

THE NUT AND THE TREE

2 Chronicles 33:2

He did evil in the sight of the Lord according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord dispossessed before the sons of Israel.

You have probably heard the old saying “the nut doesn’t fall very far from the tree.” The meaning is “children are very often just like their parents.” There are any number of cases that lead us to believe that the saying is true.

Manasseh is an example of a nut that fell a very long way from the tree. For all his faults, his father Hezekiah was a good king. At the beginning of his reign, he restored the worship of Jehovah in the Temple (2 Chronicles 29:20-36). The beginning of his reign is noted with the words “he did right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done (2 Chronicles 29:2). What more could you ask of a king.

For whatever reason, Manasseh was not at all like his father. There were no depths to which he would not sink. According to 2 Chronicles 33:3-7, he turned to idolatry in a way that lacked any kind of restraint. He even “made his own sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-Hinnom” (33:6).

There is a message for parents in all of this. Even faithful parents must be persistent in leading their children. The ***first*** thing is to teach them to love God with all their hearts. That command is where true faithfulness and submission begins (Deuteronomy 6:5, 6).

Trees and nuts have the same DNA. That is the spiritual goal toward which we strived; to see to it that our children possessed the same spiritual DNA. Persistence and prayer can bring that to pass.

--Ron Harper--

When Was the Last Time You Looked at Your Wedding Ring?

By Nathan Foster

I put it on for the first time the morning of August 2, 2014. It was heavier than I thought it would be, but I didn't mind that at all. I can remember taking it off that night and just looking at it. I would flip it through my fingers and examine it repeatedly as if it had somehow changed in the past thirty seconds. It was a black tungsten ring that had a matte finish in the middle with shiny metallic borders. On the inside, there is a gold print of the date when I put it on for the first time. It was bright and shiny and new.

As I sit here writing this, I notice that there is relatively little similarity in that exact same ring. It is still the same color and it still has my wedding date printed on the inside and it is still round. But that is about all that is the same. What was once bright and shiny and new has now been replaced with scratches and chips. What once felt heavy now seems completely normal.

It is the start of a new year and we are full of so much hope and optimism. Everyone is promising that they are going to be "better" in 2018. But how long will it be before we make excuses or get discouraged? March? February? The end of this month?

We do the same thing with our relationship with Christ. Can you remember the day you became a Christian? Can you remember that feeling when you came up out of the water? You were excited, joyful, and forgiven. You were bright and shiny and new. When was the last time you felt that way? Do you still look at your relationship with Christ or do you forget it is there because that has become "normal" to you? Do you miss the bright and shiny and new? Do you wish that you could go back to that time and put those feelings in a jar and hold onto them?

Be proud of the scratches and chips. I love the scratches and chips in my wedding band. I am so thankful that this ring is still on my finger. The fact that I wake up every day with this ring on means that for the past three years I have been blessed to be married to the most amazing woman. And all these scratches and chips represent that through the good times and the bad I am still married to the most amazing woman. Just because something is not bright and shiny and new, doesn't make it less valuable.

Luke 22 and 1 Corinthians 11 both reiterate that statement that we have heard many times before, "Do this in remembrance of me." When you look at your spiritual life and your relationship with Jesus, what do you see? You have probably done some things right, and a lot of things wrong. But Jesus is still here waiting for you to come to Him.

NEWS & NOTES

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Ken & Barbara McPeak, Hazel Carey, Selma Boyd, Pat Davidson, Nora Fann, Odell Grissom, Sue Reeves, Ernestine Taylor, Carolyn Thomas, Laura Wiser, Nell Jernigan, Narene Davidson, Mary Williams, Shirley Bibb,

SHUT INS:

Tommy Bibb, Oleta Bullard, Houston Henry, Dan Stephens, Richard Jones, Wayne Mobbs, Carolyn Thomas, Mabel Robertson, Louis Wilson, Melba & Jeanie Young

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

***MEMBERS**

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*, Shirley Bibb*, Annie Holland

NHC: Lizzie Bush, Sue Reeves*, Ernestine Taylor*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Laura Wiser*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Lillian Whitworth

SMYRNA: Geri Melton*

WOODBURY: Jeweldean Hall*

TN VETERAN'S HOME: Edna Vance*

SYMPATHY

We extend sympathy to the family of **Joe and Jacqueline Watson**. They were the parents of **Darrell Watson**.

We extend sympathy to the family of **Mary Nadine Wiser**. She was the sister-in-law of **Laura Wiser**. Her funeral is today at 2pm at the Hillcrest Funeral Home in Shelbyville, TN.

Please keep these families in prayer.

ACTIVITIES

- There will be an elementary devo tonight immediately following evening services
- A youth singing is planned with the LaVergne youth group here on February 4 following evening services. Please bring finger foods and drinks.

Darrell Watson is now home after having surgery last weekend.

Ron Bowersock is home following surgery last week.

Avery Tucker, brother of Regenia Grissom is now home.

Wendell Mingle is in ICU at St Thomas Rutherford.

Salem Creek church of Christ
2525 Salem Creek Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37128

~

P.O. Box 332067
Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2067

Email: office@salemcreekcoc.org

We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Morning Worship	9:00 am
Bible Classes	10:15 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May)	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
Jim Hatfield
Jon Holland
Andy Mitchell
Randall Phifer
Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Rick Acklin	Rick Corum
Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Joe Byars	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

January 14, 2018

Sunday	AM worship	242
	Bible classes	172
	PM worship	134
	Contribution	\$7110.00

Wednesday PM Bible classes

Wednesday AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)

When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. Ladies class will be canceled

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity! We were honored by your presence!

GREETERS

*Please be at the door
30 minutes prior to service*

January 21

Marvin & Francille Whitworth

January 28

Jeff & Karen Milstead

