



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

May 27, 2018

P.O. Box 416  
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.  
Rockwood, TN 37854  
865-354-0855

**Elders:**

Dana Carter  
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

**Email:**

rockwdcc@gmail.com

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## WHAT IS YOUR FOCUS?

Jesus went into the desert looking for a place to pray. However, when He and His apostles went ashore they discovered a huge crowd of people. Scripture says that there were about 5000 men. (Counting the women and children, I'm guessing that there were 10,000 or more people).

After a full day of preaching, the people were hungry but they were in a barren place and the only food was what a boy had taken ...five small barley loaves and two small fish. But Jesus took that small amount, blessed it, and started giving it out. The food kept coming and coming until everyone was fed. The leftovers were taken up and saved for another day – 12 baskets-full.

You can find this story in all four gospels (**Matthew 14:13-21; Luke 9:10-18; Mark 6:40-44; and John 6:1-21**).

This event teaches us many lessons such as how the Lord has compassion on all people, the Lord provides for our needs, the importance of being thankful for what we have, etc. But the biggest lesson that always jumps out at me is this: Focus on what you do have. Do not focus on what you don't have.

When Jesus told the apostles to feed the crowd the first thing out of their mouths was "we don't have enough!" Andrew assessed the situation. He told the Lord, "*Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?*" But Jesus took that small amount and made a great miracle.

Whenever you're in a tough situation, do NOT focus on what you do NOT have. Assess what you have and ask the Lord to give you the wisdom to start from there. "*The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects*" (**James 5:16b**).

**Larry Fitzgerald**

# MOUNT DISAPPOINTMENT

For the Scripture says, *“No one who believes in Him will be put to shame.”* **(Romans 10:11).**

Believe it or not, there are two mountains named “Mount Disappointment.” In 1894 workers from the U.S. Geological Survey were looking for the highest point in Los Angeles County, California. They found a peak in the San Gabriel Mountains with a summit elevation of 5,960 feet. Intending to use it as their next triangulation point, they climbed together to the top. When they reached it, however, they discovered that they had made a mistake. The San Gabriel Peak, just half a mile to the east, was 167 feet higher. As a result they had to descend the peak they had climbed and start over. They named that first peak “Mount Disappointment.” What a waste of money, time and effort.

The other “Mount Disappointment,” 37 miles north of Melbourne, Australia, rises 2,625 feet. European explorers from New South Wales, Hamilton Hume and William Hovell, first made the difficult climb of it in 1824. They hoped to view the distant Port Phillip Bay. Unfortunately, the mountain’s many trees prevented this, and so they chose this symbolic name.

You’ve had your disappointments, too, perhaps more than your share. You never landed that job for which you hoped. Your dream house developed cracks in the foundation. You lost your possessions in a flood or a fire. Your health and youth faded. Your spouse died. People have disappointed you. You have disappointed yourself and others.

Moses was often disappointed by the Israelites’ disobedience, grumbling, and unbelief. Yet it was his own sin which cost him most. He climbed Mount Nebo and from there could only see what he was missing, the Promised Land. Jesus found the three disciples sleeping three separate times, when He had asked them to watch and pray. Paul felt the loss of Demas, Crescens and Titus. Alexander the coppersmith had done him great harm. At the time of Paul’s first defense no one had stood with him **(II Timothy 4).**

From the top of his “Mount Disappointment,” the apostle Paul saw and recognized something higher, more powerful, and quite capable of giving him victory. He wrote these inspiring words in **II Timothy 4:17-18** *“But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever, Amen.”*

We too, when we look toward heaven, see *“Zion’s glorious summit.”* We meet a God who never disappoints. We choose a Savior who knows – and who bore on the cross – all our disappointments. We feel blessed, forgiven, renewed and energized. Everything looks better because our perspective has changed. He has delivered us. He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope. And there will be no disappointments.

**Cory Collins**