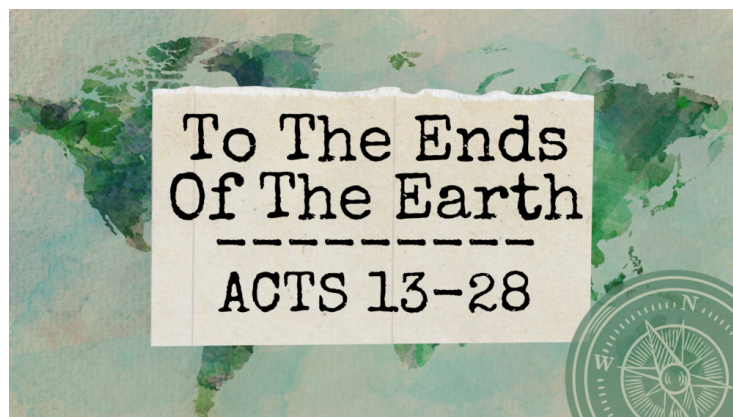


The Tale of Two Cities



Acts 18:1–23

Bro Ricky Cunningham

As Paul's second missionary journey comes to an end and the third missionary journey starts, the focus is around two major cities, Corinth and Ephesus. In this lesson, we will look at what happens in chapter 18 in the city of Corinth. We will see in the next lesson what happens in the city of Ephesus in the second part of "A Tale of Two Cities." In the book of Acts, we have seen the apostle Paul emphasizing cities. He has a vision for cities to come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

As I have studied the book of Acts the last few weeks, especially as I reread preparing for this sermon, I can't help but recall what happened in April of 1983. I was pastoring a country church in Calloway County called Owens Chapel. I loved that church with all my heart. I was a bi-vocational pastor and had an invitation to meet with a group of people from Hardin to consider becoming the pastor of Hardin Baptist Church. It felt good. It felt right. We arranged what was called a trail sermon. It would be my first Sunday to preach at Hardin in view of them calling me to be the pastor at Hardin. I had preached a revival at Hardin the year before and it just felt

right. I had only preached one other trial sermon in my life because I was just 22 years of age and had only been preaching just a couple of years. In that trial sermon, I felt the Lord gave me a heart to share a vision for the church with the city of Hardin, which I hope was of God and not of the flesh.

Now, you have to remember that I had played baseball in Hardin as a kid. I didn't play in the Murray league but in the Hardin league. Just so you know, I was an all-star second baseman. They nicknamed me motor mouth. I don't know where that came from! The best part about me playing second base was me saying, "He can't hit it. He can't hit it. Swing!" I was really, really good at that! ☺ I knew a little about Hardin and I knew it was famous for three things back then. Hardin was famous for Mike Miller. He was a member of Hardin Baptist Church and he became the longest running county executive in the state of Kentucky. We were famous for Bob Warren, a retired ABA basketball player. We were famous for fish, catfish. We had two famous catfish restaurants in town, the Four Seasons and the Country Crossroads. For the first several years when I started preaching at Hardin, you wanted your preacher to finish preaching before all the other preachers. The reason was because if I didn't, when you did get to the Crossroads, you could wait at least an hour to an hour and a half for your catfish. If you got there and put your name on the wait list, you would not leave. You would wait the hour and a half to get catfish. Do you remember that? In that trial sermon I prayed was of the Lord, I just felt led to say, "I hope in ten or fifteen years that Hardin is not known for catfish, but for the gospel." Today I pray that when folks talk about Hardin they don't just talk about Mike Miller, they don't just about Bob Warren, and they don't just talk about catfish but they talk about the gospel, the gospel that you and me are living out.

As I read about how God put a burden on the heart of Paul for the cities, like Corinth and Ephesus, I am thankful God had a heart for the city of Hardin and I pray you do too. We will read the first four verses of Acts chapter 18.

Scripture

"After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife, Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks."

The City of Corinth

Luke transitions in the middle of what we call chapter 18, from the second missionary trip ending to the third one starting. As Paul winds down the second missionary trip, Luke lets us know he leaves Athens after that famous sermon at Mars Hill and goes to Corinth. Luke does not tell us this, but we have read the first and second letters to the church at Corinth, and in the second chapter of that first letter, Paul reminded the church at Corinth that when he came to the city he had made this commitment — I will not do anything in the flesh. I will not come with wisdom of words. I will only preach Christ and Him crucified. Then he shared his heart with them and told them that when he first came to Corinth he was scared to death. He didn't come in power, but he came in weakness. He came in timidity, so to speak. He came with fear and he was literally trembling, he was shaking! This not the Apostle Paul I picture in my mind. I see Paul as a man who takes the bull by the horns. He is confident, and yet he shares his heart.

