

Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

June 24, 2018

Issue 15

OH BE CAREFUL! (Part 4)

Ronnie Scherffius

Noting the familiar children's song, "Oh Be Careful" we have given consideration to the song's relevance to adults as well as little ones. In particular we have noted the lyrics, "be careful little eyes," and "be careful little ears,." Concluding our study let's contemplate the lines of the song addressing our mouth, hands, and feet.

OH BE CAREFUL LITTLE MOUTH WHAT YOU SAY

Certainly, we ought to be careful what we say. Jesus instructed the multitudes regarding their speech saying, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment" (Mt. 12:36). The word *idle* in this verse is defined by Thayer as "unprofitable; destructive." Our words affect all those who hear us. The estimation of our character in the eyes of others is largely determined by our speech. How does our speech compare to the admonition of Paul: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Eph. 4:29)? Do our words engender comfort and strength or tear down one's strength and confidence? What about our children? We often hear children of a very young age use words or phrases that are not only distasteful but outright disgraceful! All too often they are heard from their parents. How destructive our words can be to the lives of our children!

Another area we must be careful in what we say is in the truthfulness of our speech. Solomon wrote, "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devi-

seth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren" (Prov. 6:16-19). Three of these abominations have to do with speech **and** each of them address the matter of honesty! Jesus revealed that the devil is the father of lies and the father of all who persist in such (John 8:44). An honest man can be trusted in all things but a man who is prone to lie is prone to all manner of sin that he might keep his dishonesty hidden from others. On more than one occasion, a lie has led to murder to cover up the lie.

James paints a vivid picture of the seriousness of being careful of what we say: "Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whither-soever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" (James 3:4-5) Imagine the harm done, not only to our own lives but also to the lives of others, when we fail to be careful what we say!

BE CAREFUL LITTLE HANDS WHAT YOU DO

David wrote: "Draw me not away with the wicked...Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavors: give them after the work of their hands...Because they regard not the works of the LORD, nor the operation of his hands..." (Psalm 28:3-5). We certainly ought to regard the work of our hands. As our words should be profitable even so should the work of our hands. We should use our hands, our talents and abilities to do good and not evil.

Though many use their imaginations to conceive wickedness and their hands to carry out such, we should use our hands to provide good things for others (Gal. 1:9-10). There are many less fortunate than we who can greatly benefit from our work. We could use our hands to help widows or those who due to bad health are shut-in, to fulfill work around their homes to which they can no longer attend. We can prepare food or write letters of encouragement to the weak and faint hearted.

All are familiar with the expression, "idle hands are the devil's workshop" and perhaps there is no statement more true. We ought to be careful what our hands do (and don't do) lest we find ourselves participating in those things which tear down rather than build up.

BE CAREFUL LITTLE FEET WHERE YOU GO

This is one line of the song we could all take to heart because where we are seen to go by the world indicates to them (rightly or wrongly) what we accept and believe! If we are seen in a place of 'ill repute' or frequenting places that are known to be gathering places of those who "devise mischief" we do great harm to our reputations and put our influence for good at risk!

Paul wrote, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:22). Though we may not condone activities taking place at certain events or establishments, if we are in attendance (if we let our feet carry us there) we put off the appearance to others that we at least condone the practice if not practice it ourselves. In so doing, we destroy our influence for the good to help others. How could one stand and teach/encourage someone not to participate in an activity if they are known to attend/support it themselves? While it may not be inherently sinful to be present in a place, activities that might be going on or the reputation of the establishment, may render it unwise for one to be there. How desperately we ought to be careful where we allow our feet to carry us!

The Leper's Prayer

July 19, 2016 by Caleb Colley

When we study the prayers of the Bible, we

learn how to pray (and sometimes how not to pray). The case of the leper who came to Jesus is especially instructive:

When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them" (Matthew 8:1-4; for information concerning Jesus' command to the leper, see Leviticus 14:2-32).

William Barclay observes that the leper's prayer exhibits three qualities that should be true of each of our prayers:

The leper prayed with confidence. Leprosy was incurable, but this man was absolutely sure that Jesus could cure the incurable. We must be sure that God can do whatever He wants to do. James wrote, "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind" (James 1:6).

