

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 772

February 28, 2024

“Jesus’ Priorities or Your Leftovers”

A king desired to build a cathedral, forbidding anyone from contributing anything to the building of it, in order that the credit might be all placed on him. When the beautiful place of worship was finished, the king placed a sign in front on the site with his name as the builder.

The very night the sign had been placed on the site, he saw in a dream an angel who came and erased his name from the sign and then replaced his name with that of a poor town’s widow. The next morning he checked to make sure his name was still there. But the next night the dream recurred just as the night before and then again on a third night he had this same dream.

Awakening on the third morning after having this dream, the king summoned his servants to find the widow woman and bring her to him. Once before him he asked her, “What have you been doing during the building of my cathedral?” The woman trembling before the king said, “I love the LORD and I have longed to do something for His name and for the building of HIS church. Since I was forbidden to touch or even help with the laying of any stones, with the building of God’s church in any way, I bought a bale of hay for \$1 for the horses that drew the stones for it.”

The king was so touched by her story and convicted of his pride, he commanded that her name be engraved on the front of the cathedral.

Mark 12:41 - 44 *And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.”*

Can you imagine the disciples as Jesus told them this parable? They had to be thinking, “This poor widow only put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent, and she put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury?”

Jesus’ parable is about priority and sacrifice. The others in Jesus’ story gave because they had surplus. They were able to meet all their needs and wants, and then gave because there was some leftover. The widow, on the other hand, as Jesus states, gave “all she owned, all she had to live on.”

I’ve had good and faithful church people, during my ministry, tell me that a tithe (10% giving) is an Old Testament command. Then say, we are New Testament believers and that does not apply any longer. To which I usually reply, “If you are truly a New Testament giver, then you are right, the 10% doesn’t apply to you. The New Testament says, give it all.”

Yes, I know we have to live and needs have to be met, but Jesus wants our all. He wants to be first and not receive our leftovers. Not our leftover time, giving Him time if we have any leftover from what we want to do this week. Not our leftover reading from a great novel we can’t put down, to read His word. Not our leftover surplus in some amount that seems to satisfy our guilty conscience of that last luxury we just bought ourselves. He really does want to be first in all things in our lives.

Try this, if you will; since my discharge from the Air Force, every job I’ve had I have gotten paid twice a month. When I pay bills at the 1st and 15th of the month, the very first check I write is my tithe check. I don’t pay bills then see if I have enough to write it, but write it and then pay bills. There have been times when I did not know how some of those bills would be paid, but God is always faithful and I was able to meet those needs (not always my wants, but needs). I had an accountant once ask me why I gave what I gave to the church? I said, “Because, it is not mine to keep.”

Offer God your best, your first, and make it a priority in all things. Not just your giving, but all things. It will make a difference in your life.

Malachi 3:8 - 10 *“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.”*

Things for all of us to ponder.

Blessing my friends,

Pastor Marty Duffell - HOPE Church Raleigh
Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, February 28

Wednesday Night Supper, Study, & Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.

Friday, March 1

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.
W/Susie Savino

Sunday, March 3

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 8:00 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Wednesday, March 6

Wednesday Night Supper, Study, & Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.



Outreach Ministries

“Food of the Month”

for the Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

Individual Pop-Top Canned Meat

We have a collection bin in the foyer

HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if needed for you or someone else.

TLC Devotion

4th Wednesday each Month
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Women of HOPE

Saturday, March 9
@ 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night

Supper, Study, & Prayer
Supper @ 6:15 p.m.
Study @ 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Time @ 7:45 p.m.

Menu:

Spaghetti, Salad, Fruit,
French Bread, Dessert

Pray for an Opportunity

HOPE family - Start now praying that God would lead you to invite someone(s) to join you for Easter Worship. Pray specifically for Him to lay on your heart who to ask, when to ask, and then do it. I'm asking each one in our HOPE family to do this. Pray - asking and expecting God to act. ***Easter is March 31st***

Prayer Requests:

Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Jamie Baldwin, Ron Clifton, Donna Williams, Carol & Colin (Kathy Herriman's Sister & Brother-in-law), Loretta (Sandi Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers, Shelley, Diane Mack's Sister-in-law, Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy and Billy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's brothers), Gene & Becky Hale, Ellie Tappan, Dave & Dot Geil, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin (Sandra Pierce's dad and stepmom), our Military, our Missionaries, our Nation, and the world. If you have those you would like added to our prayer concerns, please email me those names.

HOPE - REBOOT 50 - Days to Vitality

Everyday a Devotion
Everyday a Prayer

Join us for our Sunday school time following Fellowship for Discussion on our study this week.

MARCH 16

The Vision Team and Session would like to invite you to join them on March 16 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. to share your thoughts on the vision for HOPE moving forward. At 10 a.m. the Vision Team and Session will meet to continue their work together on REBOOT - Revitalization.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - March 3
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - March 3
Jane Davis

Soundboard - March 3
Benjamin Pierce

Live Streaming - March 3
Al Floyd

Communion - March
Kathy Jo Duckett, Lynn Joyner,
& Donna Williams

Greeter - March 3
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - March 3
Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

Acts 2:42 - 47;
Revelation 7:9 - 10
“Behold! The Math of God”

Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

| | | | |
|-----|---|---------|---|
| Mar | 3 | Matthew | 3 |
| Mar | 4 | Matthew | 4 |
| Mar | 5 | Matthew | 5 |
| Mar | 6 | Matthew | 6 |
| Mar | 7 | Matthew | 7 |
| Mar | 8 | Matthew | 8 |
| Mar | 9 | Matthew | 9 |

Quote of the Week

“Evangelism is every day and in every way helping your non-believing friends to take one step closer to Jesus Christ.”

Norman Geisler

HOPE4Kids Ministry Informational Meeting

Sunday, March 24th
@ 12 p.m.

Led by Terry Duffell
Anyone interested, please join in.

HOPE Church Raleigh
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

4911 Green Rd
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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

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