



Pullin' Weeds, Plantin' Seeds

Temple Baptist Church

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September 2011

DIRTY DISHES

You have just finished a great meal with family and friends. It was delicious—one of the best meals ever served at your house. The fellowship was great, the food superb, and now you head to the kitchen to start the daunting task of cleaning up. Waiting for you is a pile of dirty pots, pans, plates, utensils, cups, glasses, and silverware—needing to be cleaned up and put away.

Is there anything more discouraging after a really good meal than a pile of dirty dishes?

I have always had a definite dislike for a sink full of dishes that need to be washed, dried, and put away. Dirty dishes serve no purpose except to irritate the chief cook and bottle washer in the home. They have to be washed, dried, and put away in order to be ready to be used for the next meal. And that task takes time, effort, and sometimes it is an unpleasant one due to the scrubbing and scouring that must take place. To me it is simply unacceptable to leave dirty dishes overnight. Especially if they are sticky, greasy, gooey, or crusty. Who wants to wake up to that in the morning? Of course, most of us have dishwashers to “hide” them in until it is full enough to run the cycle. Sometimes the time between causes the dirty dishes inside to give off a foul odor when you open the door. The reason is that those dishes—however carefully they may have been rinsed off—are not clean. In order for dishes to be useful and ready for service they must be clean, dry, and empty.



2 CORINTHIANS 4:7—But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, calls us “earthen vessels,” that is to say, clay pots that are to be used by God for His purpose. There isn’t much about us that is of great worth or value, but what we have inside—the Gospel—the life of Jesus—is a valuable treasure. God has chosen to use weak and frail vessels that His power in us may be manifested through us as He uses us. But to be a useful earthen vessel we must be clean, empty, and ready for service.

This month we will begin to check our vessels and get them cleaned up. This is not an easy or pleasant task, like doing the dishes; but it is a necessary task. I hope you will make plans to join us on Monday, September 19, as we resume our regular Ladies Meetings. I am looking forward to this series and all God has for us to learn from His Word about our vessels, His purpose for us, and how we must keep our vessels clean and fit for His use.

Mrs. Twila

CLEAN VESSELS FOR CHOICE LIQUIDS

CHARLES SPURGEON

He who believes the Truth should himself be true. We sicken at the sight of a dirty dish, and refuse even good meat when it is placed thereon. So pure and holy is the doctrine of the Cross that he who hears it aright will have his ear cleansed, he who believes it will have his heart purged, and he who preaches it should have his tongue purified. Woe unto that man who brings reproach upon the Gospel by an unhallowed walk and conversation. Lord, evermore make us vessels fit for Thine Own use. Suffer us not to be such foul cups as to be only fit for the wine of Sodom.

UPCOMING LADIES MEETINGS:

September 19, at 7:00 p.m.

October 17, at 7:00 p.m.

An offering will be taken at each meeting to help with our Ladies Ministries and to provide gifts for our away college students. Nursery provided.

GOODWILL

By Ragan Lytton

Children are attracted to shiny objects. Regardless of the usefulness, the state of disrepair, or even the cleanliness—a child will gravitate toward something that catches their eye and plead to keep it. Raef is my little hoarder. Everything in his room is a treasure, just ask him. Toy soldiers missing arms or legs have been injured in battle. A rock—not a pretty rock—but, oh, the memories attached to that rock! The so-called stuffed animal whose life is ebbing away with each wad of stuffing that falls out. What a friend he has been!

Unfortunately for Raef, God put him in a home with a mother who is forever donating to Goodwill (right, Laura?). Cleaning Raef's room requires going through every drawer, pulling everything out from the wall, crawling under the bed, and emptying the closet. Raef tends to go through several different stages before the work is complete, and I realize that I react the same way when the Lord looks at my life and sees things that need to be 'donated to Goodwill'. First, there is panic that He's going to want me to get rid of something that I really enjoy. Sometimes there is anger. Why won't He allow me to hang on to it? What if I need it later? There is also denial that anything needs to be thrown out, because I have gotten used to and accepted the mess.

But just like Raef, I have a parent who sees past my acceptance of the mess to what an acceptable, clean 'room' needs to be. And like Raef, once the arguing is over, there is nothing left but to change my attitude or face the consequences of disobedience. First, I need to accept that I can no longer continue to live in the midst of the clutter and close my eyes to the need for order. This acceptance often leads to shame that I not only allowed the chaos, but willingly added to it daily. Hopefully this leads to brokenness, humility, and an acknowledgement of my sin. Only then will the Lord have free reign to work effectively in my life.

As Raef's room so often returns to a state of clutter and chaos, so too my life. But as I grow and mature, I pray that my negative reaction to the Lord's 'housecleaning' will be less prevalent, while acceptance becomes more and more the way I choose to respond to much needed 'goodwill donations'.

