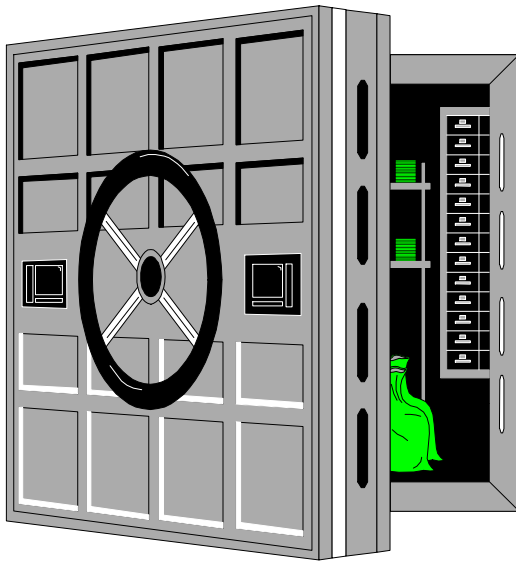


Jewels From the Vault

Sermon Series

Don't Forget to Carry the One

Luke 2:44-45



Sermon **#14**

All scriptural references provided in this document
are taken from the NIV Bible.

Beulah Grove Baptist Church

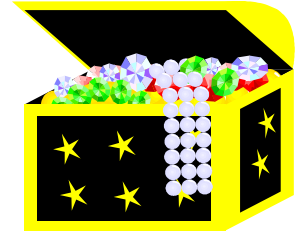
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Series Summary



Without question, there is a multi-billion dollar industry today that specializes in designing and marketing fake, imitation and counterfeits. Although these artificial items look real, they are not. This industry has been successful because people either don't have the means for which to purchase them or they a driven desire to have them.

In the case of the church, what you see might not be what you get. There are so many in the church with a desire to be – yet lack the discipline to study, pray, and to become. On the other hand, many have become involved with counterfeits and are just not sure. In other words, there are cheap imitations available including get-rich-quick, name-it-and-claim-it concepts. Some of these philosophies and teachings even look good and sound good but they are fake, simply because they are not based upon the Word of God. They don't come up to His standards. Therefore, be very careful in what and whose word you stand on. Where you stand determines what you see.

Large Text (The Book of Luke):

This Word falls from the inspired pen of Luke, a medical doctor and a close friend of Paul. Luke addresses this gospel to Theophilus, but writes to people everywhere. The purpose of his sharing was to present an accurate, orderly account of the human and divine nature of Christ. Luke wrote this gospel around 60 A. D. from Rome.

Short Text:

A few days ago, I sat at my desk with a simple task. The task was to add up three columns of numbers. That is not a difficult task at all. It was basic elementary math. So I began to add $913 + 796 + 389 = 2,098$. To double check, I added again. The total was 2,088. Concerned about the total, I added again. It was 2,088. By this time, I gave up and used my calculator. My calculator said 2,098. I double checked and it was 2,098. When I rechecked, I discovered my error. I uncovered my mistake. My numbers were different simply because I forgot to carry the ONE. Verified by the calculator, my one was mission. **Jesus is the ONE.** He is the **ONE** for your burdens. "Come unto Me . . ." He is the **ONE** for your pain if you are trying to live a victorious life. He is the **ONE.** His name clears the way. His name wipes out stuff. Demons tremble at His name. By the name of Jesus, every knee must bow. This word today is about carrying **THE ONE.** We fight unnecessarily battles and remain in the valley longer than we have to. Trouble is not trouble when *He* shows up. Life is too uncertain, hills are too high and folk are too mean to travel without *Him*.

Text: Luke 2:44-45

44 *Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.*

45 *When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.*

Subject: "Don't Forget to Carry the One"

Introduction

I submit to you at the beginning that this was the very thing that Mary and Joseph did – they forgot to carry The One. They had to check their crowd. I also want to suggest that it is important for each of us to every so often turn aside and take a close look, first at ourselves and secondly, at those in

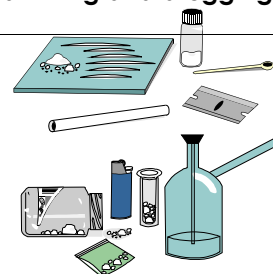


whom we deal with and associate ourselves. It becomes necessary that we evaluate ourselves and those with whom we keep company.

