

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 10, 2024

Beyond the Glass



One day, a certain rich man visited a rabbi, who took the rich man by the hand and led him to a window. “Look out there through the glass window,” he said. The rich man looked into the street, “what do you see?” asked the rabbi. “I see men, women, and children,” answered the rich man. Again, the rabbi took him by the hand, leading him to a mirror. Now, what do you see?” Puzzled and somewhat bewildered, the rich man said, “Now I see myself.” Then the rabbi said, “Behold, in the window, there is glass, and in the mirror, there is glass. But the mirror's glass is covered with a little silver (the rabbi used this to signify money), and no sooner is the silver added than you cease to see others; you see only yourself.”

It can be difficult to give to God when all we see is our needs and our need to keep our money. It is even more difficult when all we can think of is what God can do for us. The Bible constantly challenges us to deny ourselves and be disciples of Christ (Luke 14:26; Galatians 2:20). I know this is easier said than done. How do we experience the power of the Holy Spirit, grow in our faith, and learn to trust in God to supply our needs (Luke 12:22-34)?

Once saved, the Holy Spirit, the very nature of God, comes into our lives and takes up residents (Romans 8:1-3, 11), calling our bodies His temple, His dwelling place (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The more we commit to obeying God, the more the Holy Spirit influences our lives. The more we submit ourselves to the direction of the Holy Spirit, as we implement God’s Word, the more the Holy Spirit empowers us to die to our thoughts and feelings that may operate contrary to the Word of God (Romans 12:2). This is why the scriptures state that anyone who is a disciple of Christ loves others (John 13:34-35; Matthew 22:37-40).

Giving to God is difficult when the silver (money) behind the mirror causes us to focus on ourselves (1 Tim. 6:17-19). But when we remove the selfish use of money by deciding to obey Christ, we can clearly see the needs of our church as it ministers to the lives of others. Giving to God is difficult when we look into the mirror rather than through the glass under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

UPCOMING Events

**Fellowship Events Team VOLUNTEER TODAY!**  
<https://bit.ly/LWFCEventVolunteers>

**JOIN OUR FELLOWSHIP EVENTS TEAM**  
Join our Fellowship Events Team. We have several events coming up throughout the year and we need your help! No experience necessary, but you will learn how to pull off a dynamic event with a team. Register on the events page of our website and for more information contact Michelle Lewis.

**Bible Study**  
*The Book of Revelation*  
EVERY TUESDAY AT 12 PM & 7 PM  
STARTING BACK TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024  
REVIEW YOUR REVELATION BIBLE STUDY NOTES HERE AT: <https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes> or Scan QR Code  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE CHURCH AT (281) 260-7402

**REVELATION BIBLE STUDY— EVERY TUESDAY**  
Join us for Revelation Bible Studies every Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
Review your Revelation Bible Study notes at <https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes>  
See you there to continue our deep dive into the book of Revelation. For more information call the church at **(281) 260-7402**.

**Easter Weekend 2024**  
MARCH 29TH-31ST

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH—GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**  
6:00 P.M.  
LWFC Drama Ministry & Creative Jams Present “Forgiveness”  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH—GOOD NEWS FEST**  
11 A.M.—2 P.M.  
Good News Fest—Fun, Food, Games, and more for the Entire Family!  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST—RESURRECTION SUNDAY**  
Services will be at: 6 A.M. | 8:30 A.M. | 11 A.M.

**MEN'S PURITY DISCUSSIONS**  
Living Word Men, join us for our 2024 Purity Discussions. You don't want to miss this opportunity to engage in thought-provoking conversations and walk through *Every Man's Battle* by Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker. Register at <https://bit.ly/MensPurity> or, for more information contact Jeffrey Allen at [Jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:Jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org).

**LWCA/ABC SUMMER CAMP**  
The Living Word Christian Academy and ABC Word Academy have a Christian-based, fun-filled summer camp available for ages 5—12 years-old. The campers will have a dynamic summer with robotics, arts & crafts, cooking classes, karate and much, much more! Register on the events page of the website or call **(281) 260-7402**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“The Gift That Keeps On Giving”  
1 Kings 17:8-15

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

Call to Discipleship  
Please remain seated at this time

Visitor’s Welcome

Benediction

**LWFC KIDZ**

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.