Paul was literally scared to enter the city. Have you wondered why? He had left Athens, a city of 10,000 people, and he is now entering Corinth, a city of 750,000 people. A little later when he stopped in Ephesus, he saw a city with a half million people. Corinth was a religious city. They had a shrine, a temple to the goddess of love, Aphrodite, or Venus. Therefore, Corinth was known as a sexual, promiscuous city. When you entered into worship of Venus, you need to realize when you went to that massive temple that stood on the rock (I am going to be careful here) she had a thousand

ministers who were employed in her service. They were females. They were slaves. You adults follow with me. They did not minister in the day time. They ministered in the dark. Do you get my drift? If you were a farmer living outside of the city or a commercial businessman inside the city, you didn't come to worship in the morning. You came at night and you brought your offering. You entered into a 'counseling session,' a 'worship session' with a minister, and she would bless you. Let me just say that no lady had a problem getting her husband to come to church with her because it was a very expressive worship, a very physical worship.

The word, Corinthian, meant to be an immoral person. If you were a holy person living within the city, you didn't want to tell people where you lived. Paul, ex-Pharisee, a separated minister for the Lord, is now coming into Corinth, and he says he is scared to death — because he knows all that he has to confront the idolatry, which leads to immorality in the city, is the gospel. Understand that in the nucleus of the gospel message, the message is simply to repent from sin, repent from doing what you want to do, repent from living the way you want to live and put your faith and trust in the One who died on a cross for you and He will redeem you out of sin and separate you to Himself to live holy, because He is holy. And Paul goes into this city scared to death — he would write two letters to this church.

I have a guy I like to read from time to time. I read him to make sure I am not out on a limb. He was formally a pastor in California at Peninsula Bible Church. His name was Ray Stedman. Ray said this, and he could say this because he was in California, so I am quoting him, not saying this myself. I am quoting Ray, whom I count as a friend even though I have never met him. He said anytime he was addressing his California church and would allude to 1 Corinthians, he would call the letter of 1 Corinthians the letter to the first Californians. When I read Corinthians and think about California, I can see why he might say that. We can just say that California is really, really far away from us here in Kentucky. They are so far west of us in so many ways of thinking about how life should be lived. Can we all say that together and be in agreement?

Let's try to capture what it might feel like to be the Apostle Paul. I have lived right outside of Dexter all my life, but I have had all of my experience

ministering in downtown Hardin. Imagine God leading me to start a church on the strip in Vegas! — Kory and I went to Vegas to a training session to learn how to use our Bible software once. It was scheduled to be in Murfreesboro, Tennessee but was canceled because of weather. It was transferred to Oklahoma City where it was canceled because of a snow storm. The last one we could attend was in Vegas. Can you see me in Vegas? Let's just say I walked from my hotel with my head down until we got in the car to drive to the church where the conference was held. At the end of the training, and I don't know how God did this, but there was no one in line but Kory and me. There was nobody behind us. There was nobody in front of us. We had the whole big area to ourselves. We handed our tickets to this guy, and you could just tell this guy loved his job. He had time to engage with us, so he asked us what we had done in Vegas. Kory and I were so excited because we had learned how to use our new Bible software, so I explained to him that we had flown to Vegas to learn how to use a new Bible software program. He looked at us with a big grin on his face and said, "Boys when you get home, you tell your wives whatever you want to tell them, but tell me why you came to Vegas." Now we are feeling really bad and we are explaining to him that we are ministers and we have been called to preach. He listened with that big grin on his face and said, "Guys, do you not know that what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas? Just tell me why you are really here!" — That is the kind of city Corinth was. It was a crossroads city politically and commercially. It was a crossroads city religiously. It was immoral. As a matter of fact, when Paul wrote that letter to the church at Corinth, he revealed a person in the church who was committing a sin that even Corinthians would not commit! That is how bad the city was.

