

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

May 18, 2025

Heart Examination

Many people go for a yearly physical exam, but have you ever taken a spiritual one?

Many years ago, I took my son to the doctor. There was a lot of probing and then came the needle. That is when my son jumped off the table and ran out of the examining room with me chasing him. Driving to the doctor's office went well; lots of good car talk, waiting for the doctor, and good playtime, but then came the exam. We may not mind coming to church (well.....; Hebrews 10:23-26), singing songs, or hearing the message, but the probing can make us upset and run?

One of the signs that our hearts are more committed to how the world thinks than what the Word of God teaches is a hostile mindset to God's Word when we don't like what He has to say (Romans 8:5-8). This can eventually lead to spiritual death (Ephesians 4:17-24). A freshness of the Spirit matures us to a thirst for the Word of God (1 Peter 2:1-2). It is easy for a lake to become stagnant if there is no stream of water or rain that keeps it fresh. It needs a constant pouring into and freshness for the oxygen to create energy for everything in it (Hebrews 5:11-15). The energy that comes from using our spiritual gifts for the building up of Christ body, the church, stimulates persistent growth for each person and everyone around us (Ephesians 4:16). Spiritual gifts, which we are commanded to apply (1 Peter 4:10), engage the Godhead who powerfully works in us and through us (1 Cor. 12:4-8), maturing us to become more controlled by the Holy Spirit than the influences of the flesh or false doctrine (ph. 4:12-16). Like exercise that gets the oxygen flowing in our bodies and muscles developing in it can even keep a person who has been a believer for some time FRESH.

One of the experiences in the 'examining room' that can make us run is the challenge of loving those who don't like us or may even hate us. There is a reward for loving this person (Matthew 5:43-48). It is a probing no one may like and sometimes causes some individuals to run. This is why Christ said, "all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35; Matthew 22:34-40). In other words, we know spiritual growth by this. Christ's heart was fully manifested when Jesus on the cross said, "Father forgive them...." (Luke 23:34) after everything that was done to Him. Where does this brief spiritual exam leave you? If you need a longer exam, you cannot go wrong with Christ. Paul lost everything (Philippians 3:4-8) but gained more (Phil. 2:21) and, in the end, became just like Christ (Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:1-4).

Are you running from your best life?



UPCOMING Events



SPIRITUAL LIFE CONFERENCE—JUNE 3RD-5TH
Join us every night at 7PM, June 3rd-5th for Grow & Glow, our Spiritual Life Conference. We have guest speaker, Dr. Wayne Cooper to bless us with a word. LWFC Kidz will also meet nightly for Family Bible Encounter. Come experience worship with us!



GLOW TRAINING SESSIONS
In order to assist with LWFC Kidz during FBE, training is necessary. Training classes are offered May 24th and May 31st from 10AM-12PM. Register for training at <https://bit.ly/GlowLWFCkidzVolunteers> and contact Delicia Parker at deeparker121@gmail.com for more information.



REVENGE BODY PT. 2—JUNE 7TH
Calling all singles and married couples, join us on **Saturday, June 7th at 4:30PM** for Revenge Body Pt. 2. A series designed to help us use the body of Christ to heal from past or current pains and trauma. Experience fellowship with us, food, and interactive fun. For more information, please contact Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson.



CLASS OF 2025 — Please submit your full name and graduation picture (or picture of yourself) to be recognized throughout the month of May! College graduates, please include the name of your college or university. Congratulations graduates, your LWFC Family is so proud of you! **Submit all requested material via email to marketinglwfc@gmail.com. For more details contact Keron Brown or Brandon Crenshaw.**



SUMMER ADVENTURE 2025—MAY SPECIAL!
Calling all young explorers, artists, and scientists! ABC Word Academy and LWCA are bringing learning and unforgettable experiences to life with our action-packed Summer Adventure Program including NASA & STEM Explorations, art classes, performing arts, and outdoor fun. Register your children, ages 5-12 today! **Call (281) 445-9673 or register online at <http://tinyurl.com/LWFCSummerCamp>.**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Opening Song

Communion

Welcome Video

Praise & Worship

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Visitor's Welcome

Special Music

"Blinded"