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
and put your trust in the LORD.

Psalm 4:5

A PERSONAL NOTE OF THANKS

Ladies, my heart is truly full and overwhelmed with all you have done for me and for my family this summer. I am very grateful to all of you for the loving support, generosity, kindness, care, and most of all, prayers for us during this "wedding season." It has been quite a journey for our family with two weddings in less than three months as well as the continued activities that accompany summer. You have been a blessing to me in so many ways. I am most thankful for the way you love our children. Thank you for being a part of their lives and for giving to them as they begin the new adventure of marriage. They are most blessed to have grown up at Temple. Thank you again for praying for, supporting, encouraging, and helping me throughout this time. I am most blessed to serve our Lord with each one of you.

Mrs. Twila

Memory Verse Challenge

Come to the Ladies Meeting on September 19, prepared to say your verses or you may quote them to Crystal or Jodi at any service.

Delight thyself also in the LORD;
and he shall give thee the
desires of thine heart.

Commit thy way unto the LORD;
trust also in him;
and he shall bring it to pass.

And he shall bring forth
thy righteousness as the light,
and thy judgment as the noonday.

Psalm 37:4-6

Want to get a jump on October's challenge?
Psalm 37:7-8

MISSIONS



**ALLEN & CHERYL M
ASIA**

"It is very exciting to see God's Word change a thief and a liar into an honest and trust-worthy young man." When this couple took over this orphanage the children could not even find the book of Matthew let alone know how many books the Bible contained. Now, in just a few short years, many of the children know much about the Word of God and are willing to share it with enthusiasm! A group of young men take turns preaching a 5-10 minute message in Sunday School the first Sunday of every month.

Please pray for the health issues of baby Daniel. He is in need of hernia surgery but has complications that have prevented doctors from operating. As winter approaches finances are needed for hay, coal, school clothes and shoes. Please keep this couple and their ministry in prayer!



**TOM & CINDY BREWER
BRAZIL**

"We look and feel 20 years younger!" The Brewers have been in the states on furlough for several months. Recently funds were available for them to have check-ups and dental work done. The results - the Brewers feel young again - almost as young as when they went to Brazil for the first time!

The Brewers were delighted to learn that two men who were saved and trained under their ministry planned a summer camp for their churches. The Brewers were glad to see these men take the initiative to plan the camp instead of waiting for the missionary to take care of it. Forty campers attended and one adult lady was saved and several others made other decisions.

The Brewers are thankful for our prayers. They should complete their furlough travels soon. They desire to return to the people to which the Lord has called them.



**BONNIE CLARK
BOTSWANA**

Bonnie Clark returned to the States to be with her mother while she had open heart surgery on Monday, August 8. Although the main surgery was classified as a success her mother's condition declined until she slipped on into Glory on Wednesday evening, August 10. Please remember to hold Bonnie and her family up in prayer during this time.

PRAY FOR MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2011 NOVEMBER 16 – 20

Bruce & Sheila Carr – Australia
Furlough Travels

Kenton & Cynthia Connor – Rock of Ages
Deputation travels – GA, TN, IL, IN

Derrick & Jamie Pemberton – North India
Survey Trip - August 22-September 30

Jeremy & Mandy Pittman – Uganda
Furlough Travels

Joshua & Wendy Pyle – South Sudan
Deputation Travels

Preserve me, O God:
for in Thee do I put my trust.
Psalm 16:1

PRAY FOR OUR *College Students*

AWAY

Janelle Davis
Rachel Gfeller
Jacob Hadley
Lucas Hadley
Stephen Long
Paget Family
Sheldon Smith

ATTENDING LOCALLY

Melissa Beneke
Kylie Blaylock
Jed Busenitz
Trina Carr
Kate Green
Seth Hadley
Justin Hampton
Andy Long
Katie Schowalter
Corey Small
Blayzse Trotter

LADIES MINISTERING TO LADIES REMINDERS

The ladies on 'notice' to provide meals
for the month of September:

Debi Long & Paula Stoskopf

Tammy Nixon & Susan Shinkle

Maggie Small & Crystal Ratcliff

OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE

Send a note to encourage these ladies:

Laura Devinney
2942 W 3rd
El Dorado, KS 67042

Your Sunday School Teachers
**Use your new directory
to find their address!

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES MEETING
Monday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m.
Challenge - Psalm 37:4-6

OCTOBER IS...
...Pastor Appreciation Month
(Pastor's Birthday is October 16)

LADIES MEETING
Monday, October 17, at 7:00 p.m.
Challenge - Psalm 37:7-8

MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2011
Wednesday - Sunday, November 16-20

As for God, His Way is perfect:
the word of the LORD is tried:
He is a buckler to all those
that trust in Him.
Psalm 18:30

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