

A Cup of Cold Water

"And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward." Matthew 10:42

Several years back a brother who had fallen away called me up out of the blue; I had not spoken with him in well over a year. He said he wanted to come back to the Lord. A lot of things had happened in his life to bring him to that point, but there is one thing in particular that I found to be so encouraging and instructive.

While this brother was away he could not be reached by phone because his phone number had changed. Several had tried to call him and were unsuccessful. But even though his brothers and sisters didn't know what had happened to him, even if he was even still in Atlanta or not, that did not deter different ones from sending him cards in the mail. One sister even sent him a card on his birthday!

Those acts of kindness reminded our brother of the family he had lost when he left the Lord. It reminded him that God still loved him and had not abandoned him. In spite of his unfaithfulness, God's mercy could still be seen in tangible ways through these cards.

Sometimes it is the little things that mean the most. God doesn't need the most talented and influential among us to express his love. All he needs is those who are willing to give of themselves to others.

Father God, let us be used as instruments of your grace. ~David Maxson

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; cbotts@hotmail.com
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; Vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

Bill Gregory (360)710-0449
billgreg67@gmail.com

Bill Gregory's office hours are from 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. (Please call to make sure he is in before stopping by)

Open Congregational meeting – 2nd Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome

Attendance 10/11: 41

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution: 10/11: \$1787.05

October 18, 2020

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Do Not Fear; Only Believe

"While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?' As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, 'Do not be afraid; only believe'" (Mark 5:35-36).

How do you react when you hear bad news? Do you react by trying to maintain your faith in God to guide and deliver you or do you succumb to fear as your heart is filled with worry and uncertainty?

In the opening passage above, Jesus encourages Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, to react by keeping his faith in God even upon hearing the terrible news of his daughter's death (Mark 5:22, 35-36). Earlier, Jairus had begged Jesus to come, lay hands upon, and heal his daughter as she lay at death's door (Mark 5:22-23). He had placed his faith in Jesus' power to save his beloved daughter.

Jesus went with the man to his house to lay his hands upon the child (Mark 5:24). However, before arriving, some come from the house indicating that the ruler's daughter is dead. Those who came from Jairus' home had given up their faith in Jesus' power to save this girl. They did not see the point of bothering Jesus any further (Mark 5:35). Can you imagine how you would have felt if you were in this father's shoes? You had placed your faith in God's power to heal your beloved child only to hear the dreadful news that she was now dead? Was there any point in troubling Jesus any further?

Jesus knew this was a critical moment in Jairus' faith in God. The ruler needed to maintain his faith in God at this precarious junction. Jesus had the power to deliver Jairus' daughter from death, but only if Jairus kept his faith in God. Later, when Jesus goes to his home country, He would be limited on the mighty works He would do there because of the lack of faith of the people (Mark 6:1-6). Jesus could not raise the ruler's daughter from the dead if Jairus chose to abandon his faith and succumb to his fears and uncertainties. Thus, Jesus tells him, "Do not be afraid, only believe" (Mark 5:36).

All indications are that Jairus kept his faith in Jesus as the throng made their way to his house. As Jesus arrives at the house and sees the people wailing over the death of the little girl, He enters the house and says, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping?" (Mark 5:37-39). Jesus was trying to show the people, the child was only temporarily away from them, as when one is sleeping. How do the people react when they hear this statement of Jesus? They ridiculed Him (Mark 5:40). Like those who had come from the ruler's house bearing the bad news of Jairus daughter, they too have given up their faith in God's power to deliver at this point!

However, Jairus still clung to his faith in Jesus even as he was surrounded by those who were filled with doubt. After putting the doubters outside of the house, Jesus takes the mother and father and enters the child's room and says, "Little girl, I say to you, arise" (Mark 5:40-41). The little girl arises from the dead. Everyone is overcome with amazement (Mark 5:42). This shocking event was made possible not only by God's great power, but also by one's man determination to cling to his faith!

