

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



Northside Church of Christ
4217 Highway 39 N
Meridian, MS 39301

Place
Stamp
Here

What We “Do” Still Counts

By Mike Riley

Comedian Henny Youngman once stated: “I’ve got two wonderful children — and two out of five isn’t bad.”

As parents, how can we continue a positive parenting role after our children have left our nest?

In 1 Corinthians 13, often called “the love chapter” of the Bible, Paul writes that the greatest gifts of speaking, understanding, and sacrificial service are worthless without love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3 – NKJV).

Love itself is the foundation of lovable behavior, and its influence will never end. Emphasizing this point, Paul writes:

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8 – NKJV).

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| SUNDAY MORNING Triple E Edify, Exhort, Evangelize 4 Square 8:30 AM | SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY Hebrews 9:30 AM | SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship Service 10:30 AM | WEDNESDAY NIGHT Romans 7:00 PM |
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“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

“Crumbs Will Do”

By Mike Riley

Recently, my wife and I stopped at a local fast-food restaurant for hamburgers. As we ate in their outside eating area, I noticed that a beautiful blackbird, having midnight black body feathers, coal black tail, and wing feathers, landed in the empty space beside our car. Standing very patiently, I knew that all he wanted was for me just to toss him a piece of bread from my hamburger. He would look at me as if to beg for just one small piece. As I began to look at him more closely, I noticed that in all his God-created beauty, he was physically flawed. This species of bird normally has three toes that are spread evenly on the ground to give them balance. This particular bird, however, only had one foot to place on the ground. The other foot was deformed and turned back so that he walked on the joint where the foot and leg connects. As I watched, the beauty of this bird really stood out as dull colored grackles begin to land, and then some aggressive pigeons appeared. None of these birds, however, could draw my attention from the blackbird. He was struggling to stand steady as a strong wind blew. Yet, with great effort he never gave in to the wind but stood firm on his one good foot. The strength, courage, and dedication of this deformed bird really touched my heart. As he was standing there on one foot, not even indicating that he was so much as even thinking about giving in to his surroundings, it almost brought tears to my eyes as I thought about his dedication to life, how he stood tall among the other birds, and how he never gave up on what he wanted. But patiently he waited, just hoping for one small morsel of bread.

Everyday I see one and usually more than one of God’s creatures standing on the street corners in the city where I live, “desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fall from the rich man’s table” (Luke 16:21). As the blackbird, for them just “crumbs will do.” I wonder why my emotions are not touched by these precious souls, who are created in God’s image (Genesis 1:27), as much as by the blackbird that I observed at the fast-food restaurant. Instead of tossing them a “crumb”, however, I try to judge them by thinking, “If that person really wanted money he could work. Why should I give him my hard-earned money for which I work 10 hours a day for?” Then I think, “Could he really work, or was he like the deformed blackbird only I could not see it?” Was he having as much trouble standing in the challenging “winds” (problems) of life as the blackbird? Was I missing the inward beauty of this person, or was I just not looking for the beauty, but only “seeing” the deformity?

All of this caused me to seriously think about the parable of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16:19-31. The text tells us that this beggar “was laid” (literally, “was thrown”) or cast carelessly down by his bearers and left there. This beggar obviously suffered some physical malady which did not allow him to walk. The text also indicates that Lazarus was not fed from the crumbs, but only “desired” to be fed from the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table (Luke 16:21). Yet, the rich man could only see the undesirability of the man rather than the man’s need. Perhaps our lives would be more spiritually blessed, fulfilling, and enriched if we were better able to “see” the physical and spiritual needs of our fellow man rather than the “deformities” in their lives and at least be willing to feed them the “crumbs” which fall from our table.

Even when our children no longer seek our advice, they still value our love. In every stage of parenting, it’s not only what we say but what we “do” that still counts.

May God in mercy grant to us
 A home where Christ holds sway,
 Where peace and joy from heaven above
 Abide from day to day. —Crane

Announcements

- Holiday Meal at Diamond Jim’s Meridian Dec. 20 @ 6pm
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Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments
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Communion Preparation

- November - Callens
- December - Rowell
- 2023 Sign up sheet is in foyer

November Birthdays & Anniversary’s

- Laila McKenzie - 5th
- Cindy Littrell - 14th
- Marilyn Potts - 15th
- Ryan Joiner - 26th
- Margie Wooldridge - 30th

Every Sunday Morning
 @ 8:00 AM
 on WTOK-TV



Sermon Notes

Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Larry Montgomery
 Scripture Reading - Luke 12:15 - 21
 Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
 Head of Lord’s Table - Don Potts
 Assist on Lord’s Table - Mark Potts
 Scripture Reading - Luke 22:14 - 22
 Closing Prayer - Shay Cooper

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