

Little Things

I was preaching in a gospel meeting at a rural church in southern Oklahoma and staying in the nice farm house of an elder of that church and his good wife. One morning while I was waiting the arrival of the local preacher so we could make some visits in the community, I was enjoying a cup of coffee with my hostess. I asked her if she had been reared in the Lord's church and she said she had not. Then she volunteered the story of her conversion.

When she was a little girl, probably five or so, a neighbor lady asked her mother if she might take her to Bible school with her. Her mother didn't mind her going to church but she did not want to be inconvenienced by it. So this good neighbor would keep her Saturday night, bathe and dress her, take her to church Sunday morning and feed her lunch before returning her to her home that afternoon. This continued until one or the other moved away after several months or maybe years.

After this she said she joined her family in a religionless life and later married a man who was also disinterested in spiritual things. But when their first child was born, her husband decided he did not want to rear their child a heathen and he suggested they start going to church somewhere. He had no preference and asked her if she did. She told him about the good Christian neighbor who was so kind to her and had taken her to the church of Christ in their little community. He was impressed by her story and they decided to visit the local church of the Lord. They found a group of good, friendly people who took an interest in them. They studied the Bible and were eventually baptized into Christ. Now her husband was an elder and they were the backbone of that church at which I was holding the meeting. They had several sons who were deacons in the churches elsewhere and daughters whose families were faithful workers for the Lord.

All this was the result of a little neighbor girl and the woman never knew how her efforts had turned out. This story convinced me that I should never underestimate the value of doing little things for the Lord and then leaving it up to the Lord to make them big. "I have platted, Appolos watered, but God gave the increase." (1 Corinthians 3:6)

**-Bill Smith, The Fulton Evangelist
Fulton Church of Christ, Mississippi**

How Hard Can It Be?

“And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, ‘Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.’” 2 Kings 5:10

As a child growing up in the “Houston home,” it was imperative to keep the commandments of God and the commandments of Mama. “Clean your room! Wash your face! Wake up!” were just some of the commands I heard on a daily basis. As a young boy, I did not understand the need to do things exactly the way my mother expressed. I thought I could do them later or even not do them at all and still be fine. The problem is that there are always consequences for actions that are taken and actions that are not taken.

Naaman was captain of the army of Aram. He seemed to have it all. He had respect, power, and honor, but he lacked one thing he needed to continue this trend. He needed his health. See, Naaman was a leper. He was in the transition of being a powerful individual to being nothing and frankly, he couldn’t stand it. As the story goes, Naaman was told by Elisha the prophet what he must do to be cleansed of this dreaded disease. He needed to go and wash (or dip) in the Jordan River seven times. No big deal right? Well, it was as big of a deal to Naaman as cleaning my room was to me. I just didn’t want to do it and neither did he.

Verse 11 tells us that Naaman not only didn’t want to do it but was furious at the notion. Why couldn’t a big miracle take place? Why couldn’t he bathe in other waters? It is simply because when it comes to God, there is only one way. His way.

Eventually, Naaman agreed and dipped seven times in the Jordan. After that, he was clean. So, let’s ask, how hard can it be to do the will of God. Naaman had a simple task that would result in his benefit; however, he would not allow himself to receive the blessing because his own presuppositions were in the way.

We need to be made spiritually clean. And like Naaman, God only gives us one way to do it. Being buried with Jesus Christ in baptism is in fact the only way to be spiritually clean according to the New Testament. There is no prayer for Jesus to enter your heart. There is no accepting him as your savior. There is only dying, being buried, and raising up with him through baptism (Romans 6, Galatians 3, 1 Peter 5).

Is our sole desire to do the will of God and what he wants for us in our lives? It wasn’t for Naaman until he realized it was the only way. Once he realized that, he did exactly what God had wanted him to do all along. Are we willing to do the same thing?

Joshua Houston

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

SICK

(No visitors at this time for Marie Fleming & Ernestine Taylor), Opal Jones (recovering from hip surgery), Janneil Brown, Brittany Bullard, Kinley Mobbs (Wayne Mobbs great granddaughter)

TAKING TREATMENTS

Lois Arnold

SHUT INS

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox, Selma Boyd, Janneil Brown, Gerald Wiseman, Jeanie Young, Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson, Wayne Dodd, Ernestine Taylor, Melanie Martin, Brittany Bullard, Janneil Brown, Ann Clark, Kinley Mobbs

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

*MEMBERS

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Sue Reeves*, Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton*, Marie Fleming*, Ernestine Taylor*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Edna Vance*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Laura Wiser*, Lillian Whitworth, Louise McKnight*, Martha DeVore

MILITARY

Please keep **Tony Berry** in your prayers, while he is stationed in California at Camp Pendleton.

NEWS & NOTES

*We extend sympathy to the family of **Jane Smith**; she passed away on Wednesday, April 27th. She was the mother of **Pat Davidson** and grandmother of **Jenny Davidson**.

*We have received Thank card from Richard & Wanda Jones.

*All December & May **Graduates** please submit 20-25 photos **and** digital pictures on disc **today** to Tammy Glidden or Jan Ham.

*We will have our **Graduation Meal** on May 15th it will be church – eat – church with afternoon service in the auditorium.

***Visitation Meal** for Team 1 today.

***Pew Packers** today @ 5:15 p.m.

***Youth Devo** this evening after worship service here at the building.

***Salem Creek** will be hosting 3 days designed to train men of all ages in serving the Lord's church on May 7th, 21st and June 18th from 10-3 p.m.

***Worker sign –up sheets** are in the foyer for Greeters, Nursery Attendants am/pm, Barnabas and to assist baptism men/women.

There will be a Baby Basket Shower for

John & Brittany Minelli

They are expecting a baby boy in May.

The basket will be located in the foyer near the kitchen.



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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	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

Larry Benson
Michael Bowman
Craig Buckner
Bob Hoover

Andy Melton
Brian Melton
Alan Pepper
Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

April 24, 2016

Sunday	AM worship	222
	Bible classes	149
	PM worship	138
	Contribution	\$5,572.00

Wednesday PM Bible classes 106

Wednesday AM Ladies Class (Sept-May) 0

**When county schools are closed due to inclement weather
AM Ladies Class will be cancelled**

GREETERS

Please be at the door 15
minutes prior to services!



May 1

Dorothy Stroop
Dean Thompson

May 8

Jeff & Karen Milstead

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!