

### Privileged to Serve

Speaker ..... Tom Fair(am); Andy Duncan(pm)  
 Announcements/Prayer..... Randy Rives  
 Song Leader..... Andy D(am); Tom F(pm)  
 Attendance.....

#### Morning

Scripture/Opening Prayer .....  
 Lord's Supper

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Closing Prayer.....

#### Evening

Opening Prayer .....  
 Lord's Supper

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Closing Prayer.....

#### Communion Preparation

Month of December .....  
 Month of January.....

#### Nursery Attendant; Backup

February 14 .....Katie Agan; Angela Duncan  
 February 21 ..... Angela Duncan; Lara King

#### Wednesday Evening - February 17, 2021

Prayer/Announcements.....  
 Song Leader.....  
 Devotional.....

### Service Times

#### SUNDAY

Bible Study..... 9:00 a.m.  
 Morning Worship..... 10:00 a.m.  
 Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study..... 6:00 p.m.

### Elders

ANDY DUNCAN ..... (662) 416-2222  
 TOM FAIR ..... (601) 681-8298

### Deacons

LAMAR KING ..... (601) 604-2656  
 BUILDING/GROUNDS

RANDY RIVES..... (601) 513-4785  
 EDUCATION & WORSHIP

ALBERT ST. CLAIR ..... (601) 626-7815

### Works Supported

Robert Martin  
 Stacey Ferguson  
 South Pacific Missions  
 Pine Vale Children's Home  
 Corinth, Mississippi

### Attendance Last Week

Sunday Bible Class	cancelled
Sunday Morning Worship	30
Sunday Morning via Live-Stream	17
Sunday Evening Worship	12
Sunday Evening via Live-Stream	18
Wednesday Bible Study	11

### Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 1,585.00

\* Figures Unavailable



February 14, 2021 *Meridian Messenger* Welcome Visitors!

## Who Will Follow Jesus?

Earlier this week, a worship song, "Who Will Follow Jesus?", popped into my head. The lyrics of the chorus say,

*"Who will follow Jesus? Who will make reply,  
 I am on the Lord's side; Master, here am I?  
 Who will follow Jesus? Who will make reply,  
 I am on the Lord's side; Master, here am I?"*

As I was thinking about this song, I thought about that very question as it pertains to the life of Jesus. Who followed Jesus while he was on earth? Was it the richest, most powerful people who made the decision to follow Jesus? Or those who believed they had everything together? No! As is seen throughout the life of Jesus, those who followed Jesus were often broken, vulnerable, sinful people.

What was it that turned the powerful away from Jesus? Following Jesus required self-denial and sacrificial service. In Mark 10, we read the story of a rich young man coming to Jesus and asking him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Mark 10:17). After telling Jesus that he had kept the Law of Moses from his youth, Jesus challenges him to sacrifice. He challenges the rich young man to sell his possessions and give to the poor. Verse 22 tells us the man's reaction: "Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions." Jesus was aiming to change the man's heart. Jesus wanted him to understand that discipleship, and in turn inheriting eternal life, required a heart which was willing to sacrifice. For the powerful of Jesus' day, the sacrifice and self-denial required to follow Jesus was often too burdensome.

On the other hand, the broken, marginalized, sinful people of Jesus' day seemed to flock to him in droves. Why? Because Jesus offered them something that no one, including religious people, had ever offered. Jesus offered freedom from the weight of sin and worldly anxiety. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus proclaimed, "Come to ..." (continued inside)