Paul Finds Aquila and Priscilla

Remember, Silas and Timothy are in Berea and Paul is by himself. So, this first verse shocks me. I am still shocked. I have been studying this for months now. Remember in the 9th chapter we saw that Saul was saved on Straight Street. God told the person who was to go witness to him that He had called Paul to be an apostle to the Gentiles, that God would use him to open the eyes of the Gentile nations. So, we are expecting Paul to take the

gospel to the Gentiles, but so far, every time he has come into a city he hangs with the Jews. He doesn't rush to the Gentiles. We see it here in this first verse. He comes into the town and who is the first person he finds? He doesn't find a priestess of the cult of Aphrodite. He doesn't find a Gentile commercial businessman. He doesn't find a Gentile politician. He meets a Jewish couple, Aquila and Priscilla. Now, Aquila and Priscilla are in Corinth because they were kicked out of Rome. Luke tells us that Claudius, the emperor, felt like he had the authority to give a government mandate that every Jew living in Rome couldn't live there anymore. They were ordered to get out of the city. They weren't wanted there anymore, so all the Jews had to flee. Luke does not tell us why but Suetonius, famous Roman historian of that time, wrote that Claudius expelled the Jews from the city of Rome over this person called Chrestos. Sounds a lot like Christos, Christ.

Let me to use my sanctified imagination. Paul did not start the church at Rome. Peter did not start the church at Rome. The church at Rome was started because on the day of Pentecost there were people from Rome who heard the gospel, repented of their sins, put their faith in Jesus, got baptized, received the Holy Spirit, and then went back to Rome and they talked about Jesus Christ. Those Jews took the gospel back to Rome. Before long, Jewish Christians were telling their Jewish friends who were under the Law of Moses about Christ. The next thing you know, they are fussing and fighting. You had a minority group of people inside a community of Greeks. They couldn't get along with themselves, and they can't get along with the other Jews because they couldn't settle the dispute of who this Christos is. It gets so bad that the emperor says, 'Enough! We don't want you in our town anymore!' It breaks my heart that there were a group of religious people that had such an attitude toward each other that their neighbors didn't want them to be neighbors, and they kick them out of town. Isn't that sad? It is really sad when religious people cannot get along. It is really sad when religious people fuss and fight. This was really sad because there was a group of Jews who were trying to take the gospel to another group of Jews that did not want to hear the gospel. Instead of it being civil, it became uncivil and the community didn't want them there anymore.

So Aquila and Priscilla go down to Corinth. They probably chose to go there because it was a city of 750,000 people; it was at a commercial crossroads, east and west. Have you ever looked at Corinth? On a map, we would see Corinth with cities on all sides. Corinth is located on a peninsula with a land bridge that started the peninsula. Basically, all commerce going east and west went through Corinth. When you came into the harbor on one side, it was about 400 miles around to the other side, so they created a slipway, three miles long. They could take ships out of the harbor and haul them over the land that three miles to the other side of the harbor so that they could continue on with their cargo. Corinth was at the point of the peninsula, so no doubt travel was frequent in that day. Aquila and Priscilla were tent makers, so if you were tent makers you would want a large number of consumers to sell your tents, so you would go to a city like Corinth.

- **Tentmakers by Trade**

So, in this city of 750,000 people, they are making tents and Paul finds them. Guess what? Paul is a tent maker too. This is where we get the thought of tent maker missionaries. If you read this text, it implies that Paul works with Aquila and Priscilla. Every Sabbath he would go to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and Greeks that Jesus is the Christ. It sounds to me like Paul worked through the week, and then on the Sabbath he ministers the Word in the synagogue. When the Sabbath is over, he goes back to work as a tent maker. I am not saying that all missionaries should do this, but there are people who feel called to the mission field that don't want a church sponsoring them. They want to go into a community put down roots, work to make their own living, and then minister. I am proud we have people like that because there are countries in the world where we cannot send missionaries to right now, but a doctor can, or a nurse can go. A farmer can go. A banker can go. An investor can go. An English teacher can go. When they enter that country, they enter as a citizen with a trade and use that trade to support themselves. But they are not there because of their trade; they are there because of the gospel. So they are tent makers. They support themselves. In supporting themselves, they realize they are witnesses empowered by the Holy Spirit.

They are where they are, not just to make a living, but for those around them. That is pretty cool.