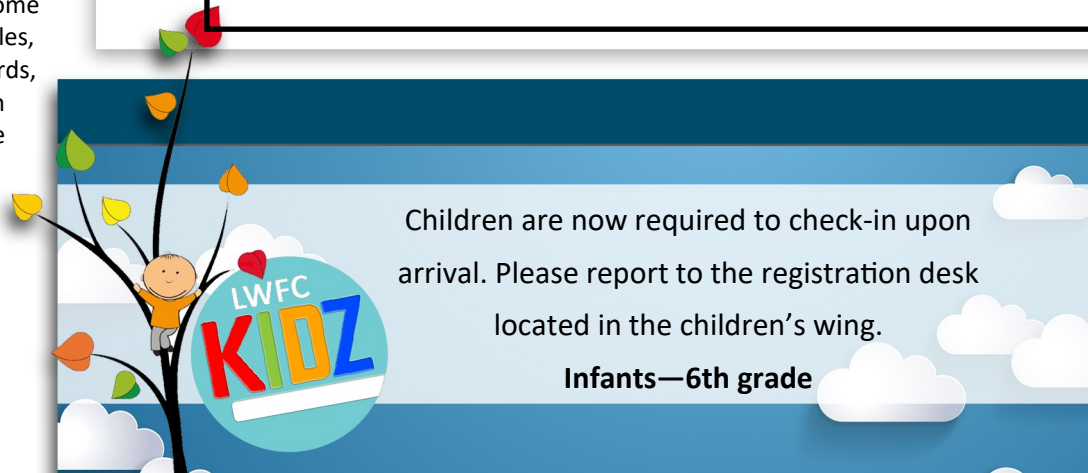
John 12:4-6; 6:68-71; 14:23-25; 8:12

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

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



Blinded

John 12:4-6; 6:68-71; 14:23-25; 8:12

A. An Earthly Mindset (John 12:4-6):

- 1. Judas became disturbed by Mary’s use of the perfume. So, he continuously affirmed that the perfume should have been sold for a large sum of money which amounts to about a year’s wages for a laboring man.
- 2. This context emphasizes how important money was because Judas intended, all along, to turn Christ over to the Sanhedrin. He knew that the Jewish leaders were looking for Christ (11:8). He knew that Christ was very popular, and with his appetite for money, this was the best way to sell Christ into the control of the Sanhedrin. Since they had failed to kill Christ in the past, I believe Judas did not think they could ever crucify Christ.
- 3. He did not care about or have an interest in the poor; he was always a sneak thief (no one was involved with him; he did this by himself), and no one knew.
- 4. ‘The day of My burial’ means, in contrast, Mary had saved this money to use to prepare his body for burial. She is giving him the flowers before the funeral.

B. Matters of the Heart (John 6:68-71):

- 1. Peter directly addresses Christ letting Him know that he views Christ as a divine King who reigns.
- 2. Because Christ reigns comprehensively there is no point in returning to his way of life.
- 3. Peter repeatedly says he has to cling to all the powerful words and commands that Christ spiritually communicates because His words empower and inspire all that is eternal. It blesses everyone with a quality of life that only God can provide (John 10:10).
- 4. They have finally come to a full realization of who He is. In the midst of this being acknowledged Judas is planning to betray Christ.
- 5. Christ preferentially purposefully and favorably established a relationship with the remaining twelve disciples (John 17:12; Mt. 10:1-4; Mk. 3:13-19; Lk. 6:12-16).
- 6. Jesus knew who would remain because He had purposefully selected them (Mt. 4:18-22; Lk. 6:12-16; John 1:35-51). He distinguishes Judas, whom he did not choose, as a false accuser and a slanderer. Christ knew that Judas had already purposed in His heart to continuously plan to deliver Jesus into the hands of those in authority, the Sanhedrin.
- 7. They must, however, have the purpose of continually committing themselves to sacrificially, with no intention of letting go. They must preserve in the Word of God to experience the work of God in their lives.
- 8. The love of the Father is very personal and intimate. “My Father” is the direct object from which the love of Christ is extended.
- 9. The person who does not continuously demonstrate a sacrificial commitment to willingly obey the Lord, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, does not have an affectionate, compassionate desire to obey the Lord.

C. The Light (John 8:12):

- 1. After the Pharisees tried to trick Him, Christ spoke focused on delivering a specific message that helps us to understand what was important to cause Judas to be transformed from being blind and having a hard heart to Christ.
- 2. To denote God’s ‘forever’ existence. The first of seven self-descriptions of Jesus introduced is “I am” (8:12). The one who is and will always be. The disciples saw Christ as the Holy One, and therefore, there was no one they needed to go to.
- 3. Commit to a lifestyle of obedience to God’s commands; something Judas chose not to do. The Word becomes “a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps. 119:105) -- “that I may walk before God in the light of life” (cf. Job 33:30).
- 4. A believer will never walk in darkness; that is, he will not live in it (cf. 12:46; 1 John 1:6–7). He does not remain in the realm of evil and ignorance (John 12:46), for he has Christ as his Light and salvation (cf. Ps. 36:9). Judas would no longer be “the son of perdition.”
- 5. When we walk in the Light, we can experience life and life abundantly. Judas took a course of life away from Christ that cost him his life eternally because all of the highest and best that Christ is (John 14:6; 1 John 1:2), which is life in the absolute sense, is an actual experience of all the highest and best that Christ has for us (John 10:10; 14:6; 15:13; 1 John 1:2, 5-7).





REGISTER FOR VOLUNTEER TRAINING FOR
FAMILY BIBLE ENCOUNTER
MAY 24th | MAY 31st
10:00AM - 12:00PM

Sign Up To Volunteer <https://bit.ly/GlowLWFCKidzVolunteers>

FOR MORE DETAILS ON TRAINING SESSIONS
CONTACT DECLICIA PARKER AT
DEEPARKER1121@GMAIL.COM







May NATIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS MONTH

IF YOU ARE SOMEONE YOU KNOW MAY BE STRUGGLING
WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS PLEASE SPEAK UP



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Vivian Jackson & family, Clotheil Bolden & family, Mary Ngwazini & family, Oralee Fields & family, Valarie Miller & family, and the family of Jannie Buchanan.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, 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, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Evelyn Harvey, Shinell Clark, Elsie Starks, Sandra Phillips, Donna Ross, Ruth Cranford, Slyvia Ewards, and Eugene Reese.



Blinded

John 12:4-6; 6:68-71; 14:23-25; 8:12

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