



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 29, 2012

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Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary
Don Wicks

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday

Ladies Class 10 am

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EMPTYING OUR GARBAGE

By Jonathan Sanford

Jesus states, *“there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops” (Luke 12:2-3).* It is extremely evident in our culture and even within the Lord’s church today that folks have forgotten the connotation of these words. Sometimes we need a reminder. Such was the case for God’s servant David, so the prophet Nathan pays David a little visit and tells him a parable. (Read the parable closely...) Then this passage states that *“David’s anger burned greatly against the man.”* And he says the man deserves to die. So Nathan tells David, *“You are that man!”* Uh oh...**II Samuel 12.**

David passed judgment – and in doing so he condemned himself, for he was guilty of the same crime (**Romans 2:1**). Busted! So what does David do when Nathan confronts him? Did he try to justify himself, “Hey, I’m the king?” No. Look at **verse 13:** *“Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’”* No excuses. Simply, *“I have sinned against the Lord.”* And Nathan tells David that *“the Lord has put away your sin.”* Confessed sin is always forgiven. **I John 1:9** says that *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

That’s the first step to restoration. We need to confess, we need to admit our sins. Ask any recovering alcoholic or drug addict. Admitting you have a problem is the first step to recovery. And if we don’t confess our sins, they build up like a pile of garbage. Un-confessed sin is like garbage in our spiritual lives. Think about it this way. When we’re born we start out with an empty garbage can. But as we go through life we slowly fill it up. A few little white lies here, some gossip there, some jealousy, bitterness, drinking, drugs, stealing, and the list grows and the can gets heavier. “Confession” is taking the garbage out. Ask yourself: Is it time to take out the garbage? Do you need to empty your garbage can?

PRICELESS

Employees at the dump yard in Pompano Beach, FL., gave Brian McGuinn zero chance of ever finding the custom-designed ring he had given his wife but had accidentally tossed in his trash at home on October 30. Facing nine tons of 10-foot-high rotten eggs, dirty diapers and other garbage (which made him vomit), he found the ring within 30 minutes, Miami-Herald 11-10-2011.

Some things are priceless! Like sifting through rotten garbage to find a custom-designed ring. As human being we tend to place infinite value on objects; of course, it's not so much the objects that are valuable, but the sentiments and meanings attached to those objects. It's those things that cannot be replaced if lost; those are the things that are truly priceless. I'm sure that custom-designed ring came at a price, but the thoughtfulness behind the ring, the things that ring represents, that's what, makes it priceless.

Other things are priceless. Like family, children, parents; these things cannot be replaced. The gospel is one of those things as well! Trust me, man has done a fine job of trying to replace the truth, but nothing is worth as much as the priceless message of salvation.

The Gospel, and our obedience to that Gospel, is what will get us to heaven. By the way, heaven is another of those things, which are priceless. In fact, in **Matthew 13** Jesus in speaking of heaven spoke this parable saying, "*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of the pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it*" (**Matthew 13:45-46**). Much like Brian McGuinn's search for his wife's one-of-a-kind and priceless ring, this man went and searched for a pearl that was so valuable nothing could compare to it. And Jesus tells us that like that pearl of great price, heaven is truly priceless. It is something we should do everything in our power to possess and never let it out of our sight.

So, how valuable is heaven to you? What would you do in order to be able to spend eternity there? Would you search out the truth, no matter the cost, and once you found it would you hold it dear and never let it be lost from you again? "*Buy truth, and do not sell it...*" (**Proverbs 23:23**).

Randy Mathis

