

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 27, 2022

Every Occasion

The issue of obeying God in the area of giving is difficult for some people because their budget is already strained. As a result, giving to God is not the focus, it is more of how can I be blessed by God. Biblically, this only creates greater needs, more stress, and expectations from God that most times do not produce the results we desire.

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
(Luke 6:38; NIV)

The believers in Macedonia were beyond poverty, but because they came to the realization of what God did for them, they decided to give out of their poverty and God blessed them for their obedience rather than their sacrifice. "Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints." (2 Corinthians 8:2-4; NIV) The same mindset is seen in the widow of Mark 12:41-44. This is because giving is not about sacrifice, it is about obedience that always requires faith and trust in God. The depth of our obedience is identified by what we had to sacrifice to give. This kind of obedience exposes the level of our faith. The Macedonians and the widow chose to obey the Word of God and by doing so they demonstrated their willingness to trust God.

A church member was expecting \$300,000 in a will from a family member. The member said to the pastor, "If I get the \$300,000, I will give one-third to the church." The pastor said, "How will you give one-third of this amount when you can't give one-tenth of what you now earn?" It's not what we would do if we had much money—it's what we are doing with what we have now! (from Heartwarming Bible Illustrations Copyright © 1998 by AMG International, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."
(2 Corinthians 9:10-11; NIV)



UPCOMING Events



Christian Outreach Garage Sale
April 2nd 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
The Christian Outreach Center will be having a Community-Wide Garage Sale. Donate Items Monday & Tuesday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register for a table or to volunteer by contacting **Pastor Boutte at 713-683-0847**. All proceeds will benefit the COC parking lot reconstruction project.



Leadership Training—Sat. April 9th 8:30 a.m.
Calling all Elders, Deacons, Ministers, Ministry Leaders, and Ministry Coordinators, attend Leadership Training with our own Dr. Paul Cannings. Breakfast will be served. Come prepared to learn and advance the work in your ministry areas for the next quarter! **Register Today at <https://bit.ly/35qK6u8>**



EASTER/RESURRECTION WEEKEND
FRIDAY—6:00 p.m.
Good Friday Service "Resurrect Me" Presented by the LWFC Drama Ministry & Creative Jams

SATURDAY—11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Good News Festival
Free Food, Fun, Games, Bouncers & a Law Enforcement Special Appreciation

SUNDAY SERVICES
Sunrise—6:00 a.m.
Morning—8:30 a.m.
Contemporary—11:00 a.m.



Prayer Vigil—Tuesday, April 12th
12 p.m. & 7 p.m.
The Prayer Ministry will hold it's quarterly Prayer Vigil Tuesday, April at 12 p.m. and at 7 p.m. Pray with us, Intercede on behalf of your family, friends and community, Connect, and Grow on your spiritual and prayer journey. Join us in-person, on Facebook or on YouTube! For more information contact **Tomitra Wiley at tomitraw@sbcglobal.net**



Center For Christian Living-Apr. 19th - May 24th
The Center for Christian Living - The Encounter With Jesus—will begin April 19th and run through May 24th. Bible Studies and classes will be every Tuesday at noon and 7 p.m. Come join us as we obtain a deeper understanding of Jesus and how he uses the problems in our lives and turns them into testimonies for His glory. For more information visit www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/center-christian-living or contact Nord Bullock at nordbullock@yahoo.com



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

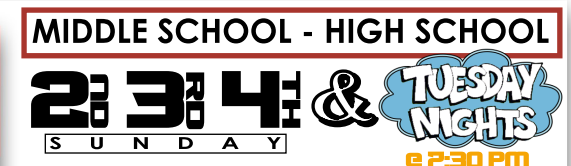
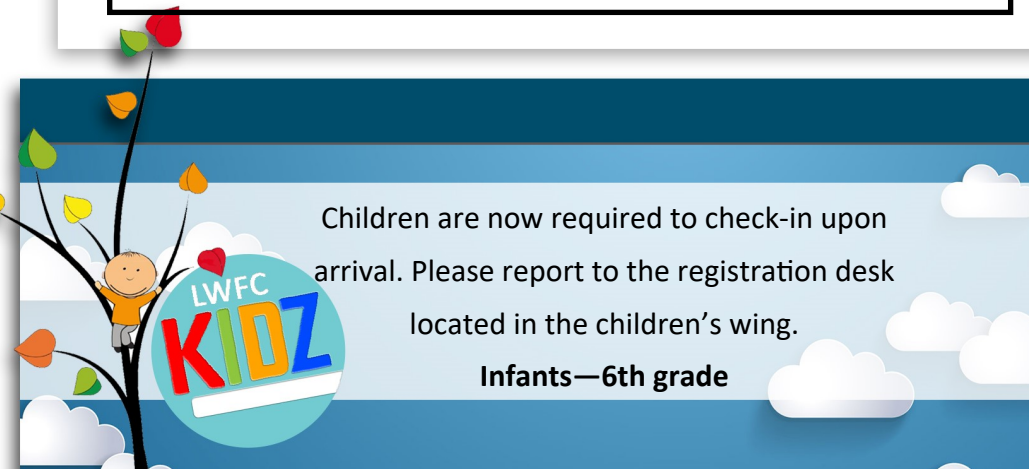
"Servant's Heart"
Luke 10:38-39, 42;
John 11:32; 12:1-2

