

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS HERE!

Pastor Stephen Baker. Sunday, March 24, 2024.

Acts: The Blueprint for the Church / The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost / Acts 2:1-13

Introduction

I. The Day of Pentecost. (1)

II. Holy Ghost Power. (2-3)

III. Wondering People (5-13)

A. An International Crowd. [5]

B. An Amazed Multitude. [6-12]

C. Others Who Mocked. [13]

Today is Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday, celebrated by Christians around the world, marks the beginning of Holy Week and commemorates Jesus Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This significant day signifies both joy and solemnity, as it heralds the start of the events leading to Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection. The crowds welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem waved palm branches and laid them along his path, symbolizing honor and victory. Palm Sunday serves as a reminder of Jesus's humility, as he entered the city on a humble donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of the Messiah. It also underscores the importance of faith and devotion, as believers reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for humanity's redemption.

Next Sunday is Easter!

As usual, we will follow an altered schedule for Easter Sunday.

Sunrise Service: **7:15 a.m.**



Breakfast: **7:45 a.m.**

Sunday School: **9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

Morning Worship: **10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** *We will observe the Lord's Supper at the end of Service.*

LOOKING FORWARD:

For this Wednesday – Join us at 7PM in the Christian Life Center for coffee and Bible study! Download the Wednesday Night Lesson here: <https://harmonybconline.com/bible-study/wednesday/>. Or visit our website: harmonybconline.com. Then, go to the *Bible Study* menu and select *Wednesday Bible Study*. The title of the lesson is: “The Power of Pentecost.” If you are unable to download, we will have printed copies on Wednesday night.

HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH: JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY.
Sunday School for all ages: 10 am
Download Sunday School Lessons: HarmonyBConline.com/bible-study/study-resources/
Morning Worship & Bible Preaching: 11 am / Harmony Kids! 11 am (in the Gym)
Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7 pm (in the Christian Life Center) / Kid’s Bible Clubs (In the Gym) 7 pm
Listen Online: <i>HarmonyBConline.com</i> . You can also download our App. In your device’s app store, search for: ChurchOne by Sermon Audio . Once the app is installed, enter code: 03874
Online Giving: https://HarmonyBConline.com/giving-online/
 
Free Guest Wi-Fi During the Service. Network Name: Harmony BC-guest Password: freewifi

ADDRESSING MOCKERY OF CHRISTIANITY AND THE CHURCH

Addressing mockery of Christianity and the church requires a balanced approach that combines respect, understanding, and gentle persuasion. Here are some steps to consider:

- 1. Listen and Understand:** Begin by actively listening to the concerns or objections raised by individuals who mock Christianity. Seek to understand their perspectives and the reasons behind their mockery. Demonstrating empathy and respect for their viewpoints can foster constructive dialogue.
- 2. Respond with Kindness:** When encountering mockery or ridicule, respond with kindness and patience rather than defensiveness or hostility. Model the values of love, forgiveness, and compassion taught by Christianity. A gentle and respectful demeanor can often disarm hostility and open the door to meaningful conversation.
- 3. Provide Information:** Offer accurate and respectful information about Christianity and the church. Clarify any misconceptions or misunderstandings that may underlie the mockery. Share insights into the rich history, teachings, and contributions of Christianity, highlighting its positive impact on individuals and societies worldwide.
- 4. Engage in Dialogue:** Engage in thoughtful dialogue with those who mock Christianity, inviting them to express their concerns and questions openly. Create a safe and nonjudgmental space for discussion where different perspectives can be shared and explored.
- 5. Share Personal Experience:** Share personal stories and experiences that illustrate the positive aspects of Christianity and the transformative power of faith. Authentic narratives can resonate deeply with others and provide tangible examples of the relevance and significance of Christianity in everyday life.
- 6. Appeal to Reason:** Present logical and reasoned arguments in defense of Christianity, addressing any specific objections or criticisms raised by skeptics. Avoid overly emotional responses and instead focus on evidence, logic, and rational discourse.
- 7. Respect Boundaries:** Recognize that not everyone will be open to persuasion or receptive to discussions about Christianity. Respect the autonomy and beliefs of others, and avoid imposing your views or beliefs on them forcefully.

8. Lead by Example: Live out the principles and values of Christianity in your own life, demonstrating love, integrity, humility, and compassion in your interactions with others. Your actions can speak volumes and may serve as a powerful testimony to the truth and relevance of Christianity.

By adopting a respectful and compassionate approach, you can effectively address mockery of Christianity and the church, fostering understanding, dialogue, and mutual respect. Remember that while you can offer insights and information, ultimately, the decision to embrace or reject Christianity lies with each individual.