

Covington Family News

March 16, 2025

Life's Lessons

I've learned that you can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk. (age 7)
I've learned that when I wave to people in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back. (age 9)
I've learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up. (age 14)
I've learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me. (age 15)
I've learned that silent company is often more healing than words of advice. (age 24)
I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it. (age 39)
I've learned that the greater a person's guilt, the greater his need to cast blame on others. (age 46)
I've learned that singing "Amazing Grace" can lift my spirits for hours. (age 49)
I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. (age 52)
I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terrible after they die. (age 53)
I've learned that if you want to do something positive for your children, try to improve your marriage. (age 61)
I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. (age 62)
I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the need of others, your work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you. (age 65)
I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision. (age 66)
I've learned that everyone can use a prayer. (age 72)
I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. (age 82)
People love human touch—holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. (85)
I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. (age 92)

via Bulletin Digest



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SERVING THIS WEEK 3/16/25 AM Worship Service

Announcements Brandon Matlock
Song Leader: Beau Phillips
Sermon Mike Rogers

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: Hadley Mason
Wesley Fowler, Eason Robinson, Robert Brownlee, Chris Huggins, Clint Stacks, Breck Beasley, Chris Maness, Caleb Smith

Opening Prayer: Bill Murray
Closing Prayer: Jon McCain

Nursery Worker: Leann Maness

March Food Committee Leader: Bonita Rogers

Attendance Card Collectors: (3/16)
Levi Teems, Houston Davis, Kyle McCain

March Door Greeters:

Main Lobby Entrance: Richard & Elaine Shankle
Auditorium Entrance: Brad & Becky Evins

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: Beau Phillips
Opening Prayer: Ken Bringle Jr.
Closing Prayer: Jimmy McMahan
Sermon Jeff Phillips

PROOF OF OUR LOVE

Sunday Bible Classes	114
Worship AM	211
PM	137
Wednesday Bible Study	142

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Marcia Murray	Covington, TN
Avery Kate Kirkpatrick	Henning, TN

Covington Church of Christ

1690 Highway 51 South – PO Box 9
Covington, TN 38019

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

Bible Classes 9:00AM
Worship 10:00AM & 5:30PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Mike’s Message

Are You Listening?

Matt. 7:21-29; Luke 6:46-49

Both texts are about who will have eternal life. In Matthew’s account Jesus uses three sets of contrasts to demonstrate the necessity of strict obedience to God in order to have eternal life. The first contrast is between the wide way that is easy but ends in death, and the narrow way that is hard but leads to life (Luke does not mention this one). The second is between two trees. One is bad and cannot produce good fruit, the other is good and cannot produce corrupt fruit. Jesus closes this sermon with the third contrast which is between two builders. One works hard and builds on a solid foundation. The other takes the easy way and builds on sand. What is interesting is that both Matthew and Luke concentrate on listening to the words of Jesus: “Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them . . .” (Matt. 7:24). “Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them . . .” (Luke 6:46).

I approach this lesson with the presupposition that to listen is to hear and obey. Jesus feels that it is necessary to present these parables because His audience was not listening to Him. Just a few verses before this in Matthew’s account, Jesus says, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that does the will of My Father who is in heaven” (7:21). Luke records Jesus saying, “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say” (Luke 6:46)? We can understand that Jesus is declaring that everyone has to do more than hear what Jesus teaches, we have to do it. **Are you listening?**

This parable shows two builders: one wise and one foolish, two houses built on two different kinds of foundations. The wise builder “dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock” (Luke 6:48b). The foolish builder “built upon the ground without any foundation (Luke 6:49b), or “built his house on the sand” (Matt. 7:26). Both houses face storms. The storms destroy the house with no solid foundation, but the house on the solid foundation stood.

The houses represent everyone’s life. The rock represents the teachings of Jesus. The sand represents anything but the teachings of Christ. It might be the cares and concerns of the world. It might be tradition. It might be material things. It could even be our jobs or families. The storms represent the trials, difficulties, and temptations of life. The builders represent “everyone” who calls on the Lord.

