



THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 13, 2020

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
Today

Weekly Bible Studies
All temporarily being conducted via Zoom. Check our “friends” page on Facebook for more information.

Times of Service
Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM
(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month
Singing
7:30 PM

Address and Contact

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445 Columbia Ave., Lexington,
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(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

THE FOLLY OF JUMPING TO NEGATIVE CONCLUSION

Jumping to conclusions is never a wise move. Take a moment to read Joshua 22:10-34 to be reminded of a disaster that nearly occurred as a result of it. For some reason it seems the conclusions one jumps to are negative far more often than not. The phrase “jumping to conclusions” speaks of those instances when someone hears or observes a thing and, without seeking any further information or explanation, instantly draws a conclusion on the matter. The western tribes of the above passage nearly did that very thing. Fortunately, they did not *want* to fight their brethren and sought explanation before acting further. Many fights and harsh words between brethren over the years have come about because someone jumped to conclusions about something rather than seek further information and explanation.

Let us consider a fairly common scenario. Suppose that a brother or sister, either before or after an assembly, walks right past us without glancing at us or responding to our greeting. Now why would they do that? I suppose it *could* be rudeness, but should that be the conclusion to which we jump? Paul reminds us that “*love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*” (1Corinthians 13:7) Part of what these verses mean is that saints who love never want to assume or believe the worst about one another. But if not for rudeness, why would that brother or sister walk right past me without responding to my greeting? A number of reasons are possible.

1. They simply did not hear or notice me. This is very possible when parents and grandparents have their hands and ears full with children or their own elderly parent(s).
2. Something is weighing on their mind. Family, work, school, or health concerns are real. Perhaps their

Members Needing Our Prayers

Janet Brundige, Jackie Litmer, John Thompson, Mary and Emmett Weatherholt, Alexa and Charlie Lake, Bennie Poynter, Joyce Bolton, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson, Whitney Crouch, Rhonda Boyd (and family)

Others Needing Prayers

Ginny Wren, Bob and Lou Litmer, Grace Meyer, Andy Seabolt, Sarah and Jake Chandler, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Rachel Knollman, Michael Hogan, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Jen Victoria Poynter, Andy Kincaid, Terry Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Cindi's niece, Dana, and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Mark (Carol's son), Ron Harmon

To Our Guests

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inattentiveness is because they are wrestling with one or more of those concerns at that very moment.

3. They are focusing on the content of their class, sermon, or talk. Often, even moments before worship begins, I am mentally reviewing my sermon. I have walked right past people and failed to hear their words because I have been deep in thought. Jackie has pointed out to me on more than one occasion that I failed to hear or notice someone for this very reason. If you have been one of them, I apologize!

The point is this: there is no reason to jump to negative conclusions about the brother or sister who fails to return our greeting. Such an occasion *may* even indicate that the brother or sister needs us to be a servant to them in some way. Their failure to acknowledge us could be a clue that this brother or sister needs us to ask after their welfare, or needs a pat on the back along with some encouraging words, or needs to sit down and talk with someone who is ready and willing to listen. Obviously, greetings in the foyer are far from the extent of this application.

In a society so adept at jumping to negative conclusions let us not be hasty to follow suit. Not only does it demonstrate a failure in love, it dampens the servant heart that should be beating within the breast of every Christian. Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
John Thompson	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

