

**Heart Checkup**

“It’s time for your annual checkup!” This sentence may cause a sudden sense of dread in many of us. But as much as we might hate going to the doctor, visiting once a year can help you stay healthy and uncover potential health risks. One of the things the doctor will do is get out his stethoscope, listen to the rhythm of your heart, and let you know if there are any abnormalities.

In our lives, we need more than just physical checkups. We need spiritual checkups as well—hopefully more than once a year. This kind of checkup may come in the form of a personal Bible study, a sermon that really hits home, a sudden life change, or a fellow Christian exposing the truth about your behavior. Any of these may give us pause and move us to examine our relationship with God.

In Acts 8, we read of a man that needed a heart checkup. Simon, the sorcerer, was a new convert to the church of Christ living in Samaria. Like many others in his country, he was convicted by the truth and power of the gospel. In verse 13, we see that Simon believed the gospel and was baptized in the name of Jesus and added to the church. It turned out that Simon had some ulterior motives.

Soon after Simon and the Samaritans became Christians, the apostles in Jerusalem learned that they had not yet received the Holy Spirit (v. 14-15). Only the apostles had the gift to lay hands on people and give them spiritual gifts. So, Peter and John went to them and laid hands on them.

When Simon saw the power of the laying on of hands, he sought to have the power for himself. So, “…he offered them money, saying, ‘Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit’” (v. 18b-19).

Immediately, Peter called out his blasphemy and accused him of trying to purchase the gift of God with money. How could a Christian make such a mistake? In verse 21, Peter told Simon plainly, “…for your heart is not right in the sight of God.” Though he was a Christian, Simon’s heart was still “…poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity” (v. 23).

Many Christians seem to have the love of Christ, yet their heart betrays them. They may go to every function, put plenty of cash in the collection tray, but they only do it for clout. They will seem like a good person, be admired by their friends or will feel superior to others. Brethren, our motivations matter.

Simon’s heart disqualified him from the spiritual gifts given to the Samaritans (v. 21). This needs to be a wakeup call for us. If we fail to check our hearts, we too may receive “…neither part nor portion…” of the gifts promised to us.

Robert Lupo

**March 24, 2024**

Sunday Morning

Opening Prayer Tim York

Closing Prayer Joey Jones

Scripture Reading Carter Logan

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer Eldon Alexander

Closing Prayer Charles Logan

**Remember in prayer:**

Please pray for Dylan, Preston, Marlee and Joni Gary in the passing of their father Marty Gary.

Jayne Short is doing well following surgery Friday.

Brenda Snyder had a heart test last Tuesday and will have a follow up appointment in April.

Jenith Lowrance is now home and in hospice care.

Sue Bridges, Peggy Baldwin, Amanda Sellers, Barbara Hall, Julie Sandlin, Bill and Billie Nolen, Carrie Price, David Paden, Caitlin Meredith, Wilma Jane Maynard.

**Oak View Nursing Home: Betty Floyd, Jane Bishop**, **Jane York**, **Polly Hayes.**

**Millie Hardin** (Macon)

**Brothers Keepers Group Three** will meet tonight following our worship services.

Tonight, **Josh Robinson** will give a presentation about “The Manna Project.”

**Steve Fletcher** will preach next Sunday night.

Record for week of March 17, 2024

10 am 11 am 5:00 pm Wed. Contribution

 109 96 86 75 $3928.56

**Weekly Assemblies**

**Sunday:**

Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study: 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship: 5:00 p.m.

First Sunday 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

**Daily Bible Readings:**

Mar 24-30 Parable of the Talents

24 Ten Virgins, Mat 25:1-13

25 Servant Responsibility, Mat 25:13-30

26 Faithful and Unfaithful, Mat 25:31-46

27 Parable of Pounds, Luke 19:12-27

28 Parable of Husbandman, Luke 20:9-18

29 Laborers in the Vineyard, Mat 20:1-16

30 The Barren Fig Tree, Luke 13:6-9

**G-I-V-E are the last four letters in**

A favorite verse when it comes to the subject of “giving” is Luke 6:38, where Jesus makes a promise to those who “give.” “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom.” But look at the context. What kind of giving is under discussion?

Verses 29-30 had also talked about “giving,” but verses 33-35 talked about “doing good” and “lending,” as one who is “merciful” (v. 36). Beginning in verse 37, Jesus emphasized being careful in improperly condemning someone else and continues that through verse 42.

In the immediate context of having a “merciful” and “forgiving” heart, Jesus said to “give.” Could His emphasis there be on more than money but on GIVING the benefit of the doubt or GIVING forgiveness that is not deserved? Could His emphasis be on forGIVING bountifully and not grudgingly? Do we want God to forGIVE us with “good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over”? Then we need to forGIVE others by that same measure!

**Elders:** Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

**Deacons:** Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

**Minister:** Hugh Glaze

**Song Leader:** Adam Morgan