

Our Christian Example

By: Mike Riley

The story is told of a Christian high school senior who was honored as one of the best and brightest in his community because he provided a forceful demonstration of integrity.

When his school team was given the word “auditorium” in a regional spelling bee, he glanced down to ponder his response and noticed that the word was printed on the microphone stand. He called this to the attention of the judges who responded with a more difficult word. The young man did what he knew was right whether others noticed or not.

We don’t know when our actions may become an example to others — we’re always on display. But if we live each day to honor Jesus, our behavior will model His righteous life (Gal. 2:20; 1 John 2:5-6), no matter who is watching.

Uprightness and honor should be goals for Christians of every age. Paul told Timothy:

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit,

in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12 NKJV).

As Christians, one of our goals in life should be to change the world around us **for good** while never compromising ourself — one person at a time (Acts 10:38 NKJV; cf. 2 Timothy 2:1-2 NKJV; 1 Timothy 4:16 NKJV).

***O to be like Thee! blessed
Redeemer,
This is my constant longing and
prayer;
Gladly I'll forfeit all of earth's
treasures,
Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to
wear.
O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee,
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou
art;
Come in Thy sweetness, come in
Thy fullness;
Stamp Thine own image deep on
my heart. —W.J. Kirkpatrick***

The Heart of Judas, The Heart of the Widow and God

Selected Article

There is an amazing truth found in Paul's second letter to Corinth. The church there was collecting funds for the needy saints in Judea, and Paul writes to them encouraging them to be liberal. We often hear some of his words in our assemblies before the collection is taken. "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (**2 Cor. 9:7**)

What we may have overlooked is what is said in the next verse. "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound for every good work." Look at the words carefully—all grace, always, all sufficiency, all things, every good work. The proper motivation is not to give in order to get, but Paul affirms that God is able to bless those who do give so that they might have more to give.

Think of Judas and his attitude toward the money entrusted to him by Jesus. He verbalized a concern for the poor when the woman spent so much for the ointment that she used to anoint Jesus. He was a thief and none of the apostles knew it! Now contrast this with the attitude of the woman giving her two mites at the temple. What a contrast between two drastically different hearts. The reality is that God owns the world, and He does not have to rely on us to support His work. He lets us give so that

we can be reminded of the blessings He gives. Now think about it. If the Lord "needed" funds, to whom does He give it so that it might be given back to Him? There is no assurance that He would give it to someone with a covetous heart like Judas. Consider this. If He "needed" funds, He could rest assured that it would be given back to Him if he gave it to person whose heart was like the heart of that widow.

The reality is that He is able to always give with all grace to ensure that there is all sufficiency for every good work. Do not lose sight of this truth. God will always help us do His work.

Does He not faithfully supply us with food and clothing? He does for the birds and the lily of the valley. We are worth so much more than the birds and live so much longer than flowers. Now add to this Jesus' affirmation about what God will always supply for His children. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you" (**Matt. 6:33**).

Love the Lord. Love the kingdom. Love righteousness. That's our part. Then, as we give back to God that which He first gave to us, think of Paul's words to the Corinthians—all grace, always, all sufficiency and every good work. He will bless us to do His work!

Upcoming Events

TODAY! Potluck luncheon after morning worship with a 12:45pm service in lieu of the 5pm service. Please bring a potluck dish/dessert to share.

Fri. Dec. 9: Annual Ladies Ornament exchange at 6:30pm at the home of Nia FitzSimmons, Please bring a wrapped ornament and finger foods.

Sat. Dec. 17: Monthly youth devo with a holiday activity. More details to come!

Sun. Dec. 18: White Elephant gift exchange after evening services. Please bring finger foods and a wrapped gift if you would like to participate in the exchange.

Sat. Feb. 4: MidTown will host Ladies Day with our sister Candice Starling as the speaker. Save this date Ladies!

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

March 2-5, 2023: Arise and Overcome at South-west church of Christ.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Clifton Rutherford who is recovering from surgery.

Mary Younglove, Naomi Flonnory’s grandmother, who is in ICU.

Letty Randle’s daughter-in-law’s father passed away.

John Davis, a deputy in Goliad who works with Virginia Escojido. He is on life support at this time.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson.

Jerri Jeffres has expressed her desire to work under the oversight of the Elders of the Mid-town congregation. Her contact info is on a sticker in the foyer to add to your pocket directory.

Service Roster

Week of December 4, 2022

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Will Burleson
Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Will Burleson

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Lupe Escojido
Cup..... Bryant Siegel
Offering..... James Cammock
Assist..... Bill York
Assist..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Jeff Cannady

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Fred Scherffius

Opening Prayer..... Lupe Escojido
Closing Prayer..... Bill York

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... Lupe Escojido/
Bryant Siegel

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Brandon Starling
Song Leader Kirk FitzSimmons
Devotional Ron White

Other

Prepare Communion Debra Sanchez

Congregational News

Birthdays

Kin Marie..... Dec. 4
Isaiah Starling..... Dec. 5
Jerri Jeffres..... Dec. 7
Ron White..... Dec. 8
Deann York..... Dec. 8
Naomi Flonnory..... Dec. 9

Food Helpers for the month of Dec. - Team B.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined
to me, And heard my cry.”
Psalm 40:1

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of November 27, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....73
A.M. Worship.....116
P.M. Worship.....63
Wednesday Bible Class.....60

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
B.K. York *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

midtown
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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midtowncoc.org

Weekly Communication! To receive the *Midtown Messenger* and other congregational news to your inbox each week, please email events.midtowncoc@gmail.com.