

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

May 14, 2023

## From Her Heart

When a mother intentionally loves from her heart, the impact can last forever. When Christ shapes her heart, her love will be pure and long-lasting. No matter what the child does or says or how many challenges she may experience, the fruit of that Spirit will always be kind, gentle, loving, and long-lasting.

When Carter L. Burgess resigned as Assistant Secretary of Defense to become president of Trans-World Airlines, the Army awarded him an exceptional civilian service medal. After listening to the lengthy and glowing tribute paid him by Army Secretary Brucker, Burgess said: "I am sorry my mother is not here. She not only would have enjoyed this ceremony, but she would have believed every word of it." —Walter Trohan (Tan, P. L. (1996). Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times. Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc.).

"For many years, the mother of Tom Carter prayed that God would save her boy and make a preacher out of him. Her boy was a wicked sinner. He landed in prison, but the mother prayed for him, believing God would answer her prayers. One day she received a telegram from the prison saying that her son was dead. The mother was stunned for a few minutes.

Then she went to her room. There she prayed with her open Bible before her. She said to the Lord, "O God, I have believed the promises Thou didst give me in Thy Word. I believed I would live to see Tom saved and preaching the gospel. Now, a telegram says he is dead. Lord, which is true, this telegram or Thy Word?" She rose from her knees and wired the prison: "There must be some mistake. My boy is not dead." And there was a mistake. Tom Carter was alive! Not long afterward, he was saved. He became a mighty soul-winner and preacher when he was released from prison. —Dawn (Tan, P. L. (1996). Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times. Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc.).

Being a great mother does not begin at the birth of a child. Being a great mother begins with Christ dwelling in a mother's heart so that what is transferred lasts forever, which causes the child who is a gift from God to become a gift back to God (Psalm 127:3).

"But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—a boy wearing a linen ephod. 19 Each year, his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. 20 Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the Lord give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the Lord." Then they would go home. 21 And the Lord was gracious to Hannah; she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord" (1 Samuel 2:18-2; NIV).

Only what you do for Christ will last (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Happy Mother's Day!



## UPCOMING Events



**USHERS & GREETERS FELLOWSHIP**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 20TH AT 10:00 AM**  
Serve in Excellence with the Ushers & Greeters Ministry. Join them in fellowship every 3rd Saturday at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting will be May 20th. For more information, contact **Lula Hayes at lulahayes1@yahoo.com**



**MEN'S MINISTRY BE INTENTIONAL DISCUSSIONS—SATURDAY, MAY 20TH**  
Join the Kingdom Builder's Men's Ministry for their BE INTENTIONAL Discussion series. The next session is Saturday May 20th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For more information contact **Ian Moore at ianmooresr@gmail.com**



**FAMILY BIBLE ENCOUNTER**  
**JUNE 6TH—8TH 6:30 P.M.**  
Living Word Family, It's Time for the Family Bible Encounter. Join us June 6th - 8th at 6:30 p.m. for FUN, FELLOWSHIP & ENRICHMENT. A light Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. each day. The Theme for this year is Twists & Turns: Following Jesus Changes The Game! Psalm 25:4 Register on the events page of our website and for more information contact **Sylvia Edwards at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org**



**MINI GOLF WITH LEGIT**  
Join The L.E.G.I.T. Young Adults Ministry Saturday May 20th at 6:30pm for a night Of Golf, Fun & Fellowship. The Event Will Take Place At Popstroke Golf 23110 Grand Cir. Blvd. Katy, TX 77449 Register On The Events Page Of Our Website or for more details contact **Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org**



**LWCA SUMMER CAMP—LAST CALL FOR LOCK-IN RATE OF \$85 PER WEEK**  
Skip Into Summer With The Living Word Christian Academy Summer Camp  
Pre-Registration Special of \$85 per week if you register by May 15, 2023! Regular Price is \$120 per week per child Ages 5-12 Register at **www.lwcacademy.org** or call **(713) 686-5538**



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

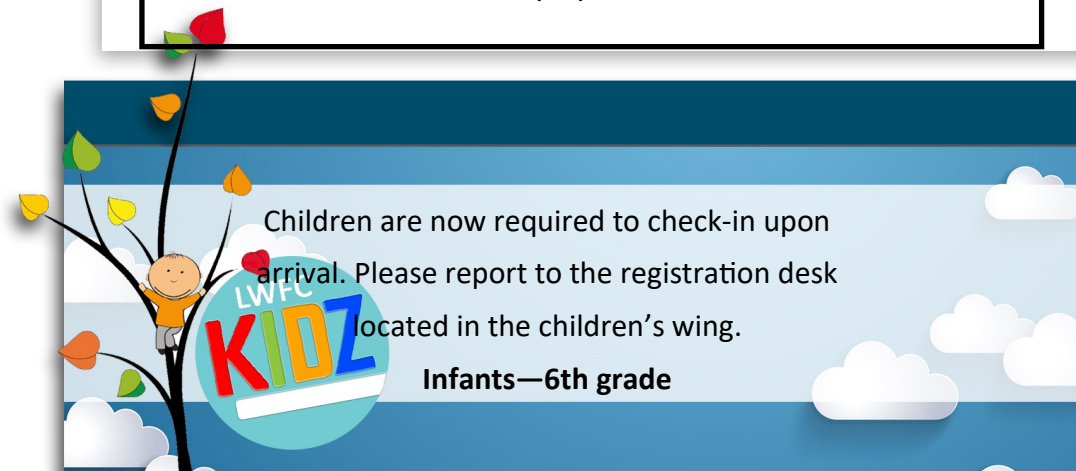
"Influencers"