At the time of our text, Jesus, along with His mother Mary and His earthly father Joseph, were in the process of returning from Jerusalem. They went to the Holy City of Jerusalem to observe the feast of the Passover. Mary and Joseph being poor but very devout Jews had gone to Jerusalem to observe this feast. Even to this day, there are those who on certain days, visit the Holy City as they did in the days of Jesus.

Jesus is now at the tender age of 12. He journeys to Jerusalem with His parents and He is engaged in this observance. In other words, Jesus not only went to church but He participated in church as well. Now the ceremony was over. The fast has ended. Jesus along with Mary and Joseph and other Jews were leaving Jerusalem in route for home. Jesus was alone with them at the time of departure. For some reason or another, they had decided to tarry behind. I believe He started out of the city with them but because the crowd was so large in which they were traveling, it provided Him with the opportunity to just fall behind and tarry in Jerusalem. At some point on the journey, Mary and Joseph missed Jesus but they did not really get disturbed at first. They just made the assumption or took it for granted that Jesus was somewhere in the crowd.

It is that "somewhere" crowd that introduces your children to smoking, drinking and drugging.



Two things that disturb me in that 44th verse. **First, his parents felt comfortable assuming that Jesus, at 12 years old, was somewhere in the crowd.** It is that "somewhere" crowd that introduces your children to smoking, drinking and drugging. It is that "somewhere" crowd that produces the environment for that first sexual encounter. You have a child infected with HIV or nine months later, you have a child with a child; and yet another child still receiving an allowance, unable to pay a beeper bill calling himself, "Daddy." And it's all because you allowed your child to be lost in that "somewhere" crowd. That "somewhere" crowd is everywhere and yet no where. I'm not trying to prevent young people from being young; but you ought not hang with those who are going no where. Mary and Joseph, "Where are your sons and daughters?"

The second thing that disturbs me is that Mary and Joseph were traveling under an assumption and did not get upset. They assumed. In other words, they took a sedative called "assumption." They supposed. They assumed. Parents, do you know where your children are? Not just physically. Who is your child's best friend? Where is your child's favorite hang out spot? What's the real reason for the mood swing? I know you see the MP3 players and you see their bodies moving but what are they listening to? The Ying Yang twins may be whispering in their ear. What and who are they watching on television? Don't assume, parents. Don't become accessories to contributing to the destruction of your minor, the one God entrusted you with.

The third thing that disturbs me is many Christians make the same assumption that Mary and Joseph made. They assume that the Word is with them; but they have not heard the Word. To clear up my point of reference, **John 1:14 – The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.** The Word is Jesus Christ. He is the one. It is important. It is critical that we do not forget to carry the One in our private worship and walk and also in our "crowd" worship and walk. We must understand that a crowd without Christ is nothing more than a mob; and a mob will turn on you on Friday.

If you are going to a place where you can't take Him, maybe you ought to reconsider the place. You may not be anointed enough to handle all of your desires. If you keep Him with you and you ask Him, He can clean up your desire; and the places you used to go, you will not want to go there anymore.

If you are planning to snort something, to smoke something or drink something and you can't snort, smoke or drink it with Jesus – maybe you need to lay that habit down. If you carry the one, He can clean up your habits.

If you are hanging with people that you ought not be hanging with, people who don't add any value to your life and destiny, if you carry the One, He will clean up your relationships. You can't drop Him off and pick Him up on your way back.



“Substance”
(ὤψις, ὑποἰστέλλω, Greek) –
“a standing under.”

The question becomes how can one be sure that they are carrying The One even in a crowd? I want to suggest as in all Biblical matters that faith is the key. It does not matter what the spiritual encounter is. Faith is the center. **Jesus said to Peter, “I have prayed for you that you keep the faith” (Luke 22:32). Hebrews 11:1 is clear. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.**

Notice first, the writer provides a description, not a definition of how faith works.

Now comes the definition that faith is established conviction concerning things unseen and unsettled, an expectation of future rewards. The Greek word translated “substance” literally means “a standing under.” When you are traveling with a crowd, be sure that Jesus is standing under the weight of the crowd, the pressure and the struggle with you. How does one acquire faith?