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

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Servant's Heart

Luke 10:38-39, 42; John 11:32; 12:1-2

A. Willingness to be Taught (Luke 10:38-39, 42):

1. Christ deliberately, once and for all, decided to go into the city of Bethany.
2. Martha reached out to Christ with the mindset to provide Him kindness and hospitality.
 - a) "Martha gave Him a welcome, and Mary also expressed her devotion in her own way," These are kind thoughts. "Mary joined in the welcome, and also sat at His feet." The meal had not yet begun, for Martha was preparing it; and Mary was not sitting at table with Him, but at His feet as His disciple (Acts 22:3).
3. Mary must have already known about Christ because as soon as Christ accepted Martha's invitation, by her posture, she was committed to be His disciple.
4. It seemed like Martha had the same attitude because unlike many people who called Christ rabbi etc. she immediately called Christ, Lord. This is the mindset that consumed her.
5. Mary continuously had a willing heart to do whatever Christ was teaching. She was glued to every word that Christ intelligently expressed willing to come to a clear understanding and apply it.

B. Trusted His Love (John 11:32):

1. Mary, upon hearing that Christ was outside the village, got up and continuously made every effort to get to Him.
2. Mary sought to be in the presence of Christ despite her pain, it being three days passed, and her being hopeless that her brother would rise again
3. When Mary completely recognized who Christ was she immediately worshiped Him seeking His favor.
4. Mary repeatedly kept saying Lord, demonstrating that even though she wished He was present when Lazarus was sick, she still respected Him as the One who has all authority and might. She continuously worshiped Him even when she was not pleased with His absence when Lazarus was sick.
5. Even Mary confessed, like her sister, Martha, that Christ could have only healed the sick (this demonstrated that even though she was a committed disciple, she still needed to grow), unlike Martha, Mary chose to still humble herself and worship Christ at His feet.

C. Surrendered to Worship Him (John 12:1-3):

1. Christ made a point, on His way to Jerusalem knowing He was going to die, to stop and spend time with Martha, Mary and Lazarus. His visit was purposeful. Christ stopped to say goodbye to His friends.
2. Christ once and for all, in His own power and might, resurrected Lazarus, after four days, from a state where there was no life in him. So there is no mistaking who Mary is worshiping this time. Christ is at a whole new level. Mary goes all out because she can see fully who Christ is.
3. This time Christ invited Himself and Martha still served Him. No complaint about Mary.
4. It is amazing that Lazarus is not where Mary is, at the feet of Christ. Instead he is lying on his side at the table with Christ.
5. Mary's use of the costly perfume on Jesus's feet carries many connotations. Travelers wore sandals on dusty rocky roads. This means that their feet could get cuts and bruises. So Mary could be healing and soothing Christ's feet for the rest of His journey as well as consecrating Christ for His burial.
6. Mary seems to intend to deepen her commitment to demonstrate her love for Christ, but doing the unthinkable. At a time when women were frowned upon for taking off their head coverings and even being around men, or a rabbi teaching. Mary defied both and even went further because she used her hair (Paul calls it her glory; 1 Cor. 11:6-15) and wiped Christ's feet with it.
7. Mary's worship dominated everything that was taking place in the room. It is as if her worship tied into the Lord's reference to acceptable worship being a sweet smelling aroma (Eph. 5:2; Phil. 4:18). Her passionate love and worship for the Lord overwhelmed everything else.

COVENANT KEEPERS MARRIAGE MINISTRY

Marriage  Retreat

Friday, April 29th 7 - 9 p.m.
Saturday, April 30th 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

NO GRUDGES,
FIGHT FAIR
AND
FORGIVE
QUICKLY

REGISTER TODAY HERE AT
<https://bit.ly/3D98vRE>

Contact Sherri &
Terry Randle at
lwfmarragemine@gmail.com

Friday Dinner
Saturday
Breakfast
Lunch
Included

Registration
\$100
Kids Saturday
Conference
Included



LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

LEGIT YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY PRESENTS



PARENT'S
DAY
OUT

Sat. April 30th
8 A.M.
2 P.M.

AGES 5 to 11
Children's
Wing

Register here at
<https://bit.ly/3IS8K4V>



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Beatrice Williams & family, Patricia Harris & family, George Washington & family, Rashaud Hudson & family, Dorcas Blackmon & family, Pamela Farris & family and the Stovall family.

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

Servant's
Heart

LUKE 10:38-39, 42;
JOHN 11:32; 12:1-2