

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.05.14

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Jamie Rinehart

Title: Mothers

Recording:

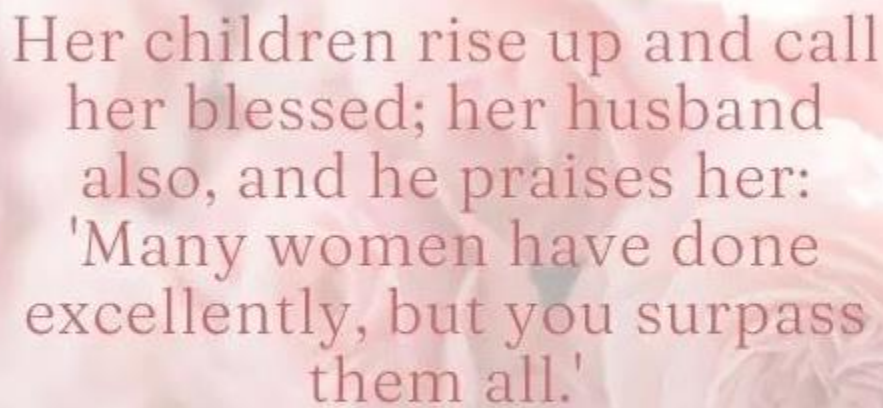
tinyurl.com/JamieMothers

Speaker-PM: Robbie Moreland

Title: Examples

Recording:

tinyurl.com/RobbieExamples



Her children rise up and call
her blessed; her husband
also, and he praises her:
'Many women have done
excellently, but you surpass
them all.'

Proverbs 31:28-29

Application/Reflection

Consider Noah who did God's will, and saved himself and his family through obedience, and so should we.

Consider Abraham and how he left all to go into the promised land, and so should we.

Consider Moses and how he gave up the riches of this life to instead follow God, and so should we.

Consider Josiah who took God's word and applied it to his life, and so should we.

Consider Adam and how his desires led him into sin, as do ours.

Consider Christ and how he died for you, how we were redeemed through him, and how we then should die for Him.

The Small Things We Can Do 5/2/2023, by Al Diestlekamp

A gospel song that recently has become a favorite of mine is "Room in God's Kingdom," the lyrics of which acknowledge the value of "the small things that you can do." While we need citizens in God's kingdom who are able to tackle the "big" things, there's a place for those who will do the lesser things.

The parable of the talents ([Matthew 23:14-30](#)) confirms the truth that God recognizes the potential as well as the limitations of individuals. The Master doesn't expect a one-talent man to live up to the abilities of the five-talent or two-talent servants, but He does expect something from him. The apostle Paul quoted from [Psalms 68:18](#) to make the point that Christ "*gave gifts to men*" with abilities in various measures. "*for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*" ([Ephesians 4:7-16](#)).

Of course, this cannot rightly be used as an excuse to be satisfied with doing the least you can get away with or not seeking to do the most you can do; but just as in physical life, a child is not expected to do everything an adult can do, the same is true of new Christians. Just as we don't expect the aged to be able to do all they once did, this is sometimes true of "old soldiers" in the Kingdom.

As I write this, I am just a few days away from another one of those pesky annual reminders of the reason I am no longer able to do as much as I used to do. I am disappointed that I have lost some of my abilities, but I am not ashamed to admit it. For this reason, I'm pleased to report that the church in Sycamore, Illinois, where I have worked for 35 years, has asked Jackson Sneed to take on the full-time work here beginning May 21. Jackson was born and raised in northern Alabama and has since been living in Florida. We commend him for being willing to step out of his comfort zone to work in the North. He is married to Cassie (formerly Miller) who was raised in central Illinois.

Of course, I will continue to do what I can, supporting the truth from my front-row seat. I am reminded of brother Robert's lyrics of another song we sing.

"Our elders, long in battle years,
Alas, begin to fade;
But from the ranks, young men appear,
And lead their first crusade"

Shamefastness and Dress, 5/13/23 By Jerry Fite

In the context of holiness, Paul instructs women to *"adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefastness and sobriety; not with braided hair, and gold or pearls or costly raiment; but (which becometh women professing godliness) through good works"* ([1 Timothy 2:9-10](#)).

We communicate many things about ourselves through dress. It should not be surprising that the woman of a *"wily"* heart is dressed *"with the attire of a harlot"* ([Proverbs 7:10](#)). The disposition of the heart not only finds expression in words but often manifests its character in dress. The ostentatious or showy spirit often finds an outlet through extravagant hairstyles, expensive jewelry, and costly raiment. Paul is warning women readers to guard against inappropriate dress. How does he combat the problem? Fight fire with fire. An unbecoming spirit is behind inappropriate dress, so if we concentrate on having the right spirit when we dress, our adornment should be appropriate.

One characteristic of a holy and godly heart is "shamefastness". According to Vine, this "is that modesty which is 'fast' or rooted in the character." Like "bedfast" describes one confined to bed, "shamefast" is modesty firmly imbedded in character. This godly heart understands the limits or boundaries of propriety and shrinks back from ever crossing the line instead of seeing how close one can come to the line. Shamefastness is that character of the heart that is concerned with how certain actions will affect others. We see this clearly when Jesus speaks of the "importunity" or "shameless persistence" (the opposite of shamefastness) of one who approaches the door of a friend at midnight. He is persistent in asking for bread, but shamelessly so. He does not care if his friend is in bed at midnight with his children or what the friend will have to do to accommodate his request. He has no shame regarding how his actions are affecting his friend ([Luke 11:5-8](#)).

Our dress has an effect on others. "Shamefastness" factors this in and makes sure the dress for the occasion will be fitting within the limits of propriety, therefore not adversely affecting others. Our purpose in assembling is to worship and honor God, not put on a show with the new fashions. Shamefastness does not keep women from new things, it keeps them within the limits of modest dress, which manifests sobriety. Her dress never distracts other worshipers from the lofty purpose of honoring God by bringing undue attention to herself or attracting the envious or even lustful gaze of the distracted.

Warm weather also tempts the ostentatious and showy spirit to show off more of the body rather than keep it modestly covered. Shamefastness will not allow an ostentatious spirit to take root and find expression in skimpy clothing. The woman with shamefastness considers how shorts exposing the thighs; halter tops, attracting eyes to the bare midriff; or swimsuits boldly revealing the female form will attract the wrong kind of response from men. So, she avoids such attire before the public's eye. The woman wanting to dress becomingly as one who is manifesting godliness can do so in any society. Developing shamefastness will help tremendously in dressing for all occasions.