Come to **Romans 10:17 (KJV) – So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** The Word says faith comes by hearing. So then the “-ing” instead of “-ed” on “hear” suggests to me a process. You cannot grow on what you have heard alone. To hear gets your attention. My mother would say, “Didn’t you hear me?,” if I was still sitting. Hearing is a subconscious play back of what you heard. Hearing allows God to place fresh revelations on what you have heard. So then, He must travel with you to be able to hear. The sad but true fact is many times we hear His voice, recognize His presence, but ignore His direction through intellectual reasoning. If He is with you, you can make good choices and decisions, even in a crowd. If the crowd does not hear, He must be able to dialogue with **you**. Are you hearing?

This is the growing edge for some saints. They can read the Word but cannot hear the voice behind the Word. When you read your science book, math, etc., you need good reasoning skills. When you read your history book, there is a need for comprehension skills. However, when you read the Bible, you need to be able to hear His voice because it is **His-story**. You need to hear what He is saying about Himself. How does He show up? Why does He show up? What does He do when He shows up? This book can either bless you or curse you. It is the manual.

It is important that you hear His voice and not change the Word. When you change the Word, you eliminate His voice. That may explain why two people may read the same Word but don't get the same results. One reads well but the other reads **and** hears. If you are hearing the Word, you also understand that what God speaks must be. Consider if you will, **hearing vs. heard**. Please understand that you do not discover the truth in scripture. Truth is revealed by the Holy Ghost. Hearing is a process that is needed until the promise arrives. Hearing produces patience. **True patience is waiting without worry.** There are so many with information without revelation. They heard, but are not hearing and it happens if we fail to **carry The One**.

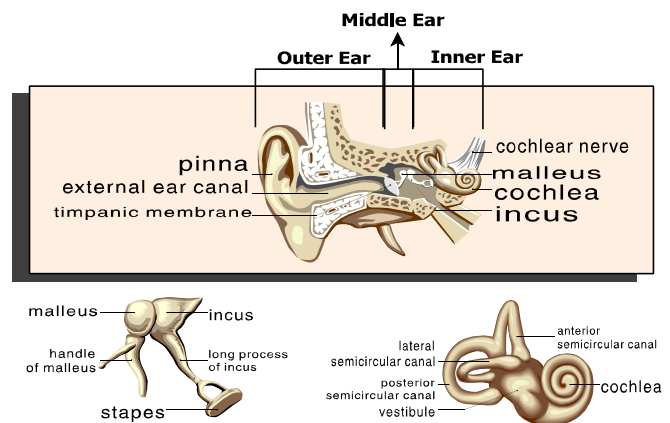
So Mary and Joseph were not upset at the beginning because they were supposing and assuming that Jesus was somewhere in the crowd. Even though they had not heard the “Word” lately. Unfortunately for them, they were traveling under a false assumption and that is the way it is with so many on the road today. It never ceases to amaze me how many important things people take for granted. It is dangerous to travel under an assumption. Mary and Joseph were traveling under the false assumption that Jesus was somewhere with them in the crowd.

The Bible said that after they had gone a day's journey (how long has it been?), they became more concerned and alarmed by the fact that they had not been able to see Him in the crowd. They became so alarmed that they



Anatomy of the Ear (Hearing)

“Sounds set up vibrations in air that beat against the eardrum that pushes a chain of tiny bones that press fluid in the inner ear against membranes that set up shearing forces that pull on the tiny hair cells that stimulate nearby neurons that give rise to impulses that travel to the brain, which interprets them – and you hear.”
(Marieb, Blaine N., Human Anatomy & Physiology, 2nd edition, p. 525)

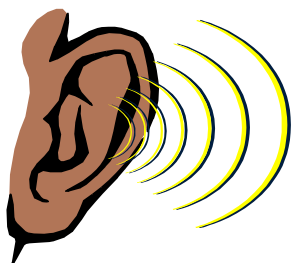


Hearing allows God to place fresh revelations on what you have heard.

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Hearing is a process that is needed until the promise arrives.



decided to search through the company in which they were traveling. In an effort to see if they could find Jesus in their crowd, let me say it like this: They discovered that they were walking and talking with a **Christless** crowd; and they only discovered that after they checked their crowd.

