



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 16, 2020

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

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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One Thing

There are many voices competing for our attention. There are many destinations pleading for our arrival. There are many products and companies begging for our money.

Yet only **one voice** matters. Only **one destination** is of any consequence. Only **one being** can inform us as what to do with/how to look at our money.

Our lives hinge on **one thing: our relationship with God**. Do we humbly stand in His presence? Are we hanging on His every word, awaiting His guidance and direction? (**1 John 1:7**)

“One thing have I asked of the LORD, that I will seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD.” (Psalm 27:4)

“But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her’” (Luke 10:41-42).

To show that we love God, we must be in the presence of Jesus, listening to His words.

Hearing is the precondition for doing, and action is the proof of hearing (**Rom 10:17; Matt. 7:24-27**).

David and Mary knew what was important. Do we?

Bart Warren

The Bad Samaritan

“Which one?” That’s what a typical Jew in Jesus’ time would have asked about this title. To many Jewish people, all Samaritans were bad. There was no such thing as a good Samaritan. The truth, of course, is that Samaritans were like other people. Some were good and some were bad.

Although the Bible does not specifically call him “the good Samaritan,” most Christians know the story about him. But what about the bad Samaritan? Who is this person? What did this individual do to deserve such a label?

When Jesus sat down to rest at Jacob’s well, a woman of Samaria came to draw water. When Jesus asked her for a drink of water, she was surprised and said, *“The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans”* (**John 4:9**). Thus began an interesting conversation between the Lord and the Samaritan woman.

What kind of woman was she? When He told her to go and get her husband, she said she had no husband. Jesus then revealed her checkered past. *“Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband”* (**John 4:17-18**). We are not told whether her five marriages ended in divorce or death of a spouse or a combination of both. We do know her situation when Jesus met her. She was living with a man. Even by the moral standards of the Samaritans, her life had gone bad. Yet ironically, we see good points about her, and the Lord brought out the good that was in her to the fullest.

Though she was living in sin, this woman was not brazen and boastful about her situation. Had she been like some women today, she would have told Jesus, “Oh, I’m not married. I live with my boyfriend.” That response is common. Women and men talk about living in fornication as if it is normal and acceptable; They “are proud and open about the way they live when they ought to be ashamed. At least the Samaritan women did not try to shove her sin in Jesus’ face like some today do.

This woman was guilty, but she did not resent the Lord when He corrected her. She took His correction well. When He brought to light the sin in her life, she did not get mad and storm away. That is what many today do when you expose their sins. Although she evidently did change the subject to worship, she was willing to keep listening to Jesus. When the Lord told her that the place where Samaritans worshiped was wrong, she again listened to His reproof instead of getting angry and refusing to listen (**John 4:20-24**). Instead, this woman who had been living a bad life did the best thing she had ever done. She went into the city and told the men, *“Is not this the Christ?”* (**John 4:29**). Because of her, many believed in Jesus (**John 4:29**).

We do not know what became of this woman. What we do learn is that we should do our best to reach bad Samaritans as well as good ones.

Kerry Duke