It is much easier to have faith in God when everything is going well in our lives. It is much more difficult to maintain our faith in Him when we hear bad news that tempts us to let our hearts become filled with fear, doubt, and worry. Even when others may abandon their faith, strive to follow Jesus' encouragement during such troublesome times: "Do not be afraid, only believe"! ~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ

Keep These Dates in Mind

Since we have entered into this time of uncertainty with those in the government asking us to keep our assemblies to a minimum and to use caution and discretion as we meet, any activities that may be planned will be announced in a timely fashion a week before they are planned to happen and will be put out on the call multiplier.
Sandy Gray has volunteered to put out an informational email during the week to update the church of immediate prayer needs or information that needs to be disseminated before/in-between our scheduled meeting times. If you wish to be on this list, please email her and give her your email information.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

LeRoy & Sue Pierce 10/4 Michael Manning 10/5 Kenneth Winstead 10/6 LaVern Engelke 10/8 Mark & Sue Minor 10/9 Tom & Lupe Mendoza 10/13	Clarence Botts 10/22 Melinda Botts 10/25 Harvey Jones 10/25 Tom Mendoza 10/25 Norm & Phyllis Hubbard 10/29
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Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes Sunday a - O.T. Sunday p -Colossians Wed p -Thessalonians	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Thursday 10:00 a
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Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Marilyn Davis, Sandy Gray, Fran Henniger, Linda Laferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Shannon Mendoza,, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Bill & Linda Lafferty's daughter-in-law, Michael Stimson, Fred Fleming, Hubbard Family

Sharing Personal Struggles With God

In Luke 22:39-46 we see Jesus' teaching from the sermon on the mount work in His own life. And, we learn that prayer is not some magical tool that will automatically "fix" all our problems. It is a tool that will help us face all our problems and stand up to them. Note three keys to prayer Jesus modeled for us.

It is hard for us to read this account and not be moved by the struggle Jesus is facing. Matthew's account of the Lord's prayers in the garden tells us that He prayed this prayer three times, each time coming back to find His followers sound asleep (Matt. 26:45). Although Luke focuses on the content of the prayer. Jesus did what He taught us to do in His sermon on the mount. He kept praying. And, the Lord kept praying, knowing that God could not change His mind without ruining all His plans to redeem mankind.

This tells us that we can take our pain and complaints to God without fear of being shut down or criticized. Jesus was born to "save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). His life, his ministry, His miracles and teaching all led Him to this painful moment of destiny. Yet, He begged the Father so intensely that His sweat pooled on Him like great drops of blood. We can take our troubles, big or small, to the Father. There was no criticism from God telling Jesus He was asking the impossible. There was no "stop talking to me like that!" from God. The Lord listened to His Son, knowing how He, as God, had to respond. So, never be afraid of letting the Lord know your pain, your anger, your stress or your fears. He may not answer the way you want Him to (He didn't for Jesus), but He will listen and He will respond.

No one I have ever known was eager to die. I have known terminal cancer patients, or those in severe illness seeking God's help by "taking me home." But, outside of those special circumstances, no one eagerly seeks death. Jesus knows the hour is nearing. Soon, He will be betrayed by one apostle (Judas), denied by another (Peter) and left by himself by the other ten apostles. He will face His final hours alone, knowing the ultimate outcome of his arrest, "trial", and crucifixion. He will die alone for the sins of the world, and it will all be on Him.

We can let the Lord know of our personal struggles. We can ask for His help in dealing with a troubled marriage or with a problem teenager. We can let Him know of our financial struggles, of our fear of Covid-19. We can not only tell Him of our pain, we can lay our problems before Him. He may act to change your circumstances. He may not, according to His wisdom and foreknowledge. But, we can share both our pain and problems with the Lord.

Luke adds a detail that Matthew and Mark do not include in their accounts of the garden prayers of Jesus. An angel appears and comforts Jesus. God did not change His mind and relieve Jesus of His role as crucified Savior, but He did send comfort through this angel. The Lord was letting Jesus know that He was there, that He understood, and that His Son could get through the pain and suffering of the coming hours.

Remember, Jesus said keep praying, keep asking and God will give you what you need. He may not give you what you ask for, but He will give comfort and a "peace that passes understanding" (Phil. 4:7). The angel could not change what was about to take place, but the angel could bring comfort. God did answer the prayer of Jesus, but in the form of comfort and strength, not in the form of giving all the answers His son wanted to hear. So it is with us. We can ask, and ask, and ask. God may still say "no", but he will find ways to bring comfort and reassurance to His answers. ~David Thurman

Michael Stimson Jack and Wanda Danley's son-in-law, has started rehab, but still has a long way to go in his recovery.

Jonni Crow is undergoing tests on her heart and is scheduled to have an aortic valve replace after the tests have been completed.

Linda Bills is undergoing tests with a cardiologist due to dizziness she's been experiencing.

Lupe Mendoza touched base and said that she is doing well. She has a checkup with her cancer doctor this week.

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The collection for the Mountain States Children's Home is scheduled for this coming week. Please bring your goods by this week so that they are ready for the collection.



In Our Prayers

Our Ministries

Mountain States Children's Home

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Peru Ministry - Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

Food Pantry - Our food pantry is located in the small room next to the library.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)