



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 13, 2015

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:

Kirby Hinds

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

Monday

Ladies class 10:00 a.m.

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

‘THIS WOMAN WAS TAKEN IN ADULTERY, IN THE VERY ACT’

“And the Scribes and Pharisees brought unto Him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto Him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act” (John 8:3-4).

I’m not sure why I chose the story of the adulterous woman brought to Jesus for my personal study this morning (**cf. John 8:1-11**). Maybe it’s because I, as I reflected upon my past judgments of others, treated them as did those Scribes and Pharisees. Maybe it’s because I, like this woman, have felt the loneliness and guilt that accompanies sin and the need for a Savior. I think it’s more likely that I chose this story this morning because I needed to hear once more the words of my Master.

To the harsh and critical Scribes and Pharisees He said, *“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her” (John 8:7)*. To the woman who had been caught in the act of adultery He said, *“Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more” (John 8:11)*. I need to be less critical and more compassionate toward others. The “Golden Rule” must always be applied (**Matthew 7:12**). It’s imperative that we hate the sin and at the same time love the sinner. I, like the woman, am guilty and stand condemned. But thankfully, I have a Savior and Advocate who loves me and desires that I be free from sin and death (**I John 2:1-3**). And such is obtainable if I, by faith, respond by leaving my former life of sin and begin living for Him in obedience to His will (**cf. Romans 8:1**).

Upon closer examination, I find myself with stone in hand, and at the same time, in the midst of those ready to stone me. I pray that I will have the compassion to lay my stone down and the courage and resolve to go and sin no more.

Terry R. Townsend

Curry church of Christ, Jasper, AL

ARE YOU AT A LOSS?

Paul said, “*We are perplexed, but not in despair*” (**II Corinthians 4:8**). The word perplexed means more than just being puzzled. It comes from *aporeo* which means “to be at loss with one’s self, be in doubt; not to know how to decide or what to do, to be perplexed” Thayer, 66). We might say it means to be at your wit’s end.

No man has all the answers. No one knows the best way to handle every situation. Even Paul didn’t. He could work miracles and write by inspiration, but he didn’t always have a clear idea about how best to deal with a situation or how it would end. Earlier in **II Corinthians** he spoke of a trying ordeal in Ephesus (**II Corinthians 1:8-10**). He was in such danger that he had “the sentence of death” that is, he thought he would die. But he didn’t. He only knew as much of the future as the Lord revealed to him, and he dealt with judgment matters the best he could. God didn’t reveal to Paul the best way to handle judgment calls any more than He does to us. As a result, Paul sometimes felt at a loss as to what to do.

If the apostle to the Gentiles was at a loss at times, how much more will we feel this way? There are times when we don’t know what to do or which way to turn. We think through the options and weigh each scenario as much as our feeble minds are able, but there is a great cost either way and we come up empty. We may be at such a loss that we don’t know what to ask God when we pray. This is not unusual. Paul said the Spirit steps in at such times: “*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered*” (**Romans 8:26**). Of course, there are things we know we should pray for. We know we should thank God for our blessings and confess our sins. But there are times when we don’t know specifically what we should ask even though we know we need to pray.

It is good for us to be in circumstances we cannot control or predict. It is helpful for us to be in situations we never dreamed we’d be in. It is beneficial for us to be in plights so seemingly hopeless that we can figure no way out of them. We rest on our past experience and become complacent and prideful in what we’ve learned. But when we find ourselves staring at a frightening dilemma for which we have no answer, our ignorance and inability humbles us. It is humbling to admit that you don’t know what to do, especially when you’ve told others how to fix their problems. We all need a lesson in humility once in a while. It drives us to seek the advice of others and to realize how much we need each other (**Proverb 24:6**). It causes us to search the Word of God for answers (**Psalms 119:105**). It leads us to pray to God for wisdom (**James 1:5**) instead of trusting in ourselves. It leads us to trust in the providence of God.

When you’re perplexed, don’t despair. God is in control.

Kerry Duke