

Handley Happenings

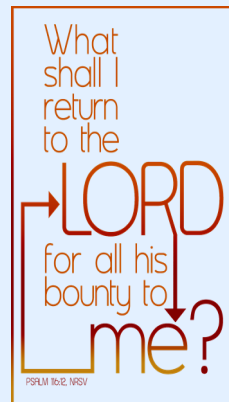
Feb 19, 2018

OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS
The People of the United Methodist Church

Bruce's Bible Study

In this series about the "aftermath" of Christmas, in the light of the biblical characters, I wanted us to look at the question as to whether Mary and Joseph had children of their own after Jesus was born (and I definitely hold to the Virgin Birth, as you will know if you've read the earlier articles in this series). I mentioned that, in *Matthew 13* and *Mark 6*, we are told that Jesus spoke in His "home town" of Nazareth, where He had grown up, and the people weren't impressed. They said, "Aren't His brothers James and Joseph and Judas and Simon, and aren't His sisters here among us?" The most natural way of reading that is to say that these were children of Mary and Joseph who were born after Jesus. However, you may be well aware that Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox absolutely hit the ceiling at the very idea, claiming that Mary remained "ever virgin." I want us to see how that attitude developed, and why.

In the first centuries of the Church (up to AD 313), martyrdom was always a possibility, depending on who was on the throne. Some people began to develop a "death wish" for martyrdom, claiming that it was a "second baptism" that could cleanse all their sins and assure them of a great place in Heaven (not everybody was quite so crazy, thankfully! The great Alexandrian scholar Origen, who died about 257, tried to be a martyr along with his father when Origen was 13 years old, but his mother hid his clothes, and he refused to be martyred nude. I'm not making these things up!). Well, there were also some who (even then) decided that they wanted to "go the extra mile" with Christ and be hermits



Our Gifts & Presence Sunday, Feb 18, 2018

Total Worship.....	42
Total Sunday School.....	17
Ash Wednesday.....	16
Budget	\$3463

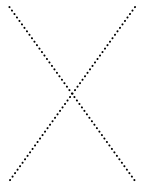
(especially in Egypt) and, consequently, celibate. In the 3rd century, a smart man named Pachomius found out that people work together better in *groups* rather than as hermits, and he established the first community-type monasteries (once again, in Egypt). Once Christianity became legal (beginning in 313), being a monk or a nun took the place of being a martyr; to "go the extra mile" meant foregoing the joys of family life, children, and grandchildren, and joining a monastery or convent. We hear a lot today about the importance of role models, and monks had a natural one in Jesus, Who (contrary to *The Da Vinci Code* and others) never married. But what about the women? The idea came about to keep Mary "perpetually virgin" as a role model for the nuns. One of the great exponents of this was St. Jerome (d. 419), a super-brilliant textual scholar but a complete baboon in the things he said about monasticism and virginity. Examples: he said that the mother of a nun was the "mother-in-law of God," "The only good thing about marriage is that it produces virgins [to join monasteries or convents];" "Since Mary bore Jesus while she was still a virgin, this shows that virginity is preferable to marriage," and therefore everyone who was serious about God should join a monastery or convent. This was the backdrop to a lot of the idea of Mary as "perpetually virgin," but something else happened later in the 5th century, but that'll have to wait till next week!

Bruce

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Feb 19, 2018

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Handley United Methodist Church

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Meetings & Events Schedule



February 21
Backpack Buddies
Wonderful Wednesday

February 25
Second Sunday in Lent

February 26
Friendship Circle

February 27
Grace Circle
Mail Out Newsletter
& Calendar

February 28
Backpack Buddies
Wonderful Wednesday



March 4
Third Sunday in Lent
Communion Set-up by
Choirs

March 5
Police Captains

March 6
Elections

March 7
Backpack Buddies
Wonderful Wednesday

March 11
Daylight Savings Time starts
Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 12
Handley Neighborhood Assoc.

Sunday's Service:

"Saying 'No' to Ourselves"
Mark 8:31-38



"if anyone
would come after me,
he must deny himself and
take up his cross
and follow me."

MARK 8:45, NIV

Usher Schedule

02/25—Bill Mann's Group
03/04—Glenn Estes' Group