word of God and fills us with his Holy Spirit, then his miraculous touch transforms us and it's then we are full and overflowing with joy.

Jesus had the harshest criticism for the Pharisees, the ones that should have known God, the ones who studied the holy scriptures, the ones who saw after Temple worship, the ones who should have known the heart of God. But what did Jesus say to them? "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." (Matthew 15:8) They had their religion, they had their ritual, and their regulation, but they had no relationship, no joy. They were empty. Thank God Jesus came to save us from religion. In Matthew chapter 23 Jesus pronounced woes on the Pharisees and on Jerusalem as a whole. It's some of the most scathing language in all the Bible. There is coming a day when the Lord will pronounce the final condemnation on those who refused to believe in him and take him as their Savior. Folks, there are only two groups of people in the whole world, those with Jesus and those without Jesus. But it's the bad news that makes the good news so good. We can come to Christ in humble obedience, we can ask God for his wisdom, we can accept his word, it's then that he fills us and with his miraculous touch and we will overflow with joy. Let us pray everyday for the Lord to fill us and transform us.

– *Andy Jones*

<p><u>Last Week's</u></p> <p><u>Attendance:</u></p> <p>Sunday Morning.....99</p> <p>Sunday Night.....NA</p> <p>Wednesday Night.....87</p>	<p><u>Echo Hills Ministry:</u></p> <p>This Week's Sermon: J.J. Van Dyke</p> <p>REACH Ministry Director: David Senn, Jr.</p>	<p><u>Recent Contributions:</u></p> <p>Contribution 6/8.....\$1,415</p> <p>Contribution 6/1.....\$2,415</p> <p>Contribution 5/25.....\$1,316</p> <p>Contribution 5/17.....\$2,438</p> <p>Contribution 5/11.....\$1,097</p> <p>Weekly Budget Needs.....\$1,681</p>
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- We have another exciting summer planned so please also make sure to remember these upcoming dates and events for the REACH program:
 - ◊ Reach Camp June 28-July 4
 - ◊ Otter Creek DC July 7-10
 - ◊ Mission trip July 11-19

- Mark your calendars for next month's baby shower at Echo Hills celebrating the coming arrival of Kaleb with Blake and Sarah Southall. The shower will be Sunday morning, July 27th immediately following morning worship services with a potluck dinner planned that Sunday as well.
- A few of our men have joined a softball team with Rivergate church of Christ and the season has started! Games are mostly on Monday nights and played at Moss Wright Park in Goodlettsville. Times are posted on the foyer calendar and please feel free to enjoy the warm weather to come support the team!
- In efforts to keep the bulletin up to date, please remember to email Melissa Montgomery at "mdholley@gmail.com" with any needed updates and/or removals to our list. Thank you!

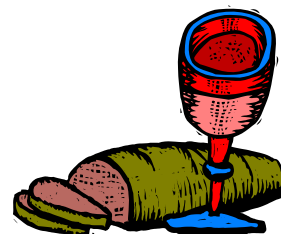
Serving on the Lord's Table this month...

June 1: Andy Jones

June 15: Rich Van Dyke

June 8: Jeff Brake

June 22: Brandon Montgomery



Announcements...Jeff Brake

If you are unable to serve, please contact Chris Hayes at 948-1071 or uthayes24@gmail.com

Those to keep in your Prayers:



- JEAN MCCASLAND DIAGNOSED WITH ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA
- LINDA ALLEN
- DAVID GURCHIEK
- LARRY FOSTER
- JERRIE JOHNSON (Mother of Matt Johnson)
- NADINE DANIEL
- EMILY KUYKENDALL
- ROWEENA GOOLSBY
- JEFF & KIM BRAKE
- VINAY & SUNEETHA KUMAR
- JOHNNIE ANDERSON FAMILY
- CHARLOTTE WARD (Mother of Emily Hayes) RECOVERING FROM FALL
- CAROL SOUTHALL (Mother of Blake Southall) DECLINING VISION
- CALEB WILSON
- ANITA SCHMITT (Friend of Ron & Jenny Lux)
- BLAKE & SARAH SOUTHALL
- MARGARET & ANDY JONES
- SANDY THOMAS (Barbara Brake's daughter)
- JUDITH LEDDING (friend of Emily Kuykendall)
- "BIG BOB." (friend of Emily Kuykendall) RECOVERING FROM BROKEN HIP
- ALISA VAN DYKE RECOVERING FROM GALLBLADDER SURGERY
- OTTIS PILKINTON (Grandfather of Jared Dickens) RECOVERING FROM BLADDER SURGERY
- COLETTE ANDRE

<p>Echo Hills church of Christ 1106 Campbell Road Goodlettsville, TN 37072 Email: contact@echohillschurch.org</p>	<p>We're on the web! www.echohillschurch.org</p>	<p>Sunday Worship Classes: 9:15 am & Worship: 10:15 Sunday Night Classes: 6pm Wednesday Night Classes: 7pm</p>
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