

Lessons from the Heart

The Apostle Paul: 'Once a Hater ... Now a HERO'

By Micah Hudson

Our church is doing a short series on heroes in the Bible. Four of us picked a different person to preach about over the next few weeks. I chose to talk about Paul. I believe Paul is a hero for many reasons. Yet, most notably for his conversion experience from persecuting and hating Christians and what they stood for to fully following Jesus and proclaiming the Gospel throughout the known world of his time.

In Acts 26:1-29, Paul retells his conversion story to Agrippa and Festus. He admits his prior persecution of Christians (which included Stephen's death recorded in Acts 7). Paul was a "hater" who stood in the background while others carried out the act of stoning. Did you know that you can be guilty of the act of hatred without even throwing a stone? Like remaining silent while a "friend" belit-

ties another friend right in front of you. Like watching someone throw a word, an attitude, or an object at a co-worker or classmate that no one else seems to like. When you stand on the sidelines and consent to abusive behavior, you consent to the act of hatred and thus are just as guilty.

Great heroes of faith can point out their own flaws. They can admit when they should have taken a different stand for the rights of others and did not. Paul was that kind of hero amidst his persecution as he is on trial for his belief in Jesus' resurrection. Paul is willing to admit that he helped to persecute other Christians for the same reason that is being persecuted at that moment. Heroes can admit their flaws because they now have the power of Christ living in them.

At another point in this



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story, Paul retells of his trip to Damascus. On the way he is blinded by a light from heaven and falls to the ground. A voice speaks from heaven, "Why are you persecuting me?" Paul asks who is speaking, and the voice says, "I am Jesus." This was a critical moment for Paul. Would he accept this truth (and commands) that Jesus presents to him? Or, will he continue on his way to Damascus to persecute more Christians? Will he follow Christ or continue to persecute Him?

Paul decides to respond to the truth of Jesus and the reality of His resurrection. As Jesus puts it, Paul's eyes were opened to the things he hasn't seen before, and he has turned from darkness to the light and power of God. Thus, heroes of faith respond appropriately to the truth at critical moments in their life. He could have

chosen his same path and direction, but he realized that Jesus had the "real" truth.

I pray that you and I will be able to also respond appropriately to the truth (Jesus' voice, direction, and word) when it is presented to us. There are several critical moments, personally or publically, every month when we face critical moments in our faith. It is at these moments that we need to stand up for the truth of the Gospel and Jesus' resurrection. If we don't, we will continue on our present direction and continue to persecute Jesus.

Oh God, help me (and each person reading this column) to follow You and to proclaim You at those critical moments in my life, because You are my HERO! Amen.

Micah Hudson is youth pastor at Delphi United Methodist Church.

AIM educates prospective students about IUK

Comet staff report

High school seniors and juniors are invited to attend an Academic Interest and Majors (AIM) Day on Tuesday at Indiana University Kokomo.

AIM Day, which will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., is a campus visit experience designed to introduce prospective students to specific academic programs, the campus and its students. The day-long program partners high school students within their area of interest, and is packed with information to help students make the best college decision.

Attendees will have the opportunity to chat with current students, meet with academic advisors, and visit classrooms among other things. While the day is designed mainly for students, parents are welcome to accompany their student.

Reservations can be made by contacting the Office of Admissions at (765) 455-9217 or toll-free at (888) 875-4485, or by registering online



DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

SS=Sunday School	SW=Sunday Worship
AMERICAN UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Larry Williams, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.	FLORA FIRST BAPTIST: 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Rex Charles, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	FLORA FIRST BRETHREN: 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ) S. Center Street, Flora. Sam Davenport, interim pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Dwight Monical, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.	FLORA GRACE BRETHREN: 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.
BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Roussakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.	FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m.
BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Tim Pohlman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Children's Church: 10 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m., Youth Groups: 6 p.m.	FLORA UNITED METHODIST: 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Rex Charles, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.
BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST: Bonnie Shoaf, pastor. SS: 11:00 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.	FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST: Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BURNETTSTOWN FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.	GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Joe Whitehead, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BURNETTSTOWN CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	HICKORY GROVE CHURCH: CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
BURNETTSTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 11:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Chris Murphy, pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.
CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY: Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.	JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gammell, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.
CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9 - 9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.	LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.	LIVING STONE CHURCH: 54 Main St., Rossville. Sunday Services: 8:50-9:20 Coffee and Fellowship, 9:30 worship. Children's church available
COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.	LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH: East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Kasey Schnepf, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.	LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: CR 300 N, SE of Camden. Guy Studebaker, pastor. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN: 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.	OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN: 11810 N 900W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Rev. Ashli Cartwright-Peak. SW: 10 a.m.
CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: Jeff Brown and Ann Bingham, lay pastors. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN: Highway 29 in Deer Creek. Dave Herron, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. SS: Adult 8:45a.m. & Children 10:00 a.m.	PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST: John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Bible Study: Thurs. 6:30 p.m.
DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH: 315 E. Main St, Delphi. Rev. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.	PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.
DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST: 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 5 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DELPHI: Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Bill McLean. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD: 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: Pastor. Howard Hendrickson. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
DELPHI PENTECOSTAL: Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. Thurs. night Bible Study: 7:30p.m., SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.	RADNOR CHURCH: Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
DELPHI UNITED METHODIST: Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor; Micah Hudson, youth pastor.	ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN: Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
DELPHI WESLEYAN: North Union Street, Delphi. Dan Fisher, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN: SW: 9:30 a.m.
EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST: SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Mark Gaylor, pastor. SS: 9 a.m.	ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: 16 Casson St., Judd Dickey, pastor. Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship 9:30 a.m.; SW 10:00 a.m.
FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST: SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.	ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Floyd Smith, pastor. SS: 9a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
FAITH LUTHERAN: CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.	ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. John Evertt, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., Fellowship: 9:45 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST: Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH: U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST: St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. James Lund, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD: US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 am, Wed. Family Night: 6:30pm, Adult & Youth Services Sun. Evenings 6pm.	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC: 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN: Paul Marcellino, interimpastor. Tue. 9:30 a.m. Women's study, Wed. 6:30 p.m. WW. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Sun. Youth Service 5:30 p.m. Sun. Bible study: 7:30 p.m.	ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST: Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN: Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. SW: 8:30 a.m. SS: Same as Worship.
	WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES: 869 N. 90 E., Burrows, Greg Britt, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. (574) 652-2280
	YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST: Carl Davis, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