Now my brothers and sisters, it is necessary on our part, it is wisdom on our part that we turn aside every now and then and evaluate, appraise, if you will, check our crowd. There is a great possibility that crowds of people that you are traveling with may not be a Christ filled crowd. It is highly possible that if you have not taken the time to check and check carefully and to check prayerfully, it is a possibility that the person, your best buddy, is a **Christless** person. It may prove to be that persons in whom you confide and get all your information from, that person you depend on to stand by you just may be a **Christless** person. And it is a dangerous thing to put your business in the hands of a

Christless person. They will use what you told them to bring you down. They will use what you told them toward your own destruction. It could be that you are traveling with a **Christless** person, a **Christless** crowd and that is dangerous.

You see, a **Christless** crowd will push you out on a limb, then cut it off behind you. It is dangerous. So many people have lost their lives because of being with the wrong crowd. There are many in prison that really were not involved with what was going on and they just happen to be in the wrong crowd, at the wrong time, in the wrong place. Maybe they were not dealing in drugs, but they were in the company of a few who were dealing in drugs and when the drug bust came, they were caught in the midst, totally unaware. So they went to prison because they were in a Jesus-less, a **Christ-less** crowd. It would be wisdom on the part of every woman, every man, every boy and girl to check your crowd. You may have some blood brothers or sisters in the crowd too; but you still need to check it. You may have some close loved ones in the crowd, but still need to check. You may discover that Jesus is no where to be found in your crowd. His voice was missing from the crowd. What is His voice like – urgency, love, ushers in peace . . . ?

A Christless crowd will push you out on a limb, then cut it off behind you.



Now this Scripture points out that Jesus will not be found in any and every crowd. There are some crowds in which He will not be found. So be careful about the company you keep. Be careful about the people with whom you associate. Treat everybody right. Be kind to everyone because we are under divine obligation. We are under divine commandment to do unto all men and women as we would have them do unto us. You can be kind to everyone but you cannot afford to **run** with everyone. You can be loving and Christian to everybody but you cannot afford to be a buddy, a running partner and comrade, a homie with everybody. You have to be, you must be selective not about who you treat right but about who runs with you. You have to be careful about the company you keep.

The Scriptures ask, “How can two walk together except they agree?” Now if you are not a gambler, then why are you always hanging with them? You just illustrated my point. If you are not a gambler, then every time people see you, you are always in the gambling crowd. You can stop by, invite them to church, witness to them, but all your activity should not be in that group. You must treat everybody right. Be kind; but if you are not engaging in a certain lifestyle, you should not feel comfortable among those who do. It becomes necessary to check the crowd. Even though you may be with a church crowd, you better check it because everybody that is at church is not **in** church. There are many people who are in the right environment but are far from being right. You are not saved by being in the right place. That was the problem with the lost coin. It was in the right place. The coin was in the house but it was still lost. Check the crowd. Maybe you cannot hang around with everybody even if you serve in the same ministry. Check your crowd. Please understand that Satan knows the Word. He can exegete Scripture but he can't live it. He can front and perform but if you are not hearing, there will be inconsistencies.

How much Jesus is in your crowd?



Yes, the scripture says that they were traveling in a Jesus-less crowd and the Bible said that after they discovered Jesus was no where to be found in that crowd, the record tells us that they decided to depart from the crowd. When you wake up to the fact that you are in a Jesus-less bunch, in a Christ-less crowd, it becomes necessary to depart because the company you keep, the crowd that you run with is doing one of two things. They are bringing you closer to the Lord or they are causing you to stray farther from Him. Things never stay the same. You are either progressing or you are regressing.

When they found out that Jesus was not in the crowd, the Bible said that they pulled away from that crowd. The crowd that you belong to – can Christ be found in the conversation? Can He be found in what they say? And the things they talk about? How much Jesus is in your crowd? Check your crowd. Can Christ be found in the way your crowd walks? “Walk” in the Bible means the way we live. Can Christ be found in the way your crowd behaves. Check your crowd.

