**SERVICE SCHEDULE for September 06, 2020**

**Announcements for the Week** Cliff Davis

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Cliff Davis **Prayer-** Cliff Davis

**Song Leader-** Roger German **Song Leader-** Bill McIlvain

**-- Comments –** Mark Tally **Comments –** Andy Fuller

-- **Assisting –** Dean Shacklock **Communion –** Ron Bailey

**-- Assisting –** John MacQuilliam

**-- Assisting –** Josiah Phillips

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Scripture –** Dan Woodward **Scripture –** Jared Davis

**Closing Prayer-** Buck Phillips **Closing Prayer-** Mark Tally

**Wednesday Night – September 09, 2020**

**First Prayer–** Lucian Griffing

**Song Leader –** Cliff Davis

**Invitation –** Connor LaChapelle

**Closing Prayer –** Ron Bailey

**September 27 Evening Service** – Richard Boone

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **September** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **6** | Johnson | Take the time to police your area before you go. |
| **13** | A. Griffing | Cheerios and other cereals can draw ants. |

**More Sermons In A Sentence**

**Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!**

**Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, it's just a bend, not the end!**

**When God solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in YOUR abilities.**

**Worrying does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE**

**Live connection starting 9AM. CALL (678) 701-5124 Enter PIN: 1234**

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***Schedule of Services***

**Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.**

**Wi-Fi Password: church1234**

**This bulletin is published weekly. Edited by Bill McIlvain.**

**Send any articles for the bulletin to** [**Preacher@covingtonchurchofchrist.com**](mailto:Preacher@covingtonchurchofchrist.com)

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**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

**Deacons: Cliff Davin, Darryl Griffing, Buck Phillips**

**September 06, 2020**

***Other Healing Events***

1. Who had so much faith in Jesus’ healing power that she touched the hem of his robe?

2. What blind man of Jericho did Jesus heal?

3. What was the affliction of the man at the pool of Siloam?

4. When Jesus healed the blind man of Bethsaida, what did the man say was the first thing he saw?

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***The Ox Is In The Ditch***

**By Joe Fitch**

"The ox is in the ditch!" So, duty's demands are abruptly dismissed. No one can argue with the "law of the ox in the ditch," can they? But where is that law? The Sabbath law is defined in ***Exodus 20:8-11 - "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."*** 

***The Ox Is In The Ditch***

**Continued**

***Exodus 23:12 “Six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you shall cease from labor so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female slave, as well as your stranger, may refresh themselves.*** **See also Deuteronomy 5:12-14.**

There is no "ox in the ditch" exemption in any of those passages. Where then is it? It is not there! The appeal is not an argument of rights – of law; it is a plea for mercy. Mercy was the point of Jesus in ***Luke 14:1-5 - "Now it happened, as he went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely. And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy. And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, 'Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?' But they kept silent. And He took him and healed him, and let him go. Then he answered them, saying, 'Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?' And they could not answer Him regarding these things."***

The Jew had no "right" to get the ox out of the ditch on the Sabbath day. He plainly violated the law. Mercy - compassion pardoned the violation because of the circumstance. That it was a breach of law is not ignored. Maybe we should think of this before we make our "ox in the ditch" appeal. We plead guilty to the sin and ask for mercy.

"The ox is in the ditch!" Ah yes, and how did he get there? That makes a difference. The appeal assumes an accident -- something not anticipated. This surely cannot be used to justify deliberate plans that prevent doing our duty.

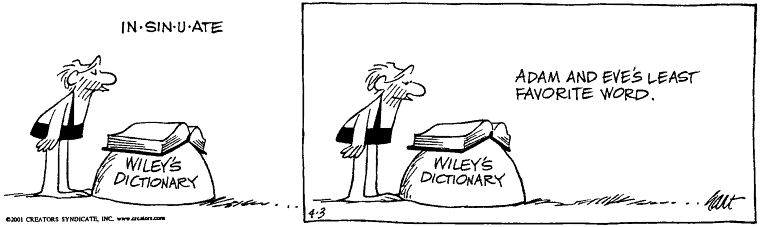
"I couldn't be in the assembly -- my ox was in the ditch." He had a headache, was groggy-headed, felt terrible and was in bed all Sunday morning. Sounds sick? He was -- after staying up with the TV late, late show until 3:30 in the morning. Another brother got "caught on-the-road" and could not "get to the evening assembly." He did not mention he planned a picnic and a 200-mile sightseeing tour Sunday afternoon. I think I see tracks where the ox was pushed into the ditch!

"My ox is in the ditch! I am so busy I just can't get to study and do spiritual work like I ought." And he is not lying. His candle is burning at both ends -- he does not have time for anything else. He has two jobs, Lion's club, PTA, political action committee, little league, and a busy social schedule. No time is left, but it is no accident. Those commitments were all planned. Somebody agreed to every activity. That 'ole ox did not stumble into the ditch; he had help.

"I will have to cut my giving -- my ox is in the ditch. I can hardly pay my bills." True! New car, TV, house, boat, etc., takes all the money. It seems the Lord should have been considered first, nevertheless, whose name is at the bottom of those credit applications? I doubt the ox signed a single one of them! Someone asked for every payment. The ox was pushed.

And how long is the ox to stay in the ditch? Is this every Sabbath's plea? That makes a difference. We may foolishly put our ox in the ditch, but we should promptly get him out. A brother explains his job has interfered with his duty -- ox in the ditch. He does not mention that this is the ordinary demands of his job and it will be this way his whole working life. Brother, pull the ox out!

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**Answers from page 1**

1. The woman with the issue of blood [Matthew 9:22]

2. Bartimaeus [Matthew 30:34]

3. Blind from birth [John 9:7]

4. Men, who looked like trees walking [Mark 8:25]

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