



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 10, 2021

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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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I Am the Only One!

Have you ever felt like you were alone? Maybe at work you felt like you were the only one who does any real work. We can feel isolated like we are the only one going through struggles. The devil uses these feelings to break us down and attack us. We start to feel sorry for ourselves. We may start to resent the people around us who we believe are better off than we are, or who are not helping us when we are working so hard.

I worry that we might feel alone in our Christian walk. Many of the things we do for God are done in private. We are often unaware of all the work that is going on around us by other members. We can end up feeling like "*I am the only one*" even when we are in a large crowd of other Christians on Sunday morning.

We recently had a lesson about Elijah. Elijah was a worker, a prophet of God. However, he grew to feel isolated and alone. He believed he was the only follower of God left in Israel. He felt he was the only one still doing what was right, and still willing to work for God. "*I am the only one...*" (**1 Kings 18:22; 19:10**).

God does three things to address Elijah's problem. Elijah is reminded that God is always with us (1 Kings 19:12-13). God tells Elijah to get back to work (1 Kings 19:15-17). Elijah is reminded that there are other faithful followers of God (1 Kings 19:18).

Sometimes we may begin to feel isolated in our own work for God. God will always be with us (**Matthew 28:20**). We are called to keep working (**Colossians 3:17**). There are believers all around the world. "*...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*" (**Matthew 16:18**). We should never forget that the devil wants us to feel like "*I am the only one*," that is when we are most vulnerable.

Brad Tolbert

Monticello church of Christ

Five Wise Sayings for Life

I love sitting and listening to older, wiser folks than myself. I love history and learning it from people who loved it. There is something about sitting on a porch swing with someone old in days who has seen so much change and endured so much through their walk in life. The proverbial writer acts as a father to us and treats you and I as “*sons and daughters*” who are learning. As disciples of Jesus, that’s exactly what we are doing and we constantly sit in the learner seat. Thank God for wise fathers who taught us what to do right. Even so, for those of us who had no good fatherly example in life, we learned what “*not*” to do. I wanted to share some of the wise words and sayings I’ve heard in the first 35 years of life.

1. When you hear a kind word spoken about a friend, pass it along (**Proverbs 3:27; Galatians 6:10**). If it’s a negative word, keep it to yourself.
2. As a man, spoil your spouse, not your children (**2 Samuel 12:3, 8; Proverbs 5:18–19; Ephesians 5:25; 1 Peter 3:7**).
3. It is not our job to get people to like us. It is our job to like people (**John 13:35; Hebrews 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22; 2:17**).
4. To help your children turn out well, spend twice as much time with them and half as much money on them (**Genesis 44:30; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 5:16; 6:4; Colossians 4:5**).
5. Focus on others, not on self (**Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:3–5**). Someone wrote, “*How to Be Miserable.*” It reads, “*Think about yourself. Talk about yourself. Use ‘I’ as often as possible. Mirror yourself continually in the opinion of others. Listen greedily to what people say about you. Expect to be appreciated. Be suspicious. Be jealous and envious. Be sensitive to slights. Never forgive a criticism. Trust nobody but yourself. Insist on consideration and respect. Demand agreement with your own views on everything. Sulk if people are not grateful to you for favors shown them. Never forget a service you have rendered. Shirk your duties if you can. Do as little as possible for others.*”

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