Be delicate when telling adopted child about birth parents

QUESTION: What should you tell an adopted child about his or her biological parents in "closed" adoption situations? How do you answer his tough questions about why he wasn't wanted, etc?

DR. DOBSON: I'll give you an answer written by a Dr. Milton Levine in a vintage parenting book titled "Your Child from 2 to 5," and then I'll comment on his recommendation. Dr. Levine was associate professor of pediatrics, New York Hospital, at the time. He listed three possible ways to tell an adopted child about his origin, as follows:

1. Tell the child his biological parents are dead.
2. State plainly that the biological parents were unable to care for their baby themselves.
3. Tell the child nothing is known about the biological parents, but that he was secured from an agency dedicated to finding good homes for babies.

Dr. Levine preferred the first approach because "the child who is told that his biological parents are dead is free to love the mother and father he lives with. He won't be tormented by a haunting obligation to search for his biological parents when he's grown."

He continued, "Since the possibility of losing one's parents is one of childhood's greatest fears, it is true that the youngster who is told that his biological parents are dead may feel that all parents, including his second set, are pretty impermanent. Neverthe-

less, I feel that in the long run the child will find it easier to adjust to death than to abandonment. To tell a youngster that his parents gave him up because they were unable to take care of him is to present him with a complete rejection. He cannot comprehend the circumstances, which might lead to such an act. But an unwholesome view of himself as an unwanted object, not worth fighting to keep, might be established."

I disagree with Dr. Levine at this point. I am unwilling to lie to my child about anything. I would not tell him that his natural parents were dead if that were not true. Sooner or later, he will learn that he has been misled, which could undermine our relationship and bring the entire adoption story under suspicion.

Instead, I would be inclined to tell the child that very little is known about his biological parents. Several inoffensive and vague possibilities could be offered to him, such as, "We can only guess at the reasons the man and woman could not raise you. They may have been

Announcements

REVIVAL MEETINGS will be held at the Flora Mennonite Church Nov. 9 through Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m. The speaker will be J. Alvin Snyder of Tower City, Pa. The public is invited.



Dr. Dobson

extremely poor and were unable to give you the care you needed; or maybe the woman was sick; or she may not have had a home. We just don't know. But there is one thing we do know. She must have loved you very, very much — enough to give you life and to make sure you were raised in a loving home where you would be taken care of. We're so thankful that the Lord led her to let us raise you."

QUESTION: I understand your emphasis on a child being taught to respect the authority of his or her parents but doesn't that coin have two sides? Don't parents have an

Pray for our nation to seek God

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou dost preserve my life; thou dost stretch out thy hand against the wrath of my enemies, and thy right hand delivers me. Psalms 138:7 Pd. Adv.

equal responsibility to show respect for their children?

DR. DOBSON: They certainly do! The self-concept of a child is extremely fragile and it must be handled with great care. A youngster should live in complete safety at home, never being belittled or embarrassed deliberately, never punished in front of friends, never ridiculed in a way that is hurtful. His strong feelings and requests, even if foolish, should be considered and responded to politely. He should feel that his parents "really do care about me." My point is that respect is the critical ingredient in all human relationships, and just as parents should insist on receiving it from their children, they are obligated to model it in return.

Send your questions to Dr. Dobson, c/o Focus on the Family, PO Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; or to his Web site at www.focus.org. These questions and answers are excerpted from books authored by Dr. James Dobson and published by Tyndale House Publishers. Dr. Dobson is the founder and chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home and Judeo-Christian values. Copyright 1997 James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copy secured.

REVIVAL MEETINGS
at
Flora Mennonite Church
November 9-16, 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: J. Alvin Snyder, Tower City, PA.
"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found"

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