

**University Heights Church
of Christ**

445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257

www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is
immediately followed by a
short worship period)

First Friday of Each Month

Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

Garry Banks, David Collins,
John Thompson

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Troy Antle, Richard Brundige,
Matt Thompson, Adam
Litmer, Bill Morelan, Jim
Parsons, Pat Seabolt, Adam
Daniels, Jamie Powell

Adam's Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

*Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a
load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it
to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake
thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In His arms He'll
take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.*

*Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised Thou wilt all
our burdens bear; May we ever, Lord, be bringing All
to Thee in earnest prayer. Soon in glory bright,
unclouded, There will be no need for prayer—
Rapture, praise, and endless worship Will be our sweet
portion there.”*

Welcome our new brother!

Let us all welcome our new brother in Christ, Luke
Powell, who put on Christ last Wednesday. Welcome to
God's family, brother Luke!

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Paul Atkisson, Janice
Parsons, Barbara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker,
John Bennett, Robert Brundige, Donald Dawson, Gail Stein,
Sandy Childress, Susie Burton, Jacob Profit, Valerie and
Barry Boyd, Jannett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver,
Erlene Young, Doris Baker, Burnice Richardson, Ruth
Poynter, Larry Sells, Christian Shadburne, Mattie Johnson
(hip replacement), Evelyn Damron, Cassie Neel, Tony
Tirey, Rose Curtis, Evelyn and Austin Skinner (both
recovering from cancer surgery), Andrew Westphal, The
Ellis family, Louis Harrod, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland

University Heights Messenger

Volume 8--Number 1

January 3, 2016

“She has done what she could”

Adam Litmer

The title of this article comes from a statement of Jesus found in Mark 14:8a. We're told in verse 3 that a woman (Mary, John 12:3) came in with very expensive ointment and used it to anoint our Lord's head. She met the indignation of some present before Jesus quickly came to her defense. As he spoke on her behalf we come to verse 8, which says, *She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial.*

There were things she could *not* do. She could not remove the cup of which he was to drink shortly thereafter. She could not become a gospel preacher after his resurrection and the establishment of the church on Pentecost. She could not even avoid the ire of some of his closest disciples that day in Bethany. What she *could* do was use that expensive ointment to anoint his head and she did it. Is there anything for us to learn from her example? I believe so.

There is something that every saint can do for the Lord. I've noticed a tendency among some Christians who cannot take part in public roles due to lack of God's authorization or their own lack of confidence look upon themselves as a sort of second class Christian. That's a shame. If you are one who tends to this unfortunate (and quite incorrect) viewpoint than take a moment to hear Paul by reading 1 Corinthians 12. If you are inclined to claim Paul speaks only of miraculous spiritual gifts ask yourself why the principles stated would not apply to all spiritual gifts, miraculous or otherwise?

Now confront yourself with this question: what can *you* do for your Lord and your brethren? Do you believe that because you cannot be an elder, evangelist, adult Bible class teacher, song leader, or Lord's table speaker that you have little to offer? Think again. How lacking the Lord's church would be if it were *only* made up of those holding more public positions! Peter and Paul were immensely important to the Lord's church, but so too was Tabitha and she had never preached a sermon or taught an adult Bible class in her life. She hadn't the right to. Yet she was the quintessential servant to her brethren in Joppa (Acts 9:36-39). The mother

of Rufus never stood before the congregation to lead singing or offered words before partaking of the Lord's Supper. She hadn't the right to. Yet her hospitality and care for Paul was such that he claimed she became as a mother to him (Romans 16:13). You cannot preach? You can be a servant to your brethren. You cannot serve as an elder? You can serve as an encourager to your brethren. You cannot teach an adult Bible class? You can teach everyone who observes you through your godly example. You cannot lead singing? You can seek to lead many souls to Christ.

There is so much each of us can do if we would just put our minds to the doing! I came across a quote from Jim Jonas some time ago that I found striking. He said, "I am convinced that most Christians have tremendous stores of talent and skill buried beneath a pile of distraction, insecurity, and fear. We find excuses that seem reasonable to us, that don't arouse an offended conscience, and we trot them out whenever obligation comes calling." I firmly believe the only thing that limits my usefulness to the Lord is me. I just as firmly believe the same of you. Indeed, when all of the excuses spawning from the insecurity and distraction mentioned by Mr. Jonas are set aside, I believe there is very little that a child of God truly *can't* do in their service to their Lord and brethren. Having the *desire* to do for the Lord and for brethren is a different matter altogether and a topic for a different time.

Mary was commended because she did what she could. Nothing more was expected of her. Indeed, nothing more is expected of any of us. But know this: *that* much is expected. Mary did it because she loved Jesus and wanted to serve him. It's that love that motivates us to discover, use, and increase our abilities for our Lord and brethren. When we grow to love Jesus as we should we'll find that the boundaries of what we can do just keep expanding. This is because, in the final analysis, so many of our boundaries are purely self-imposed. What can we do for the Lord and our brethren? As 2016 begins let us determine to do it with all our might.

Resolved, Reversed, and Reinforced

John Thompson

One would be hard pressed to count the number of decisions one makes in a given day. Our decisions run the gamut from those that are well thought out to those that are so habitual we would probably fail to even count them. There are decisions that are delayed until we absolutely have to make them and those we can hardly wait to make. Some we decide on the basis of the "lesser of two evils." Other decisions are made because we are driven to do so. The factors that influence our decisions are almost too numerous and diverse to catalogue.

Some decisions involve making changes we have been thinking about for a while. The beginning of a new year can provide a timely opportunity to set those changes into motion. January 1 is just the day following December 31, yet we give it special attention because it represents newness and beginnings and the day it follows represents completion and endings. And so, if there is something about ourselves we would like to change, the last day of the year is a ready-made cut-off point, and the first day of the new year is a natural beginning point. Consequently we are prone to make new year's resolutions.

A resolution is not just a decision, but a firm decision. It is a decision that is solid and not likely to change. But we all know what happens to New Year's resolutions all too frequently. One institutes the change, but soon reverses course and resolve goes out the window. Or, perhaps, one was not really resolved to begin, not in the fullest sense of the word, but merely toying with the idea of change. New Year's resolutions usually involve bad habits one would like drop or positive behaviors one would like to begin. Both "resolves" often fall through because change takes us out of our comfort zones and we will go to great lengths to avoid discomfort. When all that is needed to avoid discomfort is to return to how we were before, then we were never as "resolved" as we thought we were.

While the failure rate of resolutions made by Christians may not be as high as that of the general public, it probably does not lag far behind. We have an adversary who is thrilled every time anyone who desires to be more pleasing to God fails and reverses course. Satan knows our weaknesses and will place obstacles in our way. How do we increase the likelihood that our resolutions will remain firm? A song we sometimes sing, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," comes to mind. The last line of the second verse begins: *Jesus knows our every weakness*. Satan is not the only one fully aware of our weaknesses and deficiencies. But while Satan gleefully grabs every failure of ours as a victory of his own, God offers reinforcement so that the victory might be ours. Dwell upon the words of this song, and then do just what it says.

"What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and grief's to bear! What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged—Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer.