

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 13, 2022

It's All God's

Giving can be an issue of counting more of what God instructs us to do, based on the examples of others in the Old Testament, rather than a response to His goodness, grace and kindness towards us and our families. "A new convert declared his determination to give all that he had for the Master. He said, "Pastor, if I had fifty pigs, I'd give twenty-five of them to the Lord." "That's very nice," said the pastor. "If you had thirty, would you give fifteen to the Lord?" "Of course, I would," said the new Christian. "If you had ten, would you give five of them?" asked the pastor again. "You know I would," he answered. Then the pastor said, "If you had two, would you give one to the Lord?" "Now Pastor, don't ask me that. You know I have only two pigs." (From Illustrations of Bible Truths Copyright © 1995, 1998 by AMG International, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

When the nation of Israel left Egypt and God instructed them to give, they did so because they truly appreciated God powerfully removing them from a cruel, unjust taskmaster (Exodus 35:20-36:1-7). As a result, they gave from their hearts (Exodus 35:21-22, 25, 29). The same with the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8:1; "Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which was given in the churches of Macedonia." Their giving was an act of thanks for the grace God provided to them especially since they were Gentiles. They did not invite Paul to share the Gospel, Paul came because God sent him (Acts 9:15). God only sent Paul because God "so loved the world." (John 3:16) and always had the Gentile nations on His mind (Genesis 12:3). God always had a plan to come for everyone (Galatians 4:4).

Most people do not go around giving to strangers as often as they give to loved ones. This is the difference between Cain and Abel. Cain gave because he was told to give; Abel gave because of his respect and adoration for God (Genesis 4:1-11; Hebrews 11:4). "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34). This is why giving leads to righteousness (2 Corinthians 9:10-11). "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." (John 15:14) We say we love God, so why is giving such a task, especially since He saved us when we were not seeking Him (Romans 3:11) and were doomed for hell?

Giving should be a thanksgiving to God (2 Corinthians 9:7) not a grudging responsibility.



UPCOMING Events



Kingdom Builder's Men's Ministry Bible Study Sat., March 19th 9:00 a.m.

Satan doesn't usually hit us with an all-out frontal attack. It's the subtle landmines that do the most damage. Come and join the Men's Kingdom Builders Bible Study in the foyer of Legacy Sanctuary as we go through the Book "Landmines" by Charles F. Stanley. For more information contact James Thompson at thompson929@gmail.com.



Usher & Greeter Ministry

The Greeters and Ushers Ministry Needs You! The Ushers serve faithfully at Sunday Worship Service, Bible Study, Funerals, and Special Events. Join us March 19th at 10:00 a.m. to learn more about these ministries in the main sanctuary foyer. We are always looking for more volunteers who have a heart for people from all walks of life to join this team. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Lula Hays at lulahays1@yahoo.com



Youth Spring Break Bash March 19th-20th

We will have a Youth Spring Break Bash! March 19-20th, 7th—12th Grades are welcome to attend. Come out to serve at the Christian Outreach Center at 9 a.m. on the 19th, followed by food and bowling and on the 20th; Kickball Game at 2:00 p.m. with the LEGIT Young Adults. Meet at Legacy Sanctuary. For more information contact Jordan Washington at legacyyouth@lwfellowshipchurch.org or (832) 265-6977



Singles Ministry Wangz & Fellowship Event Friday, March 25th 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Singles! Come Out for Wangz & Fellowship! Lots of Fun, Food and Fellowship with the Singles Ministry on Friday March 25th from 7:00—9:00 p.m. in the Legacy Sanctuary. Contact Alex Wolfe for more information at ajwolfe83@hotmail.com



Get FIT with LEGIT—March 26th 10:00 a.m.

Come get fit with L.E.G.I.T. March 26th 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. Bring your sweats and motivation! Dean'na Mitchell will host a fitness class for L.E.G.I.T. in the Legacy sanctuary. Water and a light lunch provided. Q&A will follow in which you can ask questions about making a commitment to your physical wellbeing. For more information, contact Keron Brown at or Moniqua Glasper at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org or 832.977.9674.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

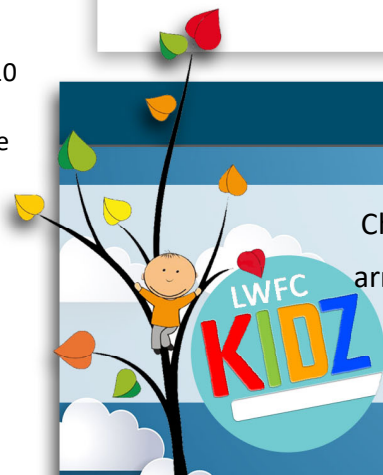
"Acceptable"
Ezekiel 20:39-42

Click on the "Resources" tab and click "Sermon Notes"

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.
Infants—6th grade



Acceptable

Ezekiel 20:39-42

A. Bad Habits (v. 39):

- 1. The Lord, through Ezekiel, verbalizes that when He addresses Israel He does so as their Ruler who has all authority and sincerely desires a genuine relationship.
- 2. Since God has a covenant with Israel and has all authority and power, He is their strength their warrior and therefore their King whom they have and need.
- 3. Just as in the case of Elijah and the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-46), the Lord God commands them to not be complacent but to actively go to their idols. In other words, challenging them to see if their idol will restore them or if He will include them in His restoration of Israel; similar to Elijah.
- 4. When this form of worship proves fruitless, these individuals will provide the Lord God their full attention intellectually and spiritually.
- 5. The emptiness of fruitless worship can create an appetite for true worship.
- 6. The people of Israel are worshipping idols, but when they turn their hearts back to the Lord, His sacred memory and reputation will no longer be defiled.

B. True Worship (v. 40):

- 1. The Lord’s holy mountain definitely establishes intentional worship and stands as a constant reminder to worship Him as people go about their busy lives.
- 2. This must be a time during the millennial or the new heavens and the new earth because He is saying that this is everyone in Israel.
- 3. This act of worship must be exhilarating (Deuteronomy 28:47-48).
- 4. It is this kind of worship He finds pleasure in.
- 5. The Lord, who has all power and authority, is continuously, endlessly inquiring and examining what gifts, they need to bring or have brought before Him.
- 6. The offering the Lord seeks is what is required at His holy place.
- 7. The Lord is seeking for something specific. He is seeking an offering that was specifically set aside, because it is the first fruits of all that they were going to bring. This is why it is a meaningful, purposeful gift unto the Lord (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
- 8. When worship takes place in the manner described in verse 40, the Lord says it is like a nice smelling fragrance of perfume in His presence.
- 9. The Lord finding pleasure with the offering, now causes Him to have a renewed relationship with Israel.
- 10. When the Lord is truly respected, by the manner in which we worship Him, all and who He is becomes vividly evident.

C. Live Blessed (v. 42):

- 1. God’s restoration allows everyone to know that He is Lord.
- 2. It is the King, the Lord God who by His power and might will reestablish them back into Israel. They could not do this on their own.
- 3. The restoration of their relationship with the Lord is because He is faithful to His promises. He diligently works to maintain His promises no matter how long it takes.
- 4. The Lord fights for us to love Him and when we do, He responds with bountiful blessings.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Pam Collier & family, Kathy Burrell & family, Beverly Austin & family, Leo and Daphne Banks & family, Susie Farley & family, Beatrice Williams & family, Patricia Harris & family, George Washington & family, and Rashaud Hudson & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, and the Tillis family.