Let me back up and ask you a question. How many of you are tent makers? A lot of you. You are tent makers! You are tent makers, not in China, not in Russia, not in India, Iraq, Canada, Mexico, or Brazil. You are tent makers right here in the United States. You work. But you can't wait for when the workday is over and you get to reason with people about who Jesus Christ is. Now, I don't think this means when someone came in needing a new tent or a tent repaired that Paul didn't talk to them about Jesus. I think he did. I encourage you to think about this. As a church, let's not view the book of Acts as about missionaries and mission work in other places. Let's view the book of Acts as a book telling us how we, the church, should operate in the world. We all operate, to a certain degree, as tentmakers. Are you doing this? I want you to zero in here for just a moment. Do you realize you are where you are, doing what you are doing, so that when you get into certain situations you get to display your belief that Jesus is the Christ? Then, why are you cursing? Why are you under the influence? Why are you letting that person have a piece of your mind? You are making it about you. You are making it about your job. That is not what our lives are about. We are witnesses. The people you work for or with — how do they view you? Do they view you as a witness? Do they view you as a witness under the control of God's Holy Spirit?

Paul Reasons in the Synagogue Daily

Paul was working, but he was also reasoning in the synagogue. Paul had a heart for folks who were like him. He went there first. Even when God gives you a heart for someone else, somewhere else, He doesn't take away the heart you have for those around you. Paul always went to the synagogue. I believe he went to the synagogue because he was a Jew whom God had opened his eyes to the truth of the gospel and he realized there were others Jews whose eyes had not been opened to the truth of the gospel. He wanted their eyes to be opened as his eyes were opened. In Romans chapter 9, Paul made this statement about Jewish people. He said, "I would be accursed from Christ for their sake." Do you know what that means? That means the Apostle Paul said to the church at Rome that

he was so torn up by Jewish people not coming to know Christ that if it were possible, he would spend eternity separated from God forever and ever in a lake of fire if they would come to know Christ. Have you ever said that? Has that ever crossed your mind about someone? Have you ever been that burdened for someone? Have you ever looked at someone and believed the only difference between you and him was the grace of God in your life? I believe there are some of you that would say that for your children. You might say it for your spouse. How many of you so love America that you would say, "God if it be possible, take my salvation away from me and let me spend eternity separated from you forever if America would come to Christ?" That is what Paul is doing here! That is what he is saying. It is love that compelled him to go back into the synagogues every Sabbath. Please hear me! Paul did not do what some of us would do, and say, "Woo! I am saved, not under the law anymore. I don't have to do all these things on Saturday. I am free, free in Christ!" No, no, no...Paul, a Christian who is free from the law, free from all those Jewish rituals, goes back into the synagogue every Sabbath. He is a Christian but he is still a Jew, and he still loves people. He laid aside his freedoms to go in and reason with them on the day they gathered together. He proclaims to them who Jesus was to them.

- **Timothy and Silas Arrive in Corinth**

Look what happens in Acts 18:5, "When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the Word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus." When I first read this, I thought this was saying that when Silas and Timothy arrived in Corinth from Berea that Paul was only occupied with the Word. But if I keep this in the context and the Greek language allows it, I think this verse is saying Paul has been in Corinth by himself, he is scared to death, but he is going to preach Christ. Because he is by himself, he is working his trade with Aquila and Priscilla, doing what he does well — he makes tents. But every time the Jews gathered together in the synagogue on the Sabbath he would go there, but then Silas and Timothy join him. Now, he doesn't have to do tents anymore because he has helpers. So now, he is focused on one thing and one thing only, and that is not his trade. His focus is now on telling others who Jesus

Christ is and trying to convince the Jewish people that Jesus is actually the Messiah.

Paul Is Opposed and Takes the Message to the Gentiles

When this happened, how do you think the congregation responded? Verse 6 says they oppose him and they revolt against him. I can see Paul thinking...*Oh no, here it comes again*. So here is what Paul did — he took off his shirt, which was a cloak, and in front of the synagogue before they dismissed, he shook out his cloak. When he did that, he was saying I am leaving you now and am going to the Gentiles and I am not taking any of you with me. I won't even be looking back. That is harsh. We had problems with the combine this week and I got so much dirt and dust on me that they had to take the air compressor and spray me off because I didn't want that stuff in my truck.