**Infants—6th grade**



**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**

**2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
SUNDAY 7:30 PM

The Gift That Keeps On Giving  
1 Kings 17:8-15

A. Begins with Obedience, Not Convenience (vs. 8-12):

- 1. Elijah had to gather himself and find the strength to make this long journey as God directed him. God did not ask for Elijah to understand. God demanded obedience.
- 2. Elijah immediately accepted the Lord’s command, gathered himself, and, finding strength, made this long journey as God directed him. The Lord expected no delay, and Elijah required no explanation from God.
- 3. Obeying the Lord’s command became all that Elijah focused on completing. Elijah’s life was completely surrendered to God without any questions, need for understanding, or fear of what may happen.
- 4. When the widow went to take care of what she needed to accomplish as a faithful mother, she had no idea that her obedience to God and her commitment to her family would become her blessing.
- 5. God sent a man who had no food to a widow (not a Jewish widow; the law takes care of her, not a Canaanite widow, no law) who had no food and no way to make food. Obedience NEVER depends on common sense (Proverbs 3:5-6), but it will always require faith.

Samuel said, "Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams." (1 Samuel 15:22; NASU)

B. No Fear (vs. 13-14):

- 1. Elijah commanded the widow to focus all her energy on doing what he said. Could you imagine how some people would have responded to this order? She didn’t know Elijah; she was not a Jew, but just because of what God commanded her to do, she obeyed.
- 2. The widow’s response, ‘As the Lord your God lives...’ means that despite her circumstances, the Lord is still the Ruler of her life. She accepts that He is still in control.
- 3. The widow draws Elijah’s attention to the sticks she has to go prepare her last meal. This also means she is poor. Our circumstances often create insecurities that determine our response to God’s commands.
- 4. Elijah knew the Lord had arranged this meeting and what the Lord said would take place. When the Lord’s Word comes to light, this should empower us more, no matter the circumstances.
- 5. Fear and faith do not mix like oil and water. Fear reflects our understanding as it relates to our circumstances, but faith is trust in God’s Word, no matter what our circumstances may seem to dictate.
- 6. The widow, who did not know Elijah but knew what the Lord had instructed her to do, willingly obeyed Elijah’s command despite her desperate circumstances. This is how faith erases fear (James 2:14-26)
- 7. To bring it to Elijah means she was making sure that the Lord’s agenda, which the Lord was using Elijah to execute, was accomplished. When believers put God first by willfully choosing to support what He is commanding them to give, they sacrifice their commitment to His ministry, which is truly an act of worship (2 Corinthians 9:10-12; Hebrews 13:28-29).

C. Our Gift Discharges His Promises (vs. 14-16):

- 1. God is completely committed and purposeful about not stopping serving her needs. Her obedience is smaller than God’s supply. Her obedience is for a particular time and place, but the Lord’s supply is continuous with no end in sight (Luke 6:38).
- 2. God’s grace is sufficient. She will never lack flour or oil until the rain returns. Her obedience has long saved her life and her family’s.
- 3. Her obedience and commitment to worship God bless her, while those who worship Baal suffer for bringing their gifts to a false god. We may give all we can to all the world has to offer, but when a drought comes, we suffer, and those who obey God remain blessed whether there is a drought or not (Matthew 6:19-24).
- 4. We hear God’s Word on giving to Him, but how we act determines how God will fulfill His promises. She had to make, bake, and pick up the flour and oil pot each time, expecting God’s Word to be fulfilled (Proverbs 10:22; 11:24-25; 28:19-20).
- 5. The bowl always contained flour and oil. It remained full, meaning it automatically filled up every time she poured out flour or oil. God is faithful in fulfilling His promises because He can never lie (Hebrews 6:18).
- 6. This is not a word from Elijah; the widow said this is ‘the’ word that came from ‘the’ Lord. There are no other words to listen to and no other words to obey. We must learn the truth, be committed to keeping it pure, and obey it as the Spirit of God guides us (John 14:16-17; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-15). “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path” (Ps 119:105; NASU)

# Leadership Training

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 AT 8:30 AM

EMPOWER   LEAD CHANGE   INSPIRE

SHARE VISION

breakfast will be served

REGISTER AT  
<https://bit.ly/42LqsCm>



# EASTER

Weekend

Good Friday Service  
Friday, March 29, 2024 6:00 p.m.

Good News Fest  
Saturday, March 30, 2024 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Easter/Resurrection Sunday  
Sunday, March 31, 2024 6 a.m. | 8:30 a.m. | 11 a.m.

LIVING WORD  
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

[www.lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org)



# PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Jenny Dangerfield & family, Athena Hall & family, Janie Buchanan & family, Andrew Gibson, Jr., Mary Bender and Family, Cloteil Bolden and family, and family and Kathleen Franklin & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Birdie Williams, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Valarie Miller, Benny Banks, Yvonne Mentore, Curtis Wiley, and Patrina Johnson.

# THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

## 1 Kings 17:8-15

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