



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 30, 2023

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Ears, Hands, and Feet for God

We tend to think that books like the Old Testament book of Leviticus are not relevant for us today. But we need to remember Paul's words in Romans 15:4, "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." We can learn much from looking at the Old Testament.

The book of Leviticus (among others things) concerns the Levites, the priestly tribe. This book gives information regarding sacrifices, the priesthood, purification, and festivals of the Mosaic system. And Christians, being the priests of the New Testament (1 Peter 2:9), can certainly glean some important general principles of how we are to conduct ourselves in the kingdom of God (the church). One such example would be in Leviticus 8:24 when the priests were consecrated into service for the Lord. The text reads, "Then he brought Aaron's sons. And Moses put some of the blood on the tips of their right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. And Moses sprinkled the blood all around on the altar." This practice, even though not to be literally followed today, should still hold great symbolic meaning for us.

It is obvious that the ear represented hearing, the hands represented service, and the feet represented a walk of life. They were to listen to God's instructions, do God's will, and live the lifestyle that God desired. It is no different for us today as priests of God. We need to read our Bibles, perform acts of service in God's name, and live pure and influential lives in the world.

It all boils down to our relationship with God. We need to remember that we are priests of God and priests are meant for service. So let us dedicate our ears, hands, and feet to Him. Let us always learn from God, labor for God, and live with God.

Edd Sterchi
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Mirror Moments

Recently I was asked why God repeated his question to Elijah during the incident recorded for us in **1 Kings 19**. Before I give you my answer (opinion), let me briefly set the context for you.

Elijah had just achieved great victories. He had confronted the prophets of Baal and challenged them to pray to their god and thus bring fire to a sacrifice (**1 Kings 18:21**). Elijah, of course, prayed to God and received fire from heaven (**18:38**). Rain also returned to the region in answer to his prayer (**18:42; James 5:17, 18**). However, shortly after the victories, Jezebel swore to kill Elijah. With amazement, we read the words, “*Then he was afraid*” (**19:3**). Let me just say this is not a condemnation of Elijah or a criticism of his faith. It is rather, a testimony to the evil and resourcefulness of Jezebel, as well as the power of exhaustion and discouragement on a servant of God.

Because of Jezebel’s threat, Elijah headed south, as far away from Jezebel as he could get. After a long journey, and sustenance by God, Elijah came to Horeb (Sinai). At that time he came to a cave and stayed there. While there, God spoke to him: “*What are you doing here Elijah?*” Elijah answered by recounting the terrible circumstance of the previous years and concluded by saying he was the only faithful person/prophet left. God allowed Elijah to see several unusual events (wind damage, earthquake and fire). Then he heard a whisper. After that, God repeated his question: “*What are you doing here, Elijah?*” (**19:14-13**). The man who was once empowered by God was actually running away from his enemy.

I believe God was asking the question, not for information, but so that Elijah could have a “*mirror moment*.” In other words, God wanted Elijah to look deeply within himself and decide who he was going to be and what he was going to do. He could have given up or he could decided to move forward and live for God. Thankfully, Elijah decided to move forward and live for God—and aren’t we glad he did?

I also believe we all have mirror moments—times in our lives when deep introspection is called for—when we must decide to move forward and allow God to work with and through us, in spite of our fears and misgivings. I think some of those times are: high school graduation, college graduation, wedding day, first day of new job, birth of first child and retirement. There are others, but I think you get the point: These are the crossroads of our lives, and the direction we choose can make or break us. Far too many people are “*walking past the mirror*,” taking little or no time to ask themselves, “What are you doing here?”

Well, it may not be one of those times mentioned above, but...what are YOU doing here?

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