

A Thermometer or a Thermostat?

(<https://www.harvest.org/devotions-and-blogs/daily-devotions/2017-12-01>)

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth. —Luke 1:26

It's interesting how cities are known for certain things. Rome is known as the Eternal City. Paris is called the City of Lights. New York is the City that Never Sleeps. And Las Vegas has been nicknamed Sin City.

Nazareth, too, could have been called Sin City in the first century. Overrun by Roman soldiers it was one of those places you went through on the way to another place. Nazareth was also known for its sin. One commentator described it as a hotbed of corruption. This is why, when Nathanael heard that Jesus was from Nazareth, he asked, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46).

Imagine if Jesus were born today. We might expect Him to be born in Jerusalem, or maybe in Rome, London, or Paris. But what if He were born in Las Vegas? *The Savior has arrived: Jesus of Las Vegas.* That's what it would have been like to use the term *Jesus of Nazareth*.

In that wicked city, however, lived a young woman of royal blood. Living in an impure world, Mary was pure. She showed it is possible to live a holy life in an unholy place. We often blame our wicked culture for the way we are, but the fact is that it's our job as followers of Jesus to permeate and affect our culture.

Here's a question to ask yourself: Are you a thermometer or a thermostat? A thermometer is affected by its surroundings. Depending on the temperature, it goes up or down. In contrast, a thermostat affects its surroundings. Unlike the thermometer, it controls the environment around it.

Do you merely react to what is happening around you, or do you have some kind of impact on it? Are you changing the culture, or is the culture changing you?

News and Notes

- Dugan Kramer Funeral Chapel (3201 Ave B, Scottsbluff) will be hosting their annual *Service of Memory*. An ornament will be hung on the tree in memory of your loved one, and will be given to the family at the conclusion of the service. This event is open to all regardless of when your loved one passed or the funeral used.
- On December 10, we will have a guest speaker. Joe Canales will be here trying out for the preacher position. He will be in town Dec 8- Dec 10.
- Our annual Christmas party will be December 16, at 6pm here at the building. Bring a wrapped gift to exchange (under \$10) and a finger food to share. We will have games fun.
- If you have a prayer request you would like added please fill out the prayer request card in the pocket of the seat in front of you or email prayer@scottsbluffchurchofchrist.org.

Birthdays

Shayla Goracke	12/15	Sharon Griffiths	12/17
Amy Reinpold	12/21	Ruger Sanderson	12/21
Graceon Stillahn	12/21	Tarra Wood	12/??

If you birthday has been inadvertently left off this list please let Shannon know.

Those Serving

12/3/2017

Opening Prayer
Song Leader
Scripture Reader
Closing Prayer
Devotion:

Announcements:

Table: West
Center
East
Preacher:
Song Leader:

12/10/2017

Opening Prayer
Song Leader
Scripture Reader
Closing Prayer
Devotion:

Announcements:

Table: West
Center
East
Preacher:
Song Leader: