

View

January 9, 2005

Prayer Concerns

Continue to pray for each of the expectant mothers in our spiritual family: Allison Horak, Amy Mowrer, Kimmie Warshaw, Sally Deschler, Kristen Sanderson, Melissa Fields and Michelle Caisse.

Dave Fulton's mother Monica (she is also Hank and Cathy's sister-in-law) had surgery for colon cancer last week. The surgery went well but, unfortunately, the cancer has spread to the liver and lymph nodes. Please pray for the entire family.

We are thankful that Melissa Baty's test results were negative (which is positive!).

Continue prayers for those among us who mourn the loss of loved ones. Also, continue prayers for Tom Royston; Ken McClelland (cancer); Karen Gorden; Sharon Jones; Becky Woolpert; Margaret Everett (cancer); Phil Roberts (cancer); Laurie Ann Reagan (cancer); Cheryl Wilson (cancer); Bill Fling (heart problems); and those in the military and their families: Trey Cain (Iraq); Steve Ries (Iraq); Skyler Sexton; Travis Dusenberry (Iraq) and Paul Hitchen, (Iraq).

Out of Town

Most of the students who have been with us for the holidays have returned to school. Keep them in your prayers. Others may be out of town but I have not been informed.

Young Adults Class

This class, meeting in room 11-12, is very large. Our intention is to begin a class for college-age students (up to age 23-24) as soon as the partition is installed in rooms

5-6. In the meantime, we'll do the best we can to accommodate those who wish to attend the current class.

Picture Board

The picture board needs updating. We've been announcing this on the overhead but not too many have responded, but we need to get it done. We're

going to get two or three people involved in taking the pictures and will let you know who to contact. In the meantime, see Rich Ladd or David Posey.



This Week's Agenda

January 9, 2005

The Lord's Day

8:30AM & 10:15AM

Sermon: David Posey

5pm Sermon: David Posey

5:30pm: Classes for all ages from 18 months and up
Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Sunday - David Carrozza, Various Topics.
- Room 5 or 6 (when available): "Basics" Class, Dennis Wade
- Room 11-12: Young Adult/Marrieds, Topics - David Posey, Sr.

Wednesday

10 AM - A Study of OT History resumes this Wednesday.

7:30 PM - Classes for all ages 18 mos. and up.

Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Dan Hamilton, Discipleship (Continuation)
- Room 5 or 6 (when available): "Basics" Class, Dennis Wade
- Room 11-12: Young Adult/Marrieds, Topics - David Posey, Sr.

A joyful heart is good medicine. . .

Proverbs 17:22

[This isn't new, but it's humorous. It's one of those "I wish I could think that fast" stories]

A Christian lady had to do a lot of traveling for her business, so naturally she did a lot of flying. Flying made her extremely nervous, so she always took her Bible along with her to read since it helped relax her on the long flights.

One time, she was sitting next to a man. When he saw her pull out her Bible, he gave a little chuckle, smirked and went back to what he was doing.

After a while, he turned to her and asked, "You don't really believe all that stuff in there do you?"

The lady replied, "Of course I do. It is the Bible."

He said, "Well, what about the guy that was swallowed by the whale?"

She replied, "Oh, Jonah. It wasn't a whale, probably, just a big fish. But yes, I believe that, it is in the Bible."

He asked, "Well, how do you suppose he survived all that time inside the big fish?"

The lady said, "Well, I don't really know. I guess when I get to heaven, I will ask him."

What if he isn't in heaven?" the man asked sarcastically.

"Then you can ask him," replied the lady.

The Master's Touch

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took her boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted an old friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her.

Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO Admittance!"

When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that the child was missing.

Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage.

In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear,

"Don't quit and Keep playing."

Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running obbligato.

Together, the old master and the young novice transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience.

The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the great master played. Only the classic, "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Perhaps that's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't always graceful flowing music. However, with the hand of the Master, our life's work can truly be beautiful.

The next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You may hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit and keep playing."

May you feel His arms around you and know that His hands are there, helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces.

Remember, God doesn't seem to call the equipped; rather, He equips the "called."

Life is more accurately measured by the lives you touch than by the things you acquire.

May God bless you and be with you always.

