

# *The Flesh Was Willing but the Spirit Was Weak*

Arthur Barry

When Jesus was in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, His disciples were hard pressed to stay awake. (Mark 14:32-42) Jesus was praying to His Father in hopes that the storm that was about to fall upon Him could pass by and leave Him alone. He had seen the clouds gathering and already the cruel winds were driving hard all around Him. He knew that He could not weather this storm. He must move out of its way or else He must be destroyed by it. His disciples could not see the storm, however. There were no winds blowing against them. The only struggle for them was the struggle to keep their eyes open on a warm, quiet night on the Mount of Olives.

For three years they had been close companions of this man upon whom had fallen some unseen, terrible woe. He had amazed them with His powers and comforted them with His promises. They had traveled too far with Him to turn back now, even if they may have preferred to be at home in a nice, comfortable bed.

*And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."* Mark 14:37, 38

Sometimes you just have to sleep, but it seems extraordinary that not one of the disciples could stay awake. Usually at least one out of eleven will be able to resist sleep. Couldn't they have taken turns to stay awake? Couldn't they see the storm at all? They had nothing to say to Jesus. He was only a short distance from them, but He might as well have been on another planet.

Not too long before that night these men had been awake when Jesus was very tired and had fallen asleep. Sometimes you just have to sleep, but it seems extraordinary that Jesus could sleep then. He was very close, but it seemed like he might as well have been on another planet. Couldn't He see this storm? How could He not feel it and hear it? What kind of a sleep was it that had no response to howling winds and crashing waves? It would have been bad enough if He had been snuggled up in bed in a home, but here He was in the bow of a boat on the Sea of Galilee...

*"And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"* Luke 8:24-25

I guess we could say, on this occasion, that the flesh was willing, but the spirit was weak. Those of us who have the spirit of Christ know that even if our physical eyes don't see Him, He is still right here and, should a storm descend upon us, it descends upon Him also. I have to think that Jesus knew that there would come a time when His disciples would fall asleep while He really needed their company in a time of storm. As disciples we may find ourselves robbed of sleep and possibly lacking in faith. The solution to such problems is to stay close to Him anyway.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

September 5, 2021

## **WELCOME!**

### Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

### Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

---

**All the churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

---

**Today's Theme: TBA**

Paul is preaching today

**Scripture Reading: TBA**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

**valleycitieschurchofchrist.org**

Find us on Facebook:

**www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc**

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the Psalms and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** September 8<sup>th</sup>, at the building, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing his lessons on the book of Matthew. Come at 6 and bring something to eat with us before the lesson if you like.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday):** September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class will resume on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> here at the building.** We will meet at 10am. We will study the words of the Apostle Peter, using the study book Living Stones by Casandra Martin.
- ❖ **Second Annual National Door-knocking Day** for Heart to Heart, Home to Home. October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- ❖ **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing-** October 31<sup>st</sup>. Where: TBA



- **The Regional 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing last Sunday evening was a great success in terms of fellowship and churches represented!**
- We will be receiving 50 MAGI boxes on September 8<sup>th</sup>. We have lists of what can be put in these boxes before the **deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Our boxes will be heading to children in Honduras via the church there.
- **Barrys are having a wing ding** at their house this Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> for friends and neighbors, family and brethren. The Fun Bus Band will be providing some entertainment. Starting at 3pm, dishes to pass gratefully accepted, but not necessary. Please bring lawn chairs if you have them.
- **Alexander Tullis is visiting from San José, CA.**

## PRAYERS

- **Pray for the people of Afghanistan as there is turmoil while the Taliban takes control of the country.**
- Pray for the people of **Haiti** as they try to recover from the earthquake. Also pray for the people along the **East Coast** as they clean up after Hurricane Ida left tornado and flood damage and deaths.
- **Sue Barry**, Arthur's sister, is currently in remission from metastatic breast cancer! Praise God!
- **Daniel Barry**, Arthur and Sandy's grandson in Houston, is recovering at home from a car accident last week.
- Pray for **Jackie**. She is dealing with edema of the legs and feet. She is also having congestive heart failure. Pray for Darlene as she cares for her and pray that Jackie can make a wise decision about whether to continue staying at Darlene's or to keep her apartment on Keystone.
- **Gail Westerhold** is well enough to drive Jerry to worship this morning after her cancer surgery. For this we thank the Lord! Jerry was not well last week.
- **Miki's cousin by marriage, Steve Noble**, needs a lung transplant. Please pray for him and his wife Donna.
- Pray for **Linnett Short** (lung cancer), **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army), **Pat Guthrie** (lung cancer), **Dan Myers** (several health concerns), **Arthur's brother Chris** (Alzheimer's).
- **Pray for our new ladies Bible class.**

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.