

“FINALLY!”



Message by
Drew Crandall,
Founder & Director
of Jacob's Well,
delivered "live" at the
April 4 coffeehouse.

At the coffeehouse each month, for near 13 years, Founder & Director Drew Crandall listens to the music and the message of the guest performer(s) and shares a spontaneous Gospel message based on the content. On April 4, one of the original songs that One Achord performed was called "Finally." Drew was inspired to then share the evening's Gospel message based on this topic.

"The message the Lord gave me for tonight is based on One Achord's song, FINALLY. For those of you who are parents, don't you enjoy it when you've been trying to teach them things, and they get it...FINALLY? Well, for some of you tonight, God has been trying to reveal Himself to you, and tonight you get it...FINALLY! Like the big painting in this room, which was drawn with chalk by Ben Glenn at JesusFest 2005. You can see Saul of Tarsus heading down the Road to Damascus—and into God's Light. Saul got it...FINALLY!

One Achord ministers in many healthcare environments, among the sick, injured and dying. I have a friend who is the director of pastoral counseling for a major hospital in Connecticut. He's an ordained minister.

In his decades of experience, he knows that every person "has a shadow." A weakness that, but by God's grace, would be a fatal weakness that would take us down the wrong road of self-destruction.

When he's counseling people, he looks to see if they have a humility to their countenance. In his decades of pastoral counseling, it's the people who say they don't have a shadow—who are in denial of their own brokenness—who are the most dangerous. They will go to great lengths to defend themselves and hide their shadows.

2000 years ago, Jesus had the most to say about people who said they had no shadow. In Matthew 23:25-28, He said: *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.*

In Luke 18:10-14, He said, *Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

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One of the things I enjoy about people in the recovery community—and we have several people in that community here tonight—is that they get it. They know their shadows. (In reality, we are all in recovery, but I mean specifically those with issues concerning drug and alcohol abuse.) Unlike the Pharisees and the publicans, they're humble.

Have YOU come to the point in your life when you admit your dysfunction and call upon the Lord to be merciful to you a sinner?

As the great spiritual surgeon, God does not open you up to see your ugly broken self and walk away from the operating table to leave you vulnerable and in a position where you try to heal yourself. He opens up your heart in order to heal you by His Grace, His Word, His Spirit.

If you cut through all the religion, can you honestly say, like the T-shirt I'm wearing, that you've Got Jesus? The way you Get Jesus is by humbling yourself before the Lord and asking for His forgiveness. Tonight, I invite you to pray with me: Dear Lord, I confess that I'm dysfunctional and imperfect. I have my "shadows." I am a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins, that you were buried, and three days later you rose again. Jesus, I call out to you to be merciful to me, to forgive me of my sins, and to give me the gift of eternal life. I trust in you with my eternal destiny. Amen."



Drew then proceeded to give a brief evangelism training course using the little Smileys he hands out.

At least five people visibly responded that they trusted Jesus that night! They FINALLY GOT IT! Praise God! If you read this message and called upon Jesus to save you, please call Drew at 860-871-6500 or email him at dcrandall@ChristAtWork.org . He'd be delighted to give you some tips on how to grow in Christ and help you to get connected with a local church.