

## Deciding to Act

We all have things we have to do, but when do we decide to actually do them? Some people do things early, and they are always caught up. They pay their bills early; they shop early, and they plan for things they want to do. Others will wait until the end of the deadline and get it done just in time. No sense in paying bills early or getting things done ahead when there are so many other things to do. Some people intended to get things done on time, but they are always a little bit late. They show up a little late, they pay things a little late; they have a plan, but something always gets in the way so that they are just a little bit behind. It doesn't stop there. For some the deadline is just before the service is shut off rather than the time requested it be done. The water or power is about to be shut off and then they decide to act. And some wait until after everything has been shut off, and they have to pay extra to get reconnected and begin service again.

Some of this has to do with the ability we have to keep things going. If we have the resources, we will fall somewhere in the first part with trying to keep things paid at least before it is shut off. If we don't have the resources, we tend to wait. We will still have to pay it, but we didn't start finding resources until after the consequences are already done. Only then do we decide that we should do something about it. It is amazing how consistent we are in keeping this schedule.

When do we decide to act for God? Some people will begin when the opportunity is first presented. We have a chance to serve God, and we are ready to serve. Some of us will wait and see if anyone else is willing to do it, and if not, then we are willing. And some wait until the deadline, and it needs to be done by tomorrow morning, and it has become a crisis emergency to get it done. We will help if we can, but if we don't have what we need to do a good job, we will wait until we do.

Anytime we do something for God, it is good no matter when it is. But what did Jesus teach and expect his disciples to do? He gives praise to the one who sees what needs to be done and does it before anyone even asks. He calls it having great faith. Before they have the resources or even know the complete plan, some are willing to ask and act when they know it is impossible. A leper tells Jesus you can make me clean if you are willing. (Matt. 8:2) A centurion tells Jesus he doesn't have to come heal his servant, only say the word. (Luke 7:7) A woman believes she can be cured if she just touches the edge of his cloak. (Luke 8:44) A woman believes she can be forgiven and comes to anoint Jesus' feet with ointment. (Luke 7:37) It is the people who act on the possibility before the reality that Jesus recognizes as having great faith. Let us decide to act in faith for God when we see the opportunity.

--Terry

### Mesa Family Directory Updates

*\*\*No new updates this week--please let us know of address, phone and email changes so we can keep our records up to date\*\**

### Order of Worship

*Song Leader: Tory Kenner*

**Song 294: "You're the One"**

**Welcome & Prayer: C.R. Gaines**

**Song 238: "You Are the Song That I Sing"**

**Song 449: "Thy Word"**

**Song 214: "Have You Seen Jesus My Lord?"**

**Song 683: "I Am Mine No More"**

**Communion & Contribution: Adam Henderson**

**Song 469: "Faith Is the Victory"**

**Song 560: "Living By Faith"**

**Scripture Reading: Luke 7:1-10 Alex Green**

**Sermon: "Acting In Faith" Terry Singleton**

**Song 613 : "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand"**

**Shepherd's Prayer: Vince McNeil**