Author Unknown

Submitted by Rich and Paula Ladd



The Touch of the Master's Hand



'Twas battered and scarred and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But held it up with a smile:
"What am I bidden, good folks" he cried
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"
"A dollar, a dollar" then "two, only two?"
"Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"
Three dollars, once; three dollars twice;
"Going for three" —But no,
From the room, far back, a gray-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow:
Then wiping the dust from the old violin
And tightening the loose strings
He played a melody pure and sweet
As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said: "What am I bid for the old violin?"
And he held it up with a bow.
"A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?"
"Two thousand! And who'll make it three?"
"Three thousand once, three thousand twice
And going and gone" said he.
The people cheered but some of them cried
"We do not quite understand
"What changed its worth?" Swiftly came the reply:
"The touch of the master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune
And battered and scarred with sin
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd"
Much like the old violin.
A mess of pottage a glass of wine;
A game and he travels on.
He is going once and going twice
He's going and almost gone.
But the Master comes and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Master's hand.

A HEART THE LORD OPENED

(Acts 16:11-15)

By: Bobby K. Thompson

The first part of the 16th. chapter of Acts contains the account of the “Macedonian Call”. The journeys of Paul and Silas had now brought them to Philippi. On the Sabbath day they went by a river side, where they found a place of prayer. The group, which had gathered there, was made up of women. Paul and company taking their seats spoke unto them. Among the women was Lydia, and since it was her heart the Lord opened, it is well that we note some facts regarding this woman.

Some Facts Concerning Lydia She was a merchant woman and had come from Thyatira, a city of Asia. Her business in Philippi was that of a dealer in purple. Purple dye was very costly and was used only in expensive fabrics. When one became quite prosperous, it was designated in those days by the saying, “he had reached the purple”. Being a dealer in this material, head of a household, home large enough to accommodate Paul and his companions..indicates, while not above the necessity of working, she nevertheless was in comparatively easy circumstance. “One that worshipped God” are words descriptive of Lydia. She had carried her religion with her into a heathen city where doubtlessly the sabbath of the O. T. Scriptures was unknown to its inhabitants. Other merchants may have been busy on that day, but not Lydia. Temptations and competitions of trade could not seduce her from the faithful observance of worship. No synagogue to worship in...Lydia took to the river bank. No men to conduct worship, she and her associates had a prayer service on the bank of the river. Such fidelity to God is not often seen in our own more favored time. There are some professed Christians who will let business, pleasure, company and almost anything else keep them from worship. If it is convenient for them to worship, they will; but to overcome inconveniences is something that never enters their minds.

Why Did Her Heart Need Opening? The question naturally suggests itself. The fact that the Lord opened it implies in some way it was closed. It was certainly not due to inherited depravity (if such is true and it's not); nor yet to the hardness of a sinful life. Her character is against this idea in no uncertain terms. I would conclude that her heart was closed in the same sense in which the hearts of other pious Jews were closed... misconceptions regarding Christ. Perhaps she was thinking Christ was coming to establish a earthly kingdom and her heart was closed against Him as a crucified Redeemer. This condition had to be corrected or she would reject the gospel of Christ. The effect of the opening was precisely that which was intended. It led her: “to give heed unto the things which were spoken by Paul”.

What Is The Heart That Was Opened? Certainly not the lobe of flesh or physical organ known as the heart! It is the heart that the Scriptures describe as being able to THINK (Prov.23:7); DESIRE (Rom.10:1); PURPOSE (II Cor.9:7); BELIEVE (Rom.10:10); LOVE (Matt.23:37). It is that which may be pricked by the gospel. (Acts 2:37). This heart involves man's intellect, emotions and will. We have used the expression, “his heart was opened” in reference to a stingy person becoming charitable. His contracted and narrow heart had been filled with a grander, nobler sentiment than usual.

How Did The Lord Open Lydia's Heart? Notice the order of the text. She “heard us.” She listened to that which was spoken to her. Following this hearing, it is stated: “Whose heart the Lord opened.” After her heart (or understanding) was opened, “she attended unto the things which were spoken by Paul.” What is the order? HEARING, OPENING AND ATTENDING!!! Through the preaching of God's Word, the heart of Lydia was opened that she might attend to the things which were spoken by Paul. Here is the reason why the Lord opened her heart, so that she might do the things which were appointed for her to do. “And when she was baptized.” That which Lydia did in response to Paul's teaching was in complete harmony with the Great Commission, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (see Mt. 28:18-20).

The context plainly shows that the Lord followed a deliberate plan in bringing Lydia and Paul together. (Acts 16:1-10) Barring any miraculous element that may have been in the case of the “Macedonian Call,” it is altogether probable that the Lord, in His providential oversight, is doing the same for people today; especially those whose lives and attitudes are like Lydia. How is your heart? Does it need opening? Give heed to God's word and permit your heart and understanding to be opened that you might attend to obeying the truth.