



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 15, 2017

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Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
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 7:30 pm

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BLINK OF AN EYE

As I was traveling to Amarillo, I saw a familiar sight, an ambulance with sirens blaring. Mentally you say a prayer that everyone will be ok and continue on your way. I traveled on and turned onto Coulter towards Firestone and two ambulances and a rescue truck went screaming by. Now I know there must be a serious wreck on the interstate I just left. There must be multiple people involved and now I began to wonder, "That could've easily been me in the wreck."

Every day, many of us take for granted the sun rising and our feet hitting the floor to start a new day. We assume we will see our children or kiss our spouses before we head out and also assume that we will see them later on that day. It would be sad if something happened and that didn't happen. It would be tragic if something happened and we stepped off into eternity unprepared to meet our God.

Death doesn't have favorites. It calls upon the young and the old alike. Sure, as we get older, we are more apt to pass on than a younger person. But, the situation I described with the ambulances heading to a wreck tells us that the young aren't "bullet proof."

I write this article to all ages but especially to anyone who is not prepared for their meeting with God. It won't be rescheduled. You can't just cancel it either. There will be a day that we will stand before God. **Hebrews 9:27**, "*And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*"

I can remember a few car wrecks and near boating accident where I really pondered my life and the hereafter. If we miss heaven, we've lost everything. I plead with especially young people to have their spiritual priorities right. Good habits now, make for a happier and spiritually safer life. If one doesn't develop good spiritual habits now, odds are that it will never happen.

I pray that all would reach out to God more often and make your "*call and election sure.*" I want us all to experience a grand reunion one day. In the blink of an eye, this life can be over and time for the next one.

Chris Moore

“FROM THE KNEES OF JESUS”

“Ye call me Master and LORD: and ye say well; for So I am. If I then, your LORD and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things. Happy are ye if ye do them” (John 13:13-17).

Have you ever stopped to consider the many lessons taught by our Lord from His knees? From His knees He taught His disciples to be studious ((**Mark 2:46-47**), sensible (**John 8:6-7**), submissive (**Matthew 26:39**) and selfless (**Matthew 27:26**).

On one occasion, as He washed His disciples feet, He taught an all important lesson relative to Christian servitude (**John 13:11**). What lessons do we learn from our Lord as He knelt to wash the feet of His followers?

First, He taught us that the best cure for discouragement is in serving others (**John 13:1-5**). Jesus knew what lay ahead (betrayal, denial, pain, suffering, death) yet, He did not allow self pity to enslave Him, His focus was on serving others. Trials are part of every persons’ life, and the best way to extinguish feeling sorry for ourselves is in serving others (**I Kings 19:1; Isaiah 6:1-9**).

Secondly, He taught us that compassion should be extended to all men, including our enemies (**John 13:6-11**). Imagine the human side of Deity as He knelt to wash the feet of Judas Iscariot, the one who would soon betray Him (**Matthew 26:14-15**). Despite his evil intent, Jesus washed his filthy feet. Why? Because He still loved him. Our Lord’s desire is that we love all men, including those who may wrong us. *“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matthew 5:43-44; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:17-21).*

Thirdly, He taught us that we are never too good to serve others (**John 13:12-16**). Feet washing was one of the lowest forms of service that could be given an individual of the First Century. It was usually a task reserved for slaves. But there was the King of Kings and Lord of Lords kneeling down, towel in hand, taking on the form of a servant (**Philippians 2:3-8**). What a lesson for those who had earlier debated as to who would be the greatest (**Luke 22:24; Mark 9:34-35**)! Jesus taught that the greatest in the kingdom would be any and all who would humbly serve.

Finally, He taught us that true happiness is found in servitude (**John 13:17**). The word “happy” carries with it the idea of being supremely blest, fortunate, and well-off as it relates to doing God’s will. It’s not enough to hear, understand, and approve what is right. One must also do it (**Matthew 7:21; James 1:25**). Why are so many people in the world unhappy? It’s because they are not serving God or their fellow man. The key to true happiness is a Christ-centered life.

Do you want to be a follower of Christ? Humble yourself and get busy serving others! Paul would write, *“For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13).*

Terry R. Townsend