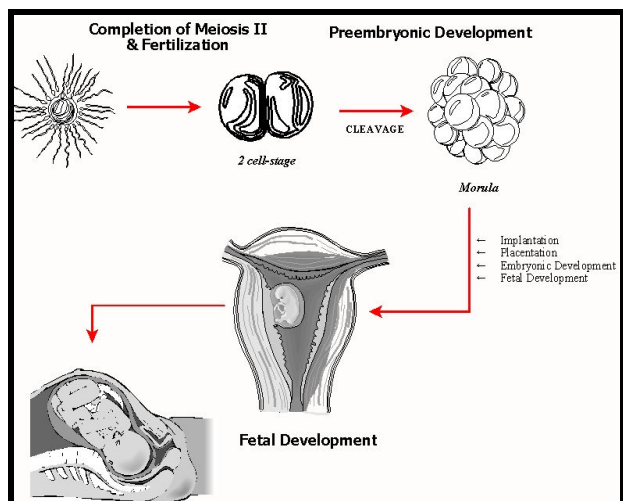
The record said that when they could not find Him in the crowd, they decided to go back to Jerusalem. The crowd did not wait on them. The crowd kept on walking. Let them go on because they cannot add value to your life if they are not walking with Christ. When you decide to turn around and seek Jesus, the crowd will leave you. People that you thought would be with you until the end will leave you whenever you try to live for the Lord or try to improve the quality of your life. The one that used to blow up your cell will keep walking . . . strive to make an A+. The crowd that was with you will be against you. The crowd went on.

Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem and when they got there, they found Him in the temple. They did not find Jesus in some club and they did not find Him in some gossip session. They did not find Him in some critical rally where people were tearing someone down. They found Him in the church. That is always a good place to find the Lord; but I must tell you that is not the only place to find Him. Some have found Him walking alone. Someone said, “I heard a voice but I saw no one.” Some have found Him in their secret closet while talking to Him in prayer because He is everywhere. But you ought to be able to find Him in the church. “Upon this rock, I will build my church,” He said.

CELEBRATION

As I close, that is why I am concerned about churches that are fussing and fighting, churches that are going to court, churches that need lawyers and judges to tell them what to do. You need to be able to find peace in the house of God. You ought to be able to find Jesus in the church. Check the crowd. The Word ought to order the steps of the church.

When they went back, they found Him in the temple talking to the doctors and the lawyers. The record said He was talking to them and asked them questions. The Bible said that they were amazed at Jesus’ conversation. They never heard a child speak like Jesus. I heard an old preacher say, “Maybe Jesus said to the doctor, you have the medicine to heal the physical body; but what do you have for the sin sick soul?”



He may have turned to the lawyers and said, “You have the knowledge to defend a man’s case in the courtroom but I want to know if you can defend a man whose soul has been commended to a burning hell?” Oh, they had never heard anyone like Jesus.

When Mary and Joseph found Jesus, no doubt they asked Him, “Why? Why did you leave? We have been worried over your absence.”

Jesus said to His parents, “I’m not trying to be a bad child.” Children honor your mother and father. He may have said, “But don’t you remember when I was conceived? The angel came into your room and told you that the Holy Ghost



will come upon you and you would bring forth a child. Mama, don't you remember the angels saying, you shall call Him, 'Jesus?' And He shall save the people from their sin. You knew before I was born that I was not a regular child. You understood before I was born that I came here for an unusual cause. I came here to do the will of My Father."

"Now Father Joseph, don't you remember that the same angel came to you when you were about to put her away because you thought she had been unfaithful to you? The angel came to you and said that this event in Mary's womb is not of man but of the Holy Spirit. That is the same boy that the angel, Mother Mary and Father Joseph, told you about. I must be about my heavenly Father's business. The time has come. It is time now. The time has come." It is time. It's getting late in the evening.

Somebody has been wrong long enough. Somebody has gone contrary to God's Word long enough. They are caught up in the wrong crowd. The Lord has left you alive. The blood is still pumping in your veins. The Lord has been good. He blessed you to lay down last night and early this morning, it was nobody but the Lord Who touched you. He gave you the privilege to open your eyes. You were able to see. He gave you the privilege to move your legs. Look at you. The first thing you did this morning was wake up. Then, you stood up, left the bed and started walking. God has been good.

Don't you know that it is time to be about our Father's business. We have wasted enough time. You are in the right place. You just need to do the right thing. If I were you, I would stand up and then I would move up. Then I would walk up. Then I would live up. I would talk up and would tell the world that I found a Savior and He is sweet I know. I must be about my Father's business. Is anybody here on our Father's business?