Wise people will dig deep in study for the perfect will of God (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15), and build their lives on what they hear. **Are you Listening?**

--Mike Rogers

Prayer List



John Evans—Recovering from surgery
Vicki Mayfield—Baptist Tipton
Heath Billings
Neil Bringle
Steve & Margie Crews
Joyce Whaley
Betty White—Wife of Bobby White, Encompass Health Stockton family in the loss of their loved one, *Gene Stockton*; Day family in the loss of their loved one, *Samuel Colin Day*. Also remember Israel, Our Country, Our Missionaries, LaVerne Baxter, Captain Mike Shipley, Jeff Cooper, Larry Coughlan, Kenneth Coulston, Jason Elliott, Hattie Fields, Malissa Garner, Jackie Gatlin, Kay Gatlin, Pat Gatlin, Kyle Hanks, K.C. Haynes, Coy Hendrix, Stan McDevitt, Phyllis McLillie, Judy Merritt, Kathy McMahan, Gigi Miller, Robin Montgomery, Larry Newman, Sophie Nolan, Victoria Orman, Alan Otts, Randy Rhoads, Bonita Rogers, Phillip Scrip, Donna Sonwineski, Elizabeth Sonwineski, Anthony Stacks, David South, Melvin Wall, Paulette Watkins, Delores Whaley, Larry Whaley II

NURSING HOME:

Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson

MILITARY:

Killian Bridgeman, Logan Bridgeman, Major Creel, Bradley Evins, Dayana Fendley, Danny Fields, Tanner Mason, Richie Newbill, Chris Nowak, Michael J. Pena, Jedidiah Phillips, Jackson Robinson, Jacob Sampson, Parker Speight, Isaac Stewart

Quotes of Note

“To avoid power struggles between parents and teens, there must be mutual respect. And that relationship of respect is lived out day-to-day in three major principles: love, praise, and consistency.”

David L. McKenna

Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you, no matter what. If you don’t listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won’t tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff.

Catherine M. Wallace

Calendar of Events

MARCH EVENTS

15—Birthday Party at Magnolia Creek Nursing Home
16—Devotional at Covington Care, 3PM
17—Monday Night for the Master, group 2
18, 25—Ladies Bible Class, 10AM
24—Monday Night for the Master, group 3
26—Devotional/Worship in song
31—Monday Night for the Master, group 4

Saturday, April 12 we will have a workday here at the building, 8:00-5:00. Breakfast will be served at 7:00. Please let Craig Robinson or David Stewart know if you plan to attend.

April 17-20—Lads to Leaders

June 1-4—VBS

June 11—Wednesday Night Summer Series begins

AREA EVENT

March 16-20—89th Annual Bible Lectureship at Freed-Hardeman University; *Promise & Providence: A Faith Journey Through Genesis*

BIRTHDAYS MARCH 16-22



18—Alexis Matlock, Nolan Carter

ANNIVERSARIES

21—Ron & Gale Sutton



Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth

via Bulletin Digest

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE MARCH 16-22

March 16—Judg. 14-16
March 17—Judg. 17-20
March 18—Judg. 21-Ruth 2
March 19—Ruth 3-1 Samuel 1
March 20—1 Sam. 2-4
March 21—1 Sam. 5-7
March 22—1 Sam. 8-10

Carpenter’s Apprentice

It was this time of year, the spring, when the kings went out to battle but this year he just didn’t feel like going, so he sent Joab to lead the rest of Israel in the battles (2 Samuel 11:1). The Bible doesn’t tell us what was going on in David’s head but clearly he was struggling with something. David was known as a warrior, not only had he killed Goliath at a young age (1 Samuel 17:48-51), every mission Saul sent him on, David was successful and people began to see and even sing about his success (1 Samuel 18:5-7). But this spring he was bogged down. Something had him addled for going to battle was what the kings did and he was a warrior king. Maybe he just felt he needed change. Maybe he’d grown bored with the same old same old. Whatever the reason, this spring his heart just wasn’t in it. The result was catastrophic. Because he wasn’t doing what he was supposed to be doing, because he was caught up in some other thought process, because he was dissatisfied in some way with his life; David decided to stay at home and change things up. His decision and lack of commitment led him to an affair with the wife of Uriah, one of his mighty men, one of his inner circle. When she became pregnant, he sank deeper into his change and further from God, eventually arranging Uriah’s death at the hands of the enemy. It was nothing short of murder in the first degree; premeditated but totally blind to the depths of his fall. The prophet Nathan would come and help him to see the error of his ways with a story he knew would spark David’s outrage and indignation only to discover he himself was the guilty party (2 Samuel 12:1-15). It is from the depths of this guilt and sorrow David penned Psalm 51, a complete confession of his wrongdoing, a plea for a new heart and a pledge to do better. We are most familiar with verses 10-12, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit” (Psalms 51:10-12). David learned the hard way when things are not going right for us at home, work and even in the church, very often the change needed is not in the circumstances of the life around us but the change needed is within our very own hearts. On Sunday, Christians all over the world will gather with the saints to praise and worship God in song and prayer. They will remember and celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of His son and they will strengthen and encourage one another. Like kings going to battle in the spring, Christians meet with the church on Sundays - because it’s just what we do. Will you stay at home like David?

-jeff