

Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

May 10, 2020

Issue 19

THE HOUSE THAT SPITE BUILT

By: Steven Lloyd

A house was built in Virginia City, Nevada that acquired the name “Spite House.” It is a house built no more than one foot away from another resident. It was built to block the beautiful view the first house had of the valley. It was a house that *Spite* built.

The house that *Spite* built in Virginia City, is not the only house of its type in our country. Another one was built in the North End of Boston, Massachusetts. In 1874, Two brothers inherited some land from their deceased father. While one brother was away to war, the other one built a large house leaving only a tiny strip of land to his brother. When the soldier-brother returned home, he built a house 10.4 feet wide that tapers to a mere 9.25 feet in the rear. It blocks the sunlight and ruins the view from his brother’s house. To this day it is called “The Skinny House,” This is a house that *Spite* built.

A path between two homes in Alexandria, Virginia attracted an unwanted amount of horse-drawn wagon traffic and loiterers. The year was 1830. John Hollensbury built a two-story home using the existing brick walls of the adjacent homes for its sides to prevent people from using the alleyway. Yet another house built by *Spite*.

In the early 1900’s Charles Froling’s land was taken from him by the State of California to build a street. Mr. Froling wanted to erect his dream house on this inherited lot. To spite the city and an unsympathetic neighbor, he built a house 10 feet wide, 54 feet long and 20 feet high on the strip of land the State left for him.

Other houses are on record that have been built by *Spite*. Do a Google search and you can find them yourself. Click on the “images” search.

The irony of building a house out of spite for one’s neighbor is that they are very impractical. One source observes, “Because actually inhabiting such structures is usually a secondary goal at most, they often have strange and impractical layouts. Once the reason it was constructed or modified is publicized, locals begin referring to the house or commercial building as a spite house.” Such structures become by-words and proverbs, and their owners become known by their ill motives.

Israel became a by-word to the nations surrounding them. The Lord forewarned through Moses, “And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where the Lord will lead you away” (Deut. 28:37). Centuries later, Daniel would acknowledge in prayer, “...Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us” (Dan. 9:16).

There are a host of ways to become a byword. You can become one by allowing your actions to be governed by revenge like those who built “Spite Houses.” Or you can forsake God and serve other gods like Israel. Either way, your motives will be evident to all by the things you build— whether it be a house or an idol.

In his famous speech at the Berlin Wall, President Reagan said, “Tear down this wall.” If we are guilty of erecting a spite house or

any such edifice, we would do well to tear it down also.

Steven Lloyd serves as the Director for the Southwest School of Bible Studies

What to Do When You've Blown It

And David said to God, "I have sinned greatly in that I have done this thing. But now, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have acted very foolishly."
1 Chronicles 21:8

When is the last time you prayed a prayer like that?

David sinned in spite of the fact that he knew better. He sinned even though his general warned him about the stupidity of such an action. He allowed his pride to rule his heart and presumptuously sinned against God.

Indeed, he acted very foolishly.

What do you do when you've blown it like David?

1. Come clean. Don't make excuses for what you've done. Own up to it and confess it to God.
2. Accept the consequences. Just because God offers forgiveness doesn't mean the consequences will vanish away. Acceptance of guilt and true repentance will humbly lead one to accept whatever suffering is incurred by sin.
3. Move on. There's no use dwelling in the past. Once God has forgiven, it's forgiven. Use the experience as a tough lesson learned and resolve to do better.

-Selected-

Going to the Wrong Sources

So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the LORD in that he did not keep the command of the LORD, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance. He did not seek guidance from the LORD. Therefore the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.1 Chronicles 10:13-14

While there are several chapters about Saul in 1 Samuel, there is only one lonely chapter about him in 1 Chronicles (if you don't count his family genealogy). In this chapter we read a brief summary of his inglorious death, and then a short commentary about why he lost his kingdom. We learn that Saul was rejected because he did not seek guidance from Jehovah.

Are you seeking guidance from God? When you have an issue or difficult problem in your life, to whom do you turn? Do you turn to your friends or family? Do you consult the self-help books? Do you look up a solution on Google?

Of course, there is a big difference between consulting those sources and going to a medium as Saul did. However, if we only go to human advisors for our problems do we expect God to be any less offended?

-Selected-



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of May 10, 2020

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Lupe Escojido
Fruit of the Vine: Pat Gooch
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Curtis Scherffius, Scott DeDear

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Kirk FitsSimmons
A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Anthony Scherffius

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Will Burleson

****Per the Men's meeting held Thursday, April 30th, 2020, it was decided to only have an 11am morning worship on Sundays starting as of May 10, 2020.**

There will be no Bible class, evening worship or Wednesday worship at this stage. The men would like to strongly encourage members 65 and older or who have an underlying health condition to worship at home using the live stream rather than coming to the building. In order to observe social distancing, families/persons will have assigned seating. This is only until social distancing requirements are lifted. Please email ahead of time to

events.midtowncoc@gmail.com by Wednesdays so that preparations can be made for seating. You may also text James Cammock at (512) 914-9112 to R.S.V.P. It is strongly recommended to wear a mask upon entering and leaving the building. There are a limited number of masks that are available if you do not have one and there will be hand sanitizer available as well. Communion will be prepackaged and steps will be taken to ensure sanitation.**

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for the country during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Luke FitzSimmons (10), Tre Cannady (11), Millie Jamison (13)

The Adult Summer Series has been postponed at this time.

As an aid to families with children, there are current Bible Class materials available on our church website www.midtowncoc.org under Resources.

Sermons are available on our website www.midtowncoc.org under Resources and Wednesday night Bible classes are online with the Zoom app.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Janice FitzSimmons
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

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

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES (TEMPORARILY)

Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00AM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of May 3, 2020

Bible Class.....
A.M. Worship.....
P.M. Worship.....
Wednesday Bible Class.....

Offering week of May 3, 2020.....\$2,907

Reading for this week:

And David said to God, "I have sinned greatly in that I have done this thing. But now, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have acted very foolishly."

1 Chronicles 21:8

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

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MidTown Church of Christ

5901 N. Main

Victoria, TX 77904

(361) 573-0030

midtowncoc2017@gmail.com