The sermon is about a commitment, to check those we hang with; to see if they are with you. For you must understand that if they are not with Christ, then they cannot be with **you**. Without Him, there is no light. His Word is a lamp unto your feet.

I want to close by saying that if you allow Him, Jesus will not only walk and talk with you, but He will also allow you to dance with Him. Don't forget to carry the "One."



JEWELS FROM THE VAULT

(Sermon Series Review)

SERMON #	DATE	SUBJECT/TEXT	OVERVIEW
1	6/5/05	"Are You Sure About Your Salvation?" 1 John 5:9 and John 20:31	Knowing that you have the assurance of salvation.
2	6/12/05	"The Case of the Non-Productive Fig Tree?" Matthew 21:17-19	When God checks you out, will He find fruit or leaves only?
3	6/19/05	"Do It" Genesis 6:22; Genesis 31:16b (NKJ); John 2:5 (NKJ)	The voice of the Creator vs. the ear of the creature; Can you hear the Lord when He speaks?
4,5	7/3 and 7/10/05	Not Available in PRINT	
6	7/17/05	If You Don't Know Me By Now (The Problems With Slow learners) John 14:9	Having amnesia to what the Lord has done in the past
7	7/24/05	"The Choices We Make" 1 Kings 17:3-4	This word focuses on the choices we make and the response of God to meet us at our point of need and our response to Him.
8	7/31/05	"The Choices We Make" (Part 2); 1 Kings 17:8-9	
9	8/7/05	"The Choices We Make" (Part 3) 1 Kings 18:21-24	
10	8/14/05	"The Choices We Make" (Part 4) 1 Kings 19:1-3	
11	8/21/05	"Why Should I Worship At Church?" (Luke 4:18)	Understanding the reasons why we should come to church and worship.
12	8/28/05	"Why Should I Worship At Church?" Part 2; (Luke 4:18)	
13	9/4/05	Jesus' Presence At Corporate & Private Worship (Is Jesus Here?) Matthew 18:19-20	Description of persons that Jesus will or will not "hang" with; to give practical suggestions on what we must do to invoke Jesus' active presence; to give the three critical elements of worship.
14	9/11/05	Don't Forget to Carry the One Luke 2:44-45	The mistakes we make when we forget to carry the One
15, 16	9/18, 25/05	Touched By Jesus During Worship Matthew 9:20-22 (NKJ)	Worship and praise through touch; experiencing . the presence of God is available to all who know Jesus Christ. Yet, most of us fail to enter into His presence.
17	10/2/05	Past Due Praise Bill Acts 3:7-9	Refusing to pay your praise bill; how do you give God His due?
18	10/9/05	Past Due Praise Bill (Part 2) Psalm 29:1-2	Giving God what is due Him. Why should we always glorify, honor, worship, and praise God in our daily lives?
19	10/16/05	The Interruption of Worship Matthew 8:14-15	The effects, the stages and how a fever can interrupt corporate and private worship.
20	11/5/05	Tested Through Relationships 1 Cor. 15:10	Discover the most challenging thing for yourself about loving someone else.
21	11/20/05	Tested Through Relationships (Part 2) Luke 3:21-22; Luke 4:1	



SERMON #	DATE	SUBJECT/TEXT	OVERVIEW
22	12/11/05	Why Player Haters Fail (Jude 1:24-25)	A paradigm shift in our faith; this word focuses on faith and calls the believers back to what they believe.
23	12/18/05	Sitting Down In My Stuff (1 Kings 9:4)	Exploring the "I have had enough" dilemma



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	87.7FM Radio		
Sunday 8am - 9am	WIIZ FM Radio	97.9	
Sunday 7:30am - 8:00am	Television – WRDW/UPN	#96	Knology Cable, Richmond and Columbia Counties in Georgia
		#97	G Force, Aiken, New Ellenton and Jackson, SC
		#21	Comcast, North Augusta, Trenton and Beech Island in South Carolina
		#9	Charter Cable, Fort Gordon; Richmond and Columbia Counties in Georgia
		#7	Knology Cable, Richmond and Columbia Counties in Georgia
		#7	G Force, Aiken, New Ellenton and Jackson, SC

