

Pleasant Valley  
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon  
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www.letjesusleadus.org

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Classes . . . . . 9:30 am  
Worship . . . . . 10:30 am  
Evening . . . . . 6:00 pm

### Wednesday

Classes . . . . . 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

# Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

July 27, 2008

## Would they preach at your church?

by Eric Hamilton

"But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to their playmates, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn'" (Matt. 11:16-17).

Jesus is describing a people unsatisfied with the message of God, no matter what package it is delivered in, whether cheerful or mournful. Jesus then goes on to say, "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'" (Matt. 11:18-19).

John the Baptist and Jesus Christ were two very different men, with different approaches to teaching the will of God, but both were sent by the same God. John spoke in the desert, had taken a Nazirite vow, wore camel hair, and ate locusts and honey. Jesus acted as a traveling rabbi, and did not live as oddly as John.

Despite two different approaches, men found opportunity to complain about both John and Jesus. Perhaps they felt that if they could discredit either based upon appearances, then they would be exempt from listening to the teachings of either man. But Jesus said, "Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds" (Matt. 11:19). It was not by appearances that either man should have been judged, but by whether what they did was right or wrong.

Jesus asked the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? . . . A man

dressed in soft clothing?" (Matt. 11:7-8).

Did people listen to John because his message changed? Or did they go out to see him because he was dressed like a rich man?

What do we go to see when we go to church? Do we have the attitude as stated in Isa. 30:10, "[the children say] to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions.'" Are we interested in the word of God, or do we instead accumulate for ourselves teachers to suit our own passions? (2 Tim. 4:3).

What do we go to see when we go to church? A man dressed in soft clothing? You could almost hear some of the excuses Jews would have made concerning John: "He's not dressed like a priest or a rabbi. He needs to dress better if he wants us to think he's serious. God wouldn't really talk through a man like John, would he?" Are we making valid observations, or are we just trying to hide from the message if we say similar things?

Some said of the apostle Paul, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account" (2 Cor. 10:10). They said this as a means to discredit him. "Don't write so harshly, Paul. You also need to speak better. If you don't, then I don't see the point in listening to you." Have we said similar things to preachers today?

John, Paul, and Jesus were rejected because of things that did not have to do with right or wrong. Do we reject God's word from other men for similar reasons? Would these men be allowed to preach at your church?