Get this picture. Paul was saying I am not taking any of you with me, and then he moved on. Now, I want to make sure you don't think Paul is saying that he was turning his back on the Jewish people and he didn't want them to come to salvation, so he was just going to the Gentiles now. We will see when he gets to Ephesus that he goes first to the synagogue. He always went to the synagogue first, every time. He tells the synagogue when they refuse to accept his message, revolt against him, oppose him, and even do harm to them that he is done and he moves on. He goes from the Jews to the Gentiles.

I love what Luke says, because guess where he goes. I want you to see this. I think when he was shaking his garments the Jews were saying we are glad you are gone, just get away from us and to those Gentiles, guess where he goes...He goes next door. Do you see the humor in this? Paul doesn't rush out of the synagogue and go to the other side of town! In a town of 750,000 people, he goes next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshipper of God. Scholars tell me that in the Greek this signifies that Justus's house was connected to the synagogue. He leaves the synagogue, knocks at the house next door, and starts talking to a man.

Why does Luke tell us this? I think it is because our evangelism strategy as a church has to be twofold. First, we have to look for opportunities to meet

people in large groups and try to reason with them. You should take advantage of every opportunity you get. Amen? That can't be our only strategy. As Christians, we are also called to not only invite people into our home, but we are called to go into their homes. As a Christian, I can't expect everybody to come live where I live. I must be willing to go do life where they live. We are failing there. Most of us, when we get those opportunities, don't say anything. We just enjoy football, or politics, or the movie, or the supper...We just enjoy and do not engage people with the gospel of Jesus.

Watch this. Paul has left the synagogue and is now next door in the house of Titius Justus. And then Luke tells us that Crispus gets saved. Crispus is the ruler of the synagogue. Is this not hilarious? Is this God, or is this God? Paul has been reasoning every Sabbath in the synagogue, he gets rejected, he leaves the synagogue and is in this private home, and guess who gets saved? The ruler of the synagogue! Not just Crispus, but his whole household gets saved. I have to call a timeout for just a second. — Up until this point, we have seen households get baptized. Here, we have a household that believes but baptism is not mentioned. We know they get baptized, but the only reason they got baptized is because they were believers. We only baptize believers, and the next statement says this, "And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed [in the Lord] and were baptized."

When you hear the gospel and put your faith in Christ, you go down into the water to identify that the old person you were is now dead and you are now a brand new person because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is why you should be baptized. If you are a believer in Christ, you identify that publicly to let everybody know that you are not trusting in yourself, you are only trusting in Christ for your salvation.

Paul Receives a Vision

Verse 9 says, "And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking..." Hold it! Paul has just led Crispus and his family to the Lord, he has baptized them, and now in a vision the Lord says, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking for I am with you, and no one

will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” I don’t know what you are thinking, but this is what I am thinking about this text. Paul has just led these Jewish people to the Lord. He has led the ruler of the synagogue to the Lord, and he is thinking...*Oh no, here come the stones. Oh, no, here comes the attack.* Every time in this book when someone comes to Christ, the town usually gets upset and Paul bears the brunt of it, so he was fearful. So the Lord appeared to him in a vision to let him know that he didn’t need to be afraid. He didn’t need to be afraid because God needed him to stay and keep doing what he was doing because He had more people there than just Crispus. He had a lot of other people there who would hear the gospel and come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. So God needed Paul to stay there, not being silent but to continue to talk about Jesus.

Aren’t you glad there are times that God reassures us? Now, you know that I believe the primary revelation of God to us is through His Son, Jesus Christ, and His written Word. God speaks to us through the Bible. It is not subjective reasoning, it is objective reasoning...it is a “thus sayeth the Lord.” But I believe there are times, even today, that God also comes alongside His Word and reassures us we are where we are. I believe it is that personal with the Lord. I will never forget when I came to Hardin in 1983 that I left a few months later to go to Trinidad. I had already prepared while at Owens Chapel Baptist Church to go on a missionary trip to the country of Trinidad through the invitation of C. C. Brasher and Charlie Simmons. — I know you can’t believe this, but my sister can testify to it. Our family didn’t travel. We didn’t go anywhere. We went to Florida once time on vacation. Usually if we were going on a big trip out of town, we would go to Clarksville to Charlie’s Steakhouse. I remember marrying Celisa and planning to go to Charlie’s Steakhouse for the first time, and I really didn’t know how to get there even though I had gone there all my life. Anytime my parents took us, their friends went with us and so they would put my sister and me in the back window of the car, that flat part behind the back seat. We always knew where we had been but didn’t know how to go! So that first time I drive to Charlie’s looking through the front windshield nothing looked familiar. — Now I was going on a mission trip to Trinidad, but I had C.C. and some other pastors and laymen with me. They

