

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR

We read in Numbers 11 how the Israelites were complaining about not having meat to eat. God was giving them manna which was theirs requiring only that they pick it up and use it; however, this miracle was not appreciated. Some of the people cried for meat (which is interesting as we know they left Egypt with livestock and that God required animal sacrifices showing that there had to be livestock with them). Verse 10 tells us Moses was displeased and that God's anger was kindled. God gave them the meat they cried for in the form of doves for a whole month until they were sick of it. God's anger at their greed is shown in verses 33 – 35. God's anger was such that after sending doves He sent a severe plague and so many died that the name of the place was called Kibroth-hattaavah (the graves of greediness).

God was angered by the greed of the Israelites and their lack of appreciation for all that God had done and was continuing to do for them. This lack of respect amazes me when I think of all the great miracles these people had seen: the ten plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, the pillar of fire and the column of cloud, and manna to list a few. They had lived in Egypt so long they had undoubtedly accepted many Egyptian customs and lost their faith in God.

What do we ask for today and why do we ask for it? There is nothing wrong in asking God for the things we need: food, clothing, and shelter. It is entirely appropriate to pray for the sick (ourselves included) and if we or others are in a time of trial to ask God's blessing. We do need to be careful to not give God a "want list" and remember to thank Him for the many daily things we are blessed especially Jesus and the Church He established. It is wrong to ask for selfish things with from the greed in our hearts. God is not going to be fooled. The Old and New Testaments are full of examples of how God dealt with the greedy. Spoiler alert, none of these examples turn out good in the long run.

In conclusion, God expects His children to be grateful for all the love He has shown to us. The example above shows how much God hates greed and its associated sin. Be careful that the things you ask for are asked out of faith and not selfish motives. If you ask from the sinful pit of greed, God may just give you what you ask for with all the consequences that go with it.

Larry Benson

The Difference Between Friendship and Fellowship

“And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.” 1 Samuel 20:17

Fellowship. I dare you to read or speak that word without getting hungry. The truth is that we in our modernized Christianity take the word “fellowship” to mean a meal or a casual gathering of friends. However, this is not how fellowship is viewed in the Bible. For instance, 1 John tells us that we have fellowship with God and man. Does this mean we only have a casual gathering with God when we worship or throughout the week when we pray? No. Fellowship in the Bible refers to an intimate relationship between two parties. God knows us even to the depths of our souls. We should know God just the same as he reveals himself through his word.

The average number of trusted friends a person has today is approximately 4-7. This is not a very big number considering even we have a congregation of 250 people. What makes a friend? First, there must be fellowship. No, not the kind that comes along with a meal, but the kind that provides a relationship between people to be strong and necessary. Secondly, there must be dedication. I’m sure all of us have had “fake friends.” You know those people who say they are your friends and yet belittle you behind your back or leave you when you need them most. Jonathan was dedicated to David so much so that they made oaths to each other that could not be broken. Lastly, there must be love. No, I am not speaking of a marriage or even dating relationship. Friendship is also built based on love for one another. Jonathan loved David as his own self. Can we say that about our friends?

The Lords church was never intended to be a social club. Jesus said, “For whoever does the will of my Father who is in Heaven, he is my brother and sister and mother,” (Matthew 12:50). The church was meant to be a family. Can we honestly say we care for our congregation like we do for our own family? Perhaps we should remember the three components that make up friendship: fellowship, dedication, and love. With these components, we can be like Jonathan and David and learn to love each other as our own selves. Fellowship is not a casual gathering—it is the desire to know each other and grow together.

Joshua Houston

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Lester Clark, Sue Reeves, Odell Grissom, Nora Fann, Virgie Leonard, The Birdwell family, Janneil Brown, Houston Henry

****Marie Fleming** is at NHC for rehab

SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard, Tommy & Shirley Bibb, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Melba & Jeanie Young

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

***MEMBERS**

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Lizzie Bush, Sue Reeves*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Virgie Leonard*, Ernestine Taylor*, Laura Wiser*, Lillian Whitworth, Edna Vance*

SMYRNA: Geri Melton*

MILITARY:

Tony Berry

NEWS & NOTES

Welcome to our new member –
Harry Summer

- During our AM service Jon Holland will be presenting the 2017 plans and details for the Nicaragua Mission Trip. The first working session is January 29th.
- **Men's Devo** - if you would like to host a devo, it's held on the third Monday of each month. The sign – up sheet is in the foyer.
- There is a planned trip to **Smyrna Bowling Center** for Sunday, February 19th from 8-11pm. More details and sign-up sheets in the foyer.
- **Couples Retreat** – March 10-12th at All Season Suites in Pigeon Forge with guest speaker Wayne Miller. Sign-up sheet is in the foyer.
- East Main church of Christ will have a **Young Men's Seminar** (grades 5-12) on February 4, 2017. Please **RSVP** by February 2nd. See the flyer on the bulletin board for details.

There will be a baby basket shower for

Amanda Birdwell

Items needed

diapers and baby wipes

The basket is located near the kitchen



Salem Creek church of Christ
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Murfreesboro, TN 37128

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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
Larry Benson
Michael Bowman
Craig Buckner
Joe Byars

Rick Corum
Andy Melton
Brian Melton
Alan Pepper
Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

January 15, 2017

Sunday	AM worship	214
	Bible classes	164
	PM worship	158
	Contribution	\$6,254.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	144
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Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	14
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When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. Ladies class will be cancelled

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 22

Jeff & Karen Milstead

January 29

Jim & Gayle Glover

