



Calvert City Church of Christ

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True Giving

In Mark 12, while Jesus was teaching in the temple, we read of an amazing act of giving. In verse 41, Jesus sat down close to the treasury so he could see the offering box. For a little while, Jesus engaged in one of my favorite acts: people watching. As he watched the worshipers contribute to the offering box, he witnessed, as you can imagine, some rich people putting in huge amounts of money. After some time, a poor widow came along and added two small coins. The smallest Jewish coin was called a lepton, and the Greek text tells us that the woman's contribution was simply two lepta. Some say that the Jewish rabbis of Jesus' day did not allow contributions of less than two lepta. It is therefore possible the woman gave the bare minimum. For the disciples who were watching with Jesus, this widow's contribution probably garnered very little attention. For Jesus, however, this widow's act of giving represented far more than the two small coins she contributed. Here is what Jesus said to his disciples: "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on" (Mark 12:43-44). In a teachable moment, Jesus showed his disciples why this widow's contribution represented true, godly living.

True giving is about the heart. I imagine the rich people, who had just given tons of money, likely felt good about themselves. On the other hand, the widow was likely embarrassed that people could see her measly contribution. In Jesus' mind, however, the widow had nothing to be embarrassed about. Why? Because to Jesus, true giving is less about the sum of money given and more about the heart with which one gives.

True giving requires sacrificial trust in God. In the ancient world, widows were often some of the poorest, most vulnerable people in society because they often did not have anyone to take care of and provide for them. According to Jesus, this widow had two lepta to her name. Instead of using the money to buy life-sustaining supplies, she gave everything she had to God. Can you imagine the trust this widow must have had in God to be willing to make such a sacrifice? This woman was a true, living example of what it means to, as Jesus says, not be anxious, but to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

In following this widow's example of true giving, Jesus undoubtedly expects us to give abundantly to our God. Why? Because people who have been given much must willingly give much. As the Apostle Paul says, "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). God loves you, and so do I.

—Jared Green

Dates to Remember:

February 2—Tuesday Bible Class
February 7-11—FHU Lectureship online
February 25—Blood Drive @ Calvert City

A Pause . . . And Reflection

In an effort to help all of us as we attempt to move toward “normalcy,” we are offering an in-person adult Bible class (men and women welcome) to be held on Tuesday mornings here at the church building. We will be able to maintain social distance and yet still have meaningful, personal interaction as we study together. We have one more week before class and we already have over ten people who plan to attend. If you plan to come, please let me know as soon as possible. We have ordered books and we will meet on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 for the foreseeable future.

I mentioned the FHU Lectureship last week in this column. I have since received more information about the lectureship, which, like everything else associated with the past 10 months, will be quite different. First of all, the book will be different. It will be paperback and available through amazon.com. The title/theme for the book is Ecclesiastes: Finding Meaning in a Meaningless World.

Secondly, and as I mentioned last week, the lectures will be online only for those of us away from the school. This is done for the safety of the students on campus. We have a sheet of updated information on the prerecorded lectures and when they will be streamed online. I will make some copies of this sheet for the tables in our lobby. Those who receive *The Encourager* by email will receive a link this week for a pdf with that information. Those who receive *The Encourager* by regular mail can contact me and I will send you a pdf by email. I hope you can participate in one way or another. I believe it will be an excellent study.

I hope you have a great week.—Lance

Ancient Truths for Modern Times
WCKK, FM—95.7
Sundays 8:30 a.m.
Speakers: Lance Cordle & Gary Knuckles

January 31-February 6

Jan.
31—Kerry Creason
Joe Hedges
Feb.
1—Dawn Lisanby
2—Kevin Hunt
Brianna Parshall
4—Bridget Mabry
Jeff Mabry
6—Ali Martin



5—Jackie & Marlene Travis

Partial Restart

3 Classes 9:15 a.m. Sunday

Worship Service @ 10:00 a.m.

3 Classes Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

When assembled in-person, please:

- **Wear a mask**
- **Use hand sanitizer**
- **Pick up communion kits as you enter**
- **Sit together as families**
- **Use every other pew**
- **Place contribution in box/plate at stations scattered around auditorium.**



**THURSDAY
THOUGHTS**

Weekly Devotionals on Facebook

Remember in Prayer:

Harold Brandon—father of Carol Steele —Hospice, at home

Peg McVehil—mother of Amy Cunningham— Hospice at home, in Pennsylvania

Toni Bennett, Charlotte Chilcutt, Taylor Collins, Conner Copeland, Debbie, Richard Darnell, Billie Davis, Jimmy Davis, Joyce Dossett, Bobby English, Kerry Frazier, Gayle Hall, Pat Hall, Robert Hall, Davida Hill, Kerry Hill, Joe Hedges, Steve Higginbotham, Pearlie Inman, Lorene Krueger, Haley Lilly, Jerry McCamey, Stacy McGee, Dale Moore, Dale Newport, Doug and Wanda Newsom, Rhonda Ray, Margaret Robertson, Danny Walker, Tommy Wilson

Nursing Home/Assisted Living/Rehab:

Rivercrest Place (Paducah)—**Jim & Barbara Story**

CCCtr—**Betty Clark**

Misty Meadows, (Metropolis, IL)— **Betty Burkeen**

Providence Point—**Gary Smith (rehab)**

Stilley House—**Raymon Cordle, Norman Gulley, Carl Hamilton**



We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Hazel Demery. Sister Hazel passed away Tuesday evening, January 26, at the Christian Care Center in Kuttawa. She was 98. Funeral arrangements will be through Dunn Funeral Home of Eddyville.

Record:*

January 24, 2021

Sunday Bible Class	64
Sunday Morning Attendance	126
Contribution	\$8739.00

*Pandemic circumstances



Exactly Where You Need to Be

In the new-ish Disney movie Moana, the title character sets out to find the great demigod Maui in order to return the heart of Tafiti and restore her island. She is told to step out in faith and the ocean will help her along the way. Not long into her travels, Moana finds herself shipwrecked and lost. She wakes up and tries to take her anger out on the sea. It was supposed to guide her. It was supposed to help her get to where she needed to be to save her people. In frustration and desperation, she yells at the ocean. But soon she turns around to find that she has landed on the very island where Maui has been hiding out. Exactly where she needed to be. In the past year, we could easily come up with our own reasons to be angry and frustrated with God. Kids miss social interaction. Parents question how to keep their family safe.

Grandparents question when will be the next time they can feel the warm embrace of a hug. Ministers question their effectiveness through a camera lense. The church yearns to be back together again. The list goes on and yet when we stop and ponder on our reality, we find that God has brought us through isolation, hardship, and pain to the very place we are meant to be. Never stop seeking how you can be effective in this very moment of your life because we have never truly left the hand of God.

Every morning in my time in scripture, I try to end my reading with a Psalm. Today it was Psalm 31. As I read, I thought of David, his afflictions, his mistakes, his struggles, his pleads with God. But still through it all David writes, "I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction; you have known the distress of my soul, and you have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy; you have set my feet in a broad place." Rejoice and take comfort that we, though we struggle, remain in God's hand. We are exactly where we need to be to be effective workers for the kingdom of God.

—Lucas

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Current Service Times

Sunday Morning

In-Person Bible Class

9:15—Auditorium

CIA—Activities Building

Teens—Teen Room

10:00-Worship (Auditorium)

Online also

Sunday Evening

6:00—Devotional (online only)

Wednesday Night (In-person)

6:30 —Auditorium, CIA, Teens