

Lessons from the Heart

Reap what is sown

By Pastor Pam Ditson-McCall

Luke 17:11-19 (NRSV) - On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers ap-

proached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went,

they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.

Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Complacency – simply put is to be content to a fault, self-satisfied and even unconcerned about anything or anybody who doesn't directly affect our lives.

It is difficult to admit, but the reality is we all can and do become very complacent about our lives and our faith. When it comes to our faith, if and when we have opportunity to be around a new convert to Christianity, their enthusiasm seems foreign, even frightening to us. Why? Because we have forgotten the joy of our faith, instead it becomes embedded into our routine of life. When we refuse to see the riches of our faith, and the blessing of our lives that God has granted us, we are like the nine lepers.

The story is told of a group of farmers many years ago who decided to eat their best potatoes and to plant only the small ones. They kept up this practice for many years, even though they noticed the potatoes getting smaller and smaller. They blamed the weather and the beetles and the blight.

They kept it up until all of their potatoes were reduced to the size of large marbles. The farmers learned through bitter experience that they could not keep the best things of life for themselves and



McCall

use the leftovers for seeds. The laws of life and nature declare that the harvest would reflect the planting.

This is the last article I write for the Comet. I have accepted the position as senior minister in Frankfort and begin Oct. 1.

My prayer of thanksgiving is for all the countless blessings the town of Flora and Carroll County has given me and my family. My prayer of hope is that you all embrace and trust always in the love of God; for God is faithful, true and always compassionate. Like the farmers, be sure to plant your very best for future generations...share the message of Christ Jesus with joy and enthusiasm. Blessing to you all.

Pam Ditson-McCall has been pastor at the Flora First Christian Church for the past eight years.

Pray for our nation to seek God

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Psalms 32:8 Pd. Adv.

Announcements

THE OVERTONES gospel quartet will present a concert at 7 p.m. Sept. 29 at the Cutler Presbyterian Church. A free-will offering will be taken. Refreshments will follow the concert.

Guy Studebaker will be installed as minister of the **LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN** during the Sunday morning worship service Sept. 30. The service begins at 10:15 a.m. Sunday is also the church's homecoming, and there will be a carry-in dinner.

DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

SS=Sunday School

SW=Sunday Worship

AMERICUS UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Larry Williams, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.

BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Larry DeVos, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Dwight Monical, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.

BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Roussakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.

BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Tim Pohlman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Children's Church: 10 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m., Youth Groups: 6 p.m.

BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST: SS: 10:50 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.

BURNETTSTOWN FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.

BURNETTSTOWN CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.

BURNETTSTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.

BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 11:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY: Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Halsey, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.

CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9-9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.

CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.

COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Kasey Schnepf, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE MINISTRIES: 1/2 mile north of SR 22 on CR 1150W. Patrick Kamm, pastor. SS: 9 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN: 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.

CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN: Highway 29 in Deer Creek. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: 9:15 a.m.

DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH: 315 E. Main St., Delphi. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.

DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST: 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 5 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.

DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD: 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

DELPHI PENTECOSTAL: Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. Thurs. night Bible Study: 7:30p.m., SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.

DELPHI UNITED METHODIST: Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor; Micah Hudson, youth pastor.

DELPHI WESLEYAN: North Union Street, Delphi. Rich & Carol Schebeck, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST: SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Ernie D. Elder, Jr., Pastor. SW: 10 a.m., SS: 9 a.m.

FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST: SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN: CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. Thomas J. McShannock & Sandy Hutchens, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH: U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD: US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 am, Wed. Family Night: 7pm

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN: Paul Marcellino, interim-pastor. Tue. 9:30 a.m. Women's study, Wed. 6:30 p.m. WW, SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Sun. Youth Service 5:30 p.m. Sun. Bible study: 7:30 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST: Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Louis Sandos. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.

FLORA FIRST BAPTIST: 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.

FLORA FIRST BRETHREN: 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ) S. Center Street, Flora. Pamela Ditson-McCall, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.

FLORA GRACE BRETHREN: 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.

FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SW: 10:15 a.m.

FLORA UNITED METHODIST: 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Larry DeVos, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.

FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST: Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Joe Whitehead, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

HICKORY GROVE CHURCH: CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.

HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Chris Murphy, pastor. Mearl Hodges, asst. pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.

JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.

LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.

LIVING STONE CHURCH: Meets at the Freedom Center in Delphi. Stan Williams, pastor. SS: 11 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m. contact (765) 589-3771

LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH: East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: CR 300 N, SE of Camden. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.

MT. ZION INDEPENDENT BAPTIST: 102 N. Connelly Street, Delphi. Alfred Smith, pastor. SS: 10:15 a.m., SW: 9 a.m., & 6 p.m.

OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN: 11810 N & 900 W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Don Arterburn. SW: 10 a.m.

PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST: John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Bible Study: Thurs. 6:30 p.m.

PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.

PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: Pastor. Howard Hendrickson. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.

RADNOR CHURCH: Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.

ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN: Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.

ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN: SW: 9:30 a.m.

ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: 16 Cason St., Judd Dickey, pastor. Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship 9:30 a.m.; SW 10:00 a.m.

ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Pastor, Bob Pfeifer. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.

ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. Bob McAulay, interim pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.

ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST: Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST: St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. James Lund, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC: 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. Dale Larson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN: Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. Dale Larson, pastor. SW: 8:30 a.m., SS: Same as Worship.

WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES: 869 N. 90 E., Burrows, Greg Britt, pastor. SW: 9 a.m. (574) 652-2280

YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST: Dave Inskeep, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

26th Annual Homecoming
October 6, 2007 & October 7, 2007

Valley View Baptist Church
720 West Columbia Street, Flora, IN 46929

A church where everyone is somebody and Jesus is Lord!

Join us in celebrating the final mortgage payment of our church as we incinerate our mortgage note.

Gospel singers: "The Happy Travelers" will also be performing on Saturday October 6, 2007 at 6 p.m. and again on Sunday October 7, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.. A carry in dinner will follow after morning services.

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FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

People have the responsibility to monitor television

QUESTION: I am very irritated by all the sex and violence on television night after night. The movies are bad enough, but now the sitcoms are just as bad. Is there any way we can influence the networks to be more responsible in their programming?



Dr. Dobson

DR. DOBSON: We have more power to influence television programming than we think. I'm told that every letter received is estimated to represent 40,000 viewers who didn't take time to write. It's important to know, however, where those letters should be sent.

In earlier days, I wrote directors, producers and other executives at the television networks. My complaints either received rude replies or were largely ignored. I've since learned it's more beneficial to write the sponsors – the people who pay the bills. They have better reason to care what I think.

Witness the success of Fort Worth, Texas, dentist Dr. Richard Neill, who became upset with the kind of filthy programming aired regularly on the Phil Donahue show during hours when children could have been watching. He began writing the commercial sponsors and informing them of what their money was supporting. One after another, more than one hundred of these advertisers began dropping the show. By 1996, the Donahue program was no longer viable, and it went off the air. Almost single-handedly, Dr. Neill took on a media giant – an icon – and put an end to the junk he was producing. This kind of effort can and should be duplicated all over the country. It is the only way we will clean up the tube.

Advertisers are very responsive to the opinions of viewers because they are spending millions of dollars to promote their products. We can bring pressure on them by letting them know how we feel – positively and negatively. And indeed, we must do this.

QUESTION: What can we as parents do to improve public schools in our area?

DR. DOBSON: Most educators know that parental involvement is absolutely critical to

what public schools are trying to do. Others, (fortunately not the majority) see themselves as professionals who resent parental interference. We should never accede to that idea. Parents are ultimately responsible for the education of their kids and they should not surrender that authority. Educators are their employees, paid with tax dollars, and are accountable to the school board members whom parents elect. The best schools are those with the greatest parental involvement and support.

With that understanding, let me urge you to visit your child's school to answer questions of interest to you. Does the staff understand the necessity for structure, respect and discipline in the classroom? If so, call your child's teacher and the principal to express your appreciation. They could use a pat on the back. Tell them you stand ready to assist in carrying out their important mission.

If your school system is not so oriented, get involved to help turn the tide. Meet with parent groups. Join the PTA. Review the textbooks. Work for the election of school board members who believe in traditional values and academic excellence. Let me say it again: Schools function best when the time-honored principle of local control by parents prevails. I believe it is making a comeback!

QUESTION: Is depression more common among men or women?

DR. DOBSON: Depression occurs in both sexes but is less frequent in men. It is also more crisis-oriented. In other words, men get depressed over specific problems such as a business setback or an illness. Typically, however, they are less likely to experience the vague, generalized, almost indefinable feeling of discouragement that some women encounter on a regular basis. Even a cloudy day may be enough to bring on a physical and emotional slowdown, known as the "blahs," for those who are particularly vulnerable to depression. That kind of emotional fluctuation is more common in women.

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Send your questions to Dr. Dobson, c/o Focus on the Family, PO Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; or to his Web site at www.focus.org. These questions and answers are excerpted from books authored by Dr. James Dobson and published by Tyndale House Publishers. Dr. Dobson is the founder and chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home and Judeo-Christian values. Copyright 1997, James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copy secured.