did not tell me though that when we got there they were going to drop me off in a city, all by myself with no one else around. They did me that way! So I was in a city and I was the only one like me. When I walked through the streets and passed the bars, they would say things about me. I tried to look cool on the outside but on the inside, I was scared! I stayed with a pastor by the name of Alsid Cummins. Wow, what a man!

We invited Pastor Cummins afterward to come when we were at our downtown location. He got on the stage and taught us, "I've got Jesus on the inside, working on the outside. Oh what a change!" He was dancing all over the place and we were all thinking... *Whoa!!! This man is dancing on the stage of a Baptist Church!* It was glorious!

But I will never forget on that Trinidad trip, I woke up the second morning and was sitting at the breakfast table. When I put cereal in a bowl, I poured the milk in it and I waited to let all of the ants run out of the cereal. I was a picky eater. ☺ I couldn't get rid of all the ants, but I wasn't going to offend Pastor Cummins and his wife because they had bought American cereal for me. I had to decide whether I wanted to eat the ants dead or alive...I waited until most of them were dead. So I am eating my cereal, crunching on ants, and I have this look on my face. Pastor Cummins asked me, "What's wrong Brother Ricky?" He wasn't talking about the cereal. I said, "Nothing." He said, "Something is wrong." I said, "Nothing." He said, "Yes there is. Tell me about it." I asked, "Tell you about what?" He replied, "Tell me about the dream you had last night." I had had a dream. He said, "Tell me about it." Pastor Cummins and I had not talked about any of this. He said, "You saw your dad didn't you." I said, "I did." See, in 1983 the month of June was so wet that no farmers could harvest their wheat. I had set the mission trip for July because the wheat harvest would be over. When I got on the plane to leave the United States for Trinidad, we had cut no wheat on the farm. He asked, "What was your dad doing?" I said, "He was harvesting wheat." He asked, "How much?" I said, "60 bushels." Remember, in that day 40 bushels was tops, and I had a dream that my dad was harvesting 60 bushels wheat. He said, "That's not all you saw, is it? What else did you see?" I am now comfortable telling him because he knows something I don't. I said, "I saw a preacher and the preacher

harvested 60 people for Jesus. But I couldn't see his face. I didn't recognize him." He said, "That is you." He said, "God told you last night in your dream to get your mind off home and your dad because everything is OK at home. Your dad is having a record harvest, but you are here to spiritually harvest souls." My fear went away. I had a glorious week with the people in that village. I was on the airplane returning home, sitting beside Adrian Jones, a man I had met on this trip and had fell in love with. You know me and you know I am not into numbers, but I opened my journal and I began to add up the names of all the children who had made professions in Bible school. I added up those adults who had come to Christ during the preaching services. I added up the numbers of those I had personally gotten to lead to Christ. When I added all these up, guess how many there were. There were 60. When I landed in America, the first phone call I made was to my dad. I said, "Dad, did you get the wheat harvested?" He said, "Son I got the wheat in without you. It was OK." I said, "How many bushels?" He said, "Ricky, you aren't going to believe this. We had a record harvest." I said, "Dad, how much?" He said, "60 bushels to the acre."

I know some of you are unbelievers and some of you doubt that I am telling the truth. But I am telling you what happened. I do not believe God primarily reveals His will to us through dreams or visions. He primarily reveals Himself through His written Word and His Son, Jesus Christ, but there are times when His Spirit bears witness with our Spirit and He gives us whatever we need so that we know we are where we are for a reason to be doing what we are doing because this is not about us. It is about the other people God has in the city and we get to be in on what He is doing in bringing others to the saving knowledge of His Son, Jesus Christ. How is Hardin going to be known for the gospel? There is only one way, and that is for everyone associated with Hardin Baptist Church to be known for the gospel. What are you known for? Is that what you really want to be known for? Or, do you want to be known for the life change of Jesus Christ and your life-giving hope to others? That is what our life is about. Can God get a witness? Can God get a witness? Be a witness for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!