

The University Heights Messenger

October 24, 2010

Lessons From A Lost Wallet

Jackie and I try to make sure that we have a dollar for Alexander to put into the collection basket each Sunday morning. We hope to get him used to putting something in and then explain the action to him as he gets older. As the men prepared to pass around the basket last Sunday morning I reached into my pocket to get my wallet. It wasn't there. I felt every other pocket I had, and checked the pew to see if it might have fallen out. Nothing.

I didn't think too much of it just then. Though rare, I *have* left my wallet at home on occasion and was confident that I had done it again. When we returned home I marched right up the steps to my dresser where I was sure I was going to see my wallet. It wasn't there. I went back down stairs to the book shelf where we keep our photo albums and where I sometimes put my wallet. Nothing. I went back to the van and checked throughout. Not there. I went through the kids toy baskets to see if they'd grabbed it and dropped it in. Not there, either.

A general panic ensued. I tore through the house again to no avail. I checked our accounts online, half expecting them to have been emptied. I called Fayette Mall's "Lost and Found", as we'd been there the day before, and left a fairly frantic message. I was preparing to call Fifth Third to cancel my debit card when Jackie suggested that I check the classroom upstairs to see if it had fallen out of my pocket. After informing her that doing this simply provided a thief more time and opportunity to empty our accounts, I thought I'd give it a shot.

I made it to the building in record time and charged upstairs. Sure enough, right there for all the world to see, sat my wallet. Relief swelled through me as what I was certain was one of the greatest tragedies was averted.

On the way home I began to think about some things. There have been times when I have had sin staining my soul and did not feel anything close to the panic or urgency I felt about that wallet. In fact, there have been times in my life where I did not repent of a sin I was aware of for several days, perhaps even weeks. Imagine waiting for weeks to take any action on a lost wallet. That would be crazy, wouldn't it? We have bank cards, credit cards, driver's license, spare keys, financial information, even Social Security cards in our wallets. If we've lost it, we're going to act immediately! We'd be foolish not to.

Why is it that we sometimes fail to feel that urgency when it comes to our souls? In the more than nine months since David's adultery with Bathsheba and the other sins he was guilty of, he seemed to have managed to convince himself that all was well. Perhaps God was giving David time to repent on his own. Yet Nathan eventually was sent to David with a scathing rebuke which can be read in **2 Samuel 12:1-15**. In verse 14 David acknowledges his sin by simply saying, "**I have sinned against the Lord.**" That seems very understated and almost as though David isn't all that concerned about his sin. However, **Psalms 51** tells the rest of the story. In that chapter David is frantically throwing himself at the feet of Jehovah confessing his sins every which way he knows how and begging for forgiveness.

Take the time to read the entire chapter and note David's urgency. Why was he so urgent, panicked even? Verse 4 provides the answer. **"Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment."** Whatever Jehovah decided to do David, even taking his kingdom or life, He was entirely justified in so doing. Add to this that David refused to immediately repent of his sins and there was nothing David could speak back to God at all.

Another man who felt tremendous urgency over the condition of his soul was the Philippian jailor. Take the time to read the entire account from **Acts 16:16-34**. The jailor was so struck by the events that had taken place, so aware of his own sin and unworthiness, that he actually fell down at the feet of his *prisoners* to beg them to tell him what he needed to do to be saved. He took Paul and Silas to his house where they spoke the gospel to he and his family. Verse 33 says, **"And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family."** When he recognized his sinfulness and the need to repair his soul, there was no hesitation at all.

1 John 2:9 says, **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."** If we won't confess, we will not be forgiven. At that point we're playing fast and loose with our souls. Let us feel greater urgency over a sin stained soul than a lost wallet. If we lose the former, the latter won't matter in the least. Please think about these things.

AL

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Let us remember **Ron and Sharon Tirey** as they mourn the death of Sharon's father, **Ruel Baker**. Cards and calls are always welcome at times like these.

Ann Sego, a friend of the Small's, had six inches of her small intestine removed after a health scare. Fortunately there was no cancer and a full recovery is expected in about six months.

Our members: **Glenn Davis, Glenn Kimberlin, Janet Brundige**

Others: **John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Sara Phillips, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Warfel family, Gail Hunter, Kay Montgomery, Jean Gartland, Wes Kidd, Vera Howerton, Gail Stein, Glenn Goldy, Shannon Gilbert, Chuck McDavitt, the Shamas family.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The information meeting will be today at 5.

The first streaming Bible study will be this Tuesday evening at 7. You can view it live from our site. Make sure to tell your friends!

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Sunday: Eccl 7-9, Ps 78:1-39, Jn 20-21
Monday: Eccl 10-12, Ps 78 40-72, Acts 1
Tuesday: Song 1-4, Ps 79, Acts 2
Wednesday: Song 5-8, Ps 80, Acts 3
Thursday: Isa 1, Ps 81, Acts 4
Friday: Isa 2-4, Ps 82, Acts 5
Saturday: Isa 5-7, Ps 83, Acts 6

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. "Sir, We Wish To See Jesus" 1
(John 12:20-21)

Sunday PM. To Seek Or To Serve?
(Psalm 34:10; 1 Peter 2:4-5)