*Matthew 20:20-23*

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship  
Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Influencers  
Matthew 20:20-23

A. Devoted (v. 20):

- 1. The mother of James and John (disciples whom Jesus would set aside; Matt. 26:37 – Mt. of Transfiguration; Mark says it was they who came to Jesus; They were fishing partners to Peter – Luke 5:10; John 21:2) approached Jesus, once and for all, to ask how her sons fit into His kingdom.
- 2. The main focus of how she will make this request is to commit to demonstrating the heart of worship before Christ and let Christ know she is continuously willing to worship Him.
- 3. We may go to Christ continuously asking for the wrong thing, but He will listen, especially when our hearts are committed to worshipping Him sincerely.

B. Assertive (v. 21):

- 1. When we are willing to abide in His Word and submit our will to His, He says He will provide us with what we wish (John 15:7).
- 2. It is okay for our request before God to be bold (Luke 11:5-13) and persistent (Luke 18:1-8) when we are passionate about what we request from Him.
- 3. She views Christ as eventually being in the kingdom of God, and she also believes that this is Christ's kingdom as well. This text seems to expose how this mother had a correct view of who Christ is. She got it.
- 4. This mother had given her sons over to Christ and now wanted Christ to give them His best.
- 5. Her heart exposes why her sons were in Christ's inner circle, and now she does not want that circle to end.

C. Go Listeners (v. 22):

- 1. I love the fact that Jesus did not fuss or ignore a believing mother. He engaged with her as she sought the best for her children, especially when she probably knew of the discussion in chapter 19:27-30 and also that on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-13)
- 2. It is interesting that Christ did not say can your sons “drink the cup” (drink the cup means bearing all the beating Christ is about to experience). It is intentional that it says, “can you yourself be able to drink the cup.” Christ asks if she can. In other words, if your sons were to be beaten and treated the way Christ will be, could she really handle that?
- 3. The same people who said they have the ability and state of mind to apply themselves to whatever Christ would experience when the time came left Him. Their mother, who understood, remained at the cross. Their ambitions clouded their ability to understand.

D. Do Not Have Selfish Ambitions (v. 23):

- 1. Even though they will turn their backs on Him in the heat of the battle, they will remain in ministry, and when they do, they will have horrible experiences as they proclaim the gospel, the cup.
- 2. The position with Christ is completely and permanently put in place and cannot be changed. So, if they are a part of the process, great if not, they must accept God's sovereign decision made before time and therefore made without partiality.
- 3. Until Christ dies and rises from the dead, God is only His Father, but after the resurrection, He is our Father (John 20:17). Christ focuses on a future glory that we will all share (2 Corinthians 3:18).

# Missions Ministry

Our Missions Team needs your support as we prepare for upcoming summer mission trips. Your continued support through donations and prayers is needed.

## How to Donate

- 1 Visit [lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://lwfellowshipchurch.org)
- 2 Select Give
- 3 Select Give Now!
- 4 Choose 'Missions' in the Fund Drop Down
- 5 Select Sub-Fund Choose Mission Trip
- 6 Add Missionary's First and Last Name if Applicable
- 7 Input your donation amount & submit

Use Your Phone to Scan & Give Now

For more more information on missions at LWFC or how to donate contact Valarie Miller at [lwfcmissions@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:lwfcmissions@lwfellowshipchurch.org)

# CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

## BE INTENTIONAL

JUNE 13TH - JULY 28TH  
TUESDAYS AT 12:00 & 7:00 P.M.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Cynthia Wattell & family, Clyde Ramsey & family, Helen Wardlow & family, Mary Wheatley and Carol Dickerson & family, Leo Banks & family, Tomitra Wiley & family, and Gail O’Neal & 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, Lakesia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey, Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Patricia Jackson, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, Betty Cunningham, Wanda Turk, Deborah Smith, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Hattie Boutte, Arleatha Housely, Susie Farley, Patsy Gatterson, Ruby Hunter, Bobbie Carter, and Yvetta Ford.

# Happy Mother's Day

# Influencers

## MATTHEW 20:20-23

[WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG) | [@lwfchouston](https://www.instagram.com/lwfchouston) |

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