

The Vine

I am the vine; you are the branches...John 15:5

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

April 2013

WHY DID JESUS FOLD THE NAPKIN?

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection?
I never noticed this...

The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes.

The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.

She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put Him!"

Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple out ran Peter and got there first. He stopped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in.

Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side.

Was that important? Absolutely! Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it.

The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished..

Now if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table.

The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, "I'm finished.."

But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because the folded napkin meant, "I'M COMING BACK!"

AND SO HE SHALL...

New Things

Wow, we are almost finished going through the book of 1 Corinthians! Two more messages from the 16th chapter in April to bring us to a total of 36. We spent over six months with Paul and the Corinthian church. I am sure we learned from their mistakes so we can avoid making the same ones. I trust the Lord that Charis in Chaos, grace in the brokenness of the church, has helped us become a better church. I pray that we can look at our failures and have faith that through the grace of Christ we will be able to turn those failures into stepping stones to victory.

So what is next? First is a series called The Path of the Cross. Jesus said "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." That doesn't sound very fun, does it? We are going to explore what it takes to actually take up our cross by looking at Jesus' life and how he bore His cross in life as well as death.

We will study the path of truth and the path of humility in April with more to follow in May.

Following the The Path series, we will begin one called The God of Angel Armies. The idea for this came from a recent Chris Tomlin song entitled 'Whom Shall I Fear.' We will spend a few weeks looking at the power of the God we serve, how He empowers us and why we don't have to fear when we are in Christ.

The third series will be Unprecedented. Our God is a God that does new things, unprecedented things, things never seen and done before. Has He changed in the last 2000 years? Absolutely not! God is still doing new and unprecedented things. We will look in the scriptures at some amazing things God has done throughout history and take encouragement that when it comes to our situations, we can have faith that God is still an unprecedented God waiting to do new things in our lives.

We are almost ready to begin a new study for the adult Sunday morning (9 am) study. We will continue with a different

James MacDonald DVD series. This one is entitled 'When Life Is Hard.' Here is an excerpt from the product description:

Surrender to the Refiner's fire and come forth as gold. To be refined, gold must be melted so that impurities can rise to the surface and be removed. God uses a similar method to purify believers who submit to His refining work in their lives. And it all starts in the crucible of suffering. This six-session study is anchored in the scriptural truth that God disciplines all of His children, using trials to train us for our good and for His purposes. James MacDonald brings clarity to what trials are, how they differ from the consequences of sin, and why God allows trials in believers' lives. You will discover principles for responding to trials in a way that submits to God's work in your life and seeks to glorify Him. You will also learn how to tap into the spiritual resources God provides to help you face your trials.

I am excited for this study. Surely all of us have asked the questions, "Why, God? Why did You let this happen? What am I supposed to do with this? What do I need to learn from this? How do I just get through it?"

I really want to encourage those of you who have missed out on the blessing of studying God's word in Sunday school to join us as we look at the life changing impact of the trials we face. I will be ordering books soon so let me know if you want one. They are \$11.95 a piece; anyone who is able can pay for the book. If it is a hardship right now, don't worry! It will be taken care of. Like we did with the last study, we will stretch this out over many more weeks in order to receive the full impact of what God wants to show us.

*Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. **Isaiah 43:19***

Mike

Recipe Swap

CORN CASSEROLE

½ c. margarine or butter
1 can whole kernel corn, drained
1 can cream style corn
1 box (8 oz.) cornbread mix
2 eggs, slightly beaten
1 c. sour cream
1 c. grated cheese

Melt margarine or butter in 2 qt. baking dish. Mix other ingredients except cheese. Put in baking dish. Bake at 350* for 15 minutes. Top with cheese and bake 20-25 minutes more.

Gina Kirby

RECIPE CORRECTION: In last month's (March 2013) newsletter I printed Helen Grove's Cheeseburger Soup. I said to use a half a pound of hamburger and I should have said to use 1 to 2 pounds of hamburger. I'm sorry for the mistake. Christy Arnold.

FELLOWSHIP WITH DON AND BRENDA YOUNG : Don and Brenda will be visiting the church on Sunday, April 21st. The church will be having a carry in dinner right after church so all can fellowship with the Young's.

THANK YOU CARD: The church received a thank you card from Shirley Harris. It's on the bulletin board if you would like to look at it.

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR SOLDIERS: Jacob Mitchell, Curtis Mitchell, Brandon Miller, Ryan Myers, Luke Cummings, Greg Morales, Ryan Kirby, Zach Stiffler, Josh Lackey, Dan Cook, Rick Heuertz, Steve Heinen, Ammin Spencer, Gates Kobuszewski, Leslie Bolz, Steve Grove, Austin Everhart, Noe Garza, Brandon Hammons, Ruth Churchill

COPIES OF THE SERMONS ARE AVAILABLE

ON CD UPON REQUEST: If you would like a copy please see Mike. You can also listen to them online at www.valleyfallsc.org.

POCKET CHANGE FOR PROGRESS: This will be a special offering every 3rd Sunday during church. The money will be split between Mission Lake Camp and the School Supply Giveaway Fund

RECYCLING: We have a recycling box beside the copier in the office.

COLLECTING FOR ALPHA: Alpha Christian Children's Home can use Campbell soup UPC labels and lids, Best Choice UPC labels and General Mills Box Top Symbols coupons (Box Tops for Education.) We will have a box in the hallway outside the nursery under the mailboxes.