The leper prayed with humility. The leper did not boast before the Lord, as some do in their prayers (Luke 18:9-14). Nor did this desperate man pray for show, as some do (Matthew 6:5). Rather, he humbly acknowledged his need before God, as we must. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).

The leper prayed with reverence. The leper knelt before Jesus, because he knew that to be in the presence of Jesus was to be in the presence of great power. We must pray in recognition that God is greater than we. We pray "to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).

Prayers offered with these attitudes are those that touch the heart of God and prompt an affirmative response on His part (1 Peter 3:12). Do your prayers exhibit these qualities? If not, begin to study and emulate the good prayers of the Bible, for example, the model prayer that Christ taught to His disciples (Matthew 6:9-13).

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of June 24, 2018

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Dylan Herring

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Doug Jobes
Fruit of the Vine: Dennis Bryson
Offering: Bryant Siegel
Assist: Richard Tisue, Bryce Dolan, Curtis Scherffius

Sunday Evening: Doug Jobes, Dennis Bryson

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Don Lynn
A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson
P.M. Opening: Steve Randle
P.M. Closing: Bryant Siegel

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Will Cleveland

Open/Close Building: Jobes Family

Sound System: Scott DeDear

Greeters:

Will Cleveland
Allen Clifton
Don Lynn

Prepare Communion: Christian Sneeringer

A Spring Garden

Plant five rows of peas:

- Presence
- Promptness
- Persistence
- Privilege
- Prayer

Plant three hills of squash:

- Squash gossip
- Squash indifference
- Squash unconstructive criticism

Plant five rows of turnips:

- Turn up at every meeting
- Turn up with enthusiasm
- Turn up with fresh ideas
- Turn up on time
- Turn up with visitors, if possible

Plant five rows of lettuce:

- Let us be faithful to the church
- Let us be true to our obligations
- Let us be governed by truth and loyalty
- Let us love one another more and more
- Let us see you in Bible study Sunday.

-selected-

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

DAMIAN BENITEZ JR., nephew of Virginia Escojido, who is recovering from knee surgery; Lee FitzSimmons is in the local hospital; JACQUILINE YORK, who responded to the invitation last week and placed membership.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 24: 4th Sunday Evening Fellowship meal—Please bring your favorite potluck dish; Wedding reception for Steve and Letty Randle (cake provided)
June 27: Wed. summer series—speaker Will Cleveland
July 28: Midtown hosts Summer Youth Series @ 5pm

IN THE AREA

June 28: Summer Youth Series @ Odem
July 6: Singing @ the Pitchford's (bring lawn chairs)
July 12: Summer Youth Series @ Portland
July 19: Summer Youth Series @ Weber Rd.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Peggy Matlock (28), Will Cleveland, Zane Harris(29); Laura Purswell (30)

Happy Anniversary: Allen & Pam Clifton (24); Harvey & Della Rampley (28)

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION:

Jacqueline York - 13202 N . Navarro, Victoria, TX 77904, phone: 810-627-6214

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Roy Arnot	Ann Pantel
Jeff Cannady	Della Rampley
Dee Gilpatrick	Clark Withers
Sandra Marie	

SHUT-INS

Lucille Hawkins	Sandy Malone
Faye Henderson	Bob Smith

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Victor Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)	Antonio Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)
Kim Neel-Farthing (daughter of Joyce)	Bert Haynes (father of Pam Stryker)
Vikram Gottam (brother-in-law of Archana Verma)	

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Will Cleveland
Tom Pitchford

Deacons:

Adrian Cannady
Mark FitzSimmons
Doug Jobs
Bryant Siegel

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius**Secretary:** Nina Siegel**TIMES OF SERVICES**

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of June 17, 2018

Bible Class.....119
A.M. Worship.....165
P.M. Worship.....108
Wednesday Bible Study.....105

Offering \$3958

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

Death

Appointment.....Heb. 9:27
Body & spiritJames 2:26
Gen. 3:19; Eccl. 12:7; 2 Cor. 5:1

**SUPPORTED WORKS**

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

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