

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 19, 2023

A Good Measure



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 I can be blessed by God. Biblically this only creates greater need, 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 about obedience which 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 more 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



LEGIT GET FIT—MARCH 25TH 9 A.M.
Living Word Family! Come join us for our LEGIT Young Adult Ministry as we Get Fit on March 25th at 9:00 am in the Legacy Sanctuary. We will have Deanna Mitchell, the coordinator for our Faith & Fitness Ministry, come out training on this day. Food will be provided and a question and answer panel afterwards. Register at <https://bit.ly/LEGITFit> or contact Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



GOOD NEWS FEST—SAT. APRIL 8TH 11 A.M.
DONATE CANDY FILLED EGGS
Get ready for our Good News Fest, April 8th from 11am-2pm. We are asking for all to donate candy-filled Easter Eggs. Please get with your ministry leaders and coordinators to see how you can help engage the community and share the gospel. Bring donated eggs to the Children's Wing. For more information, contact Sylvia Edwards at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org



RESURRECTION WEEKEND—APRIL 7TH—9TH
FRI. APRIL 7TH 6 P.M.
Good Friday Service & "Worth It" Play
SAT. APRIL 8TH 11 A.M.—2 P.M.
Good News Festival—Donate Candy-filled Eggs
SUN. APRIL 9TH—Easter Services
6 AM | 8:30 A.M. | 11 A.M.



SILVER STARS—55+ MINISTRY
SAT. MARCH 25TH 11 A.M.
All those 55+, join the Silver Stars for their monthly meeting and fellowship. Get connected for all upcoming events, fellowship, and connect with the Silver Stars. For more information contact Jacqueline Jordan at jacqjordan@att.net



CONTEMPORARY SERVICE FELLOWSHIP
SUNDAY MARCH 26TH 1 P.M.
Living Word, Join us for food, fun, and fellowship, Sunday March 26th after contemporary service at 1 p.m. We still will have two services that 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. We will have basketball, spades, dominoes, Uno, and more. Food will be provided! We hope to see you there! For more information, contact Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Communion
- Visitor's Welcome
- Worship In Giving
- Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses
- Special Music
- "Respect Part II"
- Deuteronomy 12:4-7
- 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

LWFC KIDZ

LEGACY EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:15 & TUESDAY NIGHTS SUNDAY 6:30 PM

Respect Part II
Deuteronomy 12:4-7

A. His Reputation (v. 4):

- 1. The Lord God who has all authority, power and is supreme over all is disrespected when we give more time, service and money (worship) to something or someone else (Exodus 20:5; 34:14).
- 2. The place that the Lord God has carefully put in place is the established place He will inaugurate his reputation and fame throughout the earth.
- 3. His dwelling is the place where the Lord God is present. It is the place He inhabits and establishes Himself for worship.
- 4. Because there are so many distractions with foreign gods we must be decisive, careful to distinctively put together well-thought-out plans that provide undistracted devotion to Him.
- 5. When the Lord is willfully and with purpose held high and His place of worship is respected, the mindset that leads to sincere worship is crystalized.

B. How Does He Define an Acceptable Giver? (v. 6):

- 1. Worship begins with a vivid demonstration of trust and love in God’s prescribed place of worship.
- 2. A Burnt Offering is a demonstration of a worshipper’s full surrender to the Lord God.
- 3. Because we are expected to be fully surrendered, what we bring is going to be a sacrifice to God. It is not a convenient gift (the attitude of Cain compared to Abel; Genesis 4:1-8).
- 4. The tithe is an acceptable gift because God considers it holy (Leviticus 27:30-33). Even though Abraham did what was the custom in his day, when he gave a tithe, God still accepted it as holy. He did this by faith, not by the law (Genesis 14:17-24; Hebrews 7:4-10).
- 5. A contribution was a tax that those who were twenty and above had to pay for the up keep of the temple.
- 6. This was an offering that was made as a part of a vow to God. The giver was then obligated to complete the vow.
- 7. ‘of your hand’ is to wilfully obligate oneself to spontaneously, and not sparingly bring a volunteering offering to the Lord. This offering is provided with such liberality that the giver does not stop until the need is thoroughly fulfilled (Ex 35:19, 29; 36:3)
- 8. The Jews were obligated to bring many offerings. God asks us to bring a tithe and we feel challenged. Would we become like the Jews who by the time of Malachi felt it convenient to rob God.
- 9. God expects to be first when we give. He does not like leftovers. We can start with what we have (2 Corinthians 8:12), but it must be first.
- 10. Even though men were the main persons engaged in worship God told them to bring their entire household.
- 11. A faithful giver is allowed to experience the abiding favor of the Lord because they demonstrated a willful purposeful respect for him.

C. Reverence Blesses Everything We Do (v. 7; 2 Corinthians 9:6-10):

- 1. These worshippers can now worship in a spirited, festive manner because they are now guaranteed God’s favor no matter what they may experience.
- 2. The Lord God will fulfill His promises because of their commitment to worship Him. He will cause them to prosper, so that they live happy and wealthy.
- 3. Whatever we set our minds to do, the Lord’s favor will guide us and prosper us so that we experience His goodwill (2 Corinthians 9:6-10).



ANNOUNCEMENTS		
MARK YOUR CALENDAR		
3/25	LEGIT FIT	9 AM
3/25	SILVER STARS 55+	11 AM
3/26	CONTEMPORARY/SERVICE FELLOWSHIP	1 PM
4/7	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	6 PM
4/8	GOOD NEWS FESTIVAL	11 AM - 2 PM
4/9	EASTER SERVICES	6 AM / 8:30 AM / 11 AM

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Susie Farley & family, Ethel Lewis & family, Lula Hayes & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey, Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Patricia Jackson, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, Betty Cunningham, Wanda Turk, Dorothy Price, and Kathryn Ford-Cheatham.

