



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

May 19, 2024

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

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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There is Nothing for Me to Do

I am amazed at the number of people in the church who complain that there is nothing for them to do. By this they generally mean that the elders have not given them a specific assignment. Does this excuse them from not being active in the greatest cause on earth?

No! Every member must realize that the Lord has already assigned them specific duties like helping to restore brothers who have been caught in any trespass (**Gal. 6:1**) and bearing one another's burdens (**Gal. 6:2**). Each one of us is under the commission we call great (**Mk. 16:15, 16**) and hence we need to be sharing the Gospel with one and all. Why should anyone have to give this to us as a specific assignment? The Lord has already done it. Take a look at the judgment scene in **Matthew 25:3 1-36** and note that we are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned.

Do we need an assignment from the elders to do these things? I think not since our judgment is to be based upon our doing them. What about taking the time to offer an encouraging word to that person or persons you know who needs an encouraging word? There are those in the hospital, rest homes, or who are confined at home who would be helped if you would visit them.

Why would any Christian need a specific assignment to be a genuine helper in such cases? "*But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased*" (**Heb. 13: 16**).

Don Deffenbaugh

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Do What You Can

One of my favorite accounts in the gospels is in **Mark 14** when Jesus is at Simon the leper's house (**v.3-9**). While there, Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha, took a flask of very costly oil and anointed Jesus' head with it (see also **John 12:1-7**). Some there, apparently led by Judas, were very upset at the waste of the oil. But Jesus defended her noble actions, saying that she had done a good work for Him in that she was anointing His body for burial. He also said that wherever the gospel is preached, what she had done will be told as a memorial to her; obviously it has been time and time again over the ages.

But the words that stick most in my mind concerning the actions of Mary are when our Savior said, "*She has done what she could*" (**Mark 14:8**). In those six short words, volumes are said about the attitude of Mary in serving and honoring the Christ. In fact, it is interesting to note that what she didn't do says just as much as what she did do. Notice, for example:

She didn't wait to be asked to do something. What a great example to us! She found a way to do what she could. Too many brethren don't do anything for the Lord because they are never asked. Follow Mary's example; find something to do and do it.

She didn't make excuses about her limitations. I'm sure there were a lot of things she did not have (ability, time, resources, etc.) to properly do for Jesus. But she didn't dwell on that; she sought out something that she could do. You can do a lot with even a little. Sadly, there are Christians today who make excuses for not doing for the Lord.

She didn't worry about criticism. And she was criticized, but she did it anyway. Which is more important, the praise of the Lord or the approval of men? We spend too much time worrying about what others will think or say. To gain the approval of the Lord, do what you can and don't worry about man.

She didn't fret over the cost. It was very costly, but that was unimportant as far as she was concerned – Jesus was worth it. There are a lot of things that some people consider too valuable to give up for the Lord. But for the true follower, nothing is too big of a sacrifice for the One who was sacrificed for them.

Look at it this way: Can you do it? Then do what you can.

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Col. 3:23).

Edd Sterchi
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