



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

October 30, 2011

P.O. Box 416  
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**Elders:**

Dana Carter  
Kenneth Carter  
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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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## DO WHAT YOU CAN

One of my favorite accounts in the gospels is in **Mark 14** when Jesus is at Simon the leper's house (**v. 3-9**). While there, Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha, took a flask of very costly oil and anointed Jesus' feet with it (**John 12:1-7**). Some there, apparently led by Judas, were very upset at her waste of the oil. But Jesus defended her noble actions, saying that she had done a good work for Him in that she was anointing His body for burial. He also said that wherever the gospel is preached, what she had done will be told as a memorial to her, obviously it has been time and time again over the ages.

But the words that sticks most in my mind concerning the actions of Mary are when our Savior said, "*She has done what she could*" (**Mark 14:8**). In those six short words, volumes are said about the attitude of Mary in serving and honoring the Christ. In fact, it is interesting to note that what she didn't do says just as much as what she did do. Notice for example:

**She didn't wait to be asked to do something.** What a great example to us! She found a way to do what she could. Too many brethren don't do anything for the Lord because they are never asked. Follow Mary's example; find something to do and do it.

**She didn't make excuses about her limitations.** I'm sure there were a lot of things she did not have (ability, time, resources, etc.) to properly do for Jesus. But she didn't dwell on that; she sought out something that she could do. You can do a lot with even a little. Sadly, there are Christians today who make excuses for not doing for the Lord.

**She didn't worry about criticism.** And she was criticized, but she did it anyway. Which is more important, the praise of the Lord or the approval of men? We spend too much time worrying about what others will think or say. To gain the approval of the Lord, do what you can and don't worry about man.

**She didn't fret over the cost.** It was very costly, but that was unimportant as far as she was concerned – Jesus was worth it. There are a lot of things that some people consider too valuable to give up for the Lord. But for the true follower, nothing is too big of a sacrifice for the One who was sacrificed for them.

Look at it this way: Can you do it? **Then do what you can.**

*"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men"* (**Colossians 3:23**).

**Edd Sterchi**

## ARE YOU PROVOKING ANYONE?

Some provoking is good, some is not. Fathers are not to provoke their children to anger (**Ephesians 6:4**). But Christians are to “*consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works*” (**Hebrews 10:24**). Instead of “provoke,” the New American Standard uses the term “stimulate.” The English Standard Version says to “stir up.” We get the idea. This kind of provoking, stimulating, and stirring up is good.

Stir people up to love. God is love. Show people God’s love and they will be stimulated. They will be enriched and motivated. They, too, will be inclined to share their love with others. Stimulate people with your love. “*Let brotherly love continue*” (**Hebrews 13:1**).

Stir people up to good works. Christians were “*created in Christ Jesus for good works*” (**Ephesians 2:10**). Your example of good works inspires others to engage in the same. Good works are contagious. They bless. But how do we stir up people to love and good works? Three ways:

**By our presence in the assembly.** “*Not neglecting to meet together*” (**Hebrews 10:25**). Our regular worship attendance is a good work. God has called us together on the first day of every week “*to break bread*” (**Acts 20:7**). Our presence means much to God. Your very presence in the assembly changes the souls of others. Your presence is powerful.

**By our participation in worship.** We “*meet together*” (**Hebrews 10:25**) to worship, not just to meet together. Seeing someone sitting like a lump on a log in worship is not very stimulating. It does little to stir the spirits of fellow saints. But to hear a child of God enthusiastically sing praises to their Maker, brethren communing together in the Lord’s Supper as one body, observing the hunger of brethren for God’s nourishing Word, engaging in a joint fellowship of giving, through prayer is invigorating. Love grows to another level each Lord’s Day. Participation is precious. It stirs! It builds up!

**By our personal encouragement of others.** In the assembly there is a mutual “*encouraging one another*” that should occur (**Hebrews 10:25**). Don’t ever underestimate that handshake or hug. Don’t minimize the “Good to see you” greeting. Don’t discount the inquiry, “How are things going?” Your smile can soothe a troubled soul. Your genuine interest can make a huge difference. But your personal encouragement is possible only if you are present. You can’t personally encourage if you practice “the habit of some” and “neglect” the assembly.

Are you provoking anyone?

**James Cudd**