SISTERS OF STRENGTH (S.O.S.)-

(Mission Statement: We are a lifeline to glorify God through service to the church and community and to build personal relationships with our Christian Sisters.)

We will be going to Leavenworth on April 13th. They are having a downtown shopping promotion. We will leave the church at 8:00 AM. All ladies are invited.

59TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT OZARK

This will be April 12-13. For more information there is a flyer on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

4- Betty Smith
6- Joan Phillips
7- Andrew Turner
9- KatyRae Branam
10- Jordan Welborn
11- Debbie Gerstner
Jody (Turner) Munson
22- Erin Thomas
Tyler Dedeke
26- Brenda Billings
29- Stan Farr
Danny Gomez
30- Steve Carson
(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in APRIL

Congregational Prayer:

Wayne Arnold

Scripture Readers:

7-Mitchell-1 Cor. 16:5-11
14-Turner- 1 Cor. 16:19-24
21-Welborn- John 7:14-24
28-Carson- John 13:1-11

Nursery:

7-Debbie Gerstner
14-Laura Reich
21-Rachel Arnold/Jarret Mitchell
28-Linda Durand

Greeters/Ushers:

7-Mitchell
14-Turner
21-Welborn
28-Carson

Lord's Supper Preparation:

7-Mitchell
14-Turner
21-Welborn
28-Carson

Communion Table:

7-Stan, Jay
Ray Mitchell, Andy Arnold
14- Jay, Stan
Dennis Turner, Cylus Tichenor
21- Stan, Jay
David Grove, Jarret Mitchell
28- Jay, Stan
Dennis Tichenor, Clint Thomas

Musicians

Worship Team: Mike Kirby, Erin Thomas, Clint Thomas
Organ: Leah Brown
Piano: Donetta Farr
Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas
Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Church Offerings

Feb. 24-\$1288.00
Mar. 3-\$2283.00
Mar. 10-\$1046.00
Mar. 17-\$2731.75
Mar. 24-\$1025.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

Valley Falls Christian Church has a website!!

www.valleyfallsc.org

MEN'S BREAKFAST: There will be men's breakfast on April 13th. Jay Welborn will be cooking.

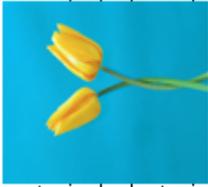
OUTREACH MINISTRY HELPING OTHER PEOPLE EVERYWHERE (H.O.P.E.)

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped with the "Touch of Class" elegant dinner. The guests (49) really enjoyed themselves. We received many compliments on the food, waiters and atmosphere. The piano music by Matt Miller made the evening elegant. God has blessed him with a wonderful talent. The guests brought school supplies and with monetary donations still coming in almost \$2500.00 has been raised. All the praise and glory go to God for this fund raiser for the school supply project.

LINNWOOD SERVICES: The services at Linnwood are always on the first Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM.

VBS NEWS: Just a peek... Ark Avenue will be June 3-7 from 7pm - 9 pm. Mark your calendars now!!! Begin inviting your friends and neighbors. We will have a meeting Sunday, April 14th right after church. This meeting should not take long if you come ready to volunteer. We will go over the different jobs and what is involved and the material will be ready to take so please kind of know what you want to do. We need many volunteers as there will be some different sites to visit and a possibility for several actors and actresses. We will then have another meeting later in May just to double check and make sure we are on the same page.

GRADUATES BANQUET: The graduates banquet will be on May 5th after church. So everyone bring some food and prepare to stay and celebrate our graduates. Our graduates this year are Erin Thomas- Washburn, Sadie Tichenor Preston- Fort Hays, Cylus Tichenor- Jefferson County West.

2013		April					2013	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SATURDAY	
1 	1	2 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	3	4	5	6		
7 2:00 PM Service at Linnwood	8	9	10 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	11	12	13 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM SOS Ladies trip to Leavenworth		
14 11:30 VBS meeting 5:00 PM Youth Group	15	16	17 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	18	19	20 Work Day at Mission Lake Camp		
21 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 11:30 carry in dinner with Don & Brenda Young 5:00 PM Youth Group	22	23	24 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	25	26	27		
28 Kiamichis 5:00 PM Youth Group	29	30						

Valley Falls
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On the web: www.valleyfallsc.org
Find us on Facebook!

Mike Kirby, Pastor

You are welcome to join us!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Service times:

Bible Study (all ages) – 9:00 AM
Worship – 10:00 AM
Youth Group – 5:00 PM

Midweek Bible Study:

Wednesday 7:00 PM

MISSION LAKE CAMP NEWS

April 20- Work Day at Camp
May 5- Early Registration
May 11- Mowing
June 9-14- Sr. High Camp (9-12 grade)
June 19- Cooking & Desserts
June 16-21- Jr. High Camp (6-8 grade)
June 23-27- Jr. Camp (3-5 grade)
June 29- Day Camp (1-2 grade)
July 6-7- Princess Camp (9-12 grade girls)
July 7-12- Deeper Life Camp (7-12 grade)
July 25-27- Worship Retreat (9 grade-adult)
July 27- Mowing
Sept. 20-22- Fall Retreat (7-12 grade)

DONATION RECEIPTS FOR TAX RETURNS

The IRS requires that contributions for \$250.00 or more have a receipt from the organization to qualify for itemized tax deductions. In light of that, the church will begin to track contributions made by check in order to provide the necessary receipt at the end of each year. Tracking will begin in April. If you would like to have your contributions for the first quarter included this year, please provide Georganna a list including, Date, check number and amount for each contribution by May 1st. If you have questions, please see Georganna.