



A Spot of T

(Get it? 'Cause my last name starts with a 'T'?)



Hatred. Mistrust. Retribution.

If I could narrow down the problems we have living together as a human family, the distillation would be this. Whether it's fighting with our loved ones at home or with strangers online, We don't trust each other, we hate those who differ from us, and we want those we perceive to have harmed us to pay for their supposed wrongdoing. I was re-reading Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount* the other day, and I realized – as far as the Christian is concerned – we already know how to handle this. We just have to take Jesus teachings to heart. I mean *really* take them to heart, and not just nod our head as we read the pastor's newsletter article.

So, what did Jesus teach about hatred?

You have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago, Don't commit murder, and all who commit murder will be in danger of judgment. But I say to you that everyone who is angry with their brother or sister will be in danger of judgment. If they say to their brother or sister, 'You idiot,' they will be in danger of being condemned by the governing council. And if they say, 'You fool,' they will be in danger of fiery hell. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift at the altar and go. First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and offer your gift. Be sure to make friends quickly with your opponents while you are with them on the way to court. Otherwise, they will haul you before the judge, the judge will turn you over to the officer of the court, and you will be thrown into prison. I say to you in all seriousness that you won't get out of there until you've paid the very last penny.

And on mistrust?

Again you have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago: Don't make a false solemn pledge, but you should follow through on what you have pledged to the Lord. But I say to you that you must not pledge at all. You must not pledge by heaven, because it's God's throne. You must not pledge by the earth, because it's God's footstool. You must not pledge by Jerusalem, because it's the city of the great king. And you must not pledge by your head, because you can't turn one hair white or black. Let your yes mean yes, and your no mean no. Anything more than this comes from the evil one.

And finally, retribution?

You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you that you must not oppose those who want to hurt you. If people slap you on your right cheek, you must turn the left cheek to them as well. When they wish to haul you to court and take your shirt, let them have your coat too. When they force you to go one mile, go with them two. Give to those who ask, and don't refuse those who wish to borrow from you.

Our current social strife can seem insurmountable, but Jesus takes the mystery out of it. You might also check out the rest of this chapter. Lots of good stuff.

Peace,

The Tomb Was Empty *by: Mary Southerland*



*“He is not
here; He
has risen!”*

Luke 24:6



The boys and girls in Mrs. Stephens' fourth grade Sunday school class entered the room and quickly found their seats. The girls were dressed in frills and lace and chatting excitedly about the candy-filled baskets they had received that morning. The boys pulled at the unfamiliar ties around their necks and quickly discarded the sports coats they had obviously been forced to wear. The room was filled with excitement – for good reason. It was Easter Sunday.

Mrs. Stephens wanted to help her students understand that there is so much more to the Easter holiday than new clothes, chocolate bunnies, and egg hunts. Easter is more than family gatherings and tables filled with luscious food. Easter is about life. Easter celebrates the certainty of Jesus' death on the cross, the fact that He was buried, and that He came out of a burial tomb to conquer death so that we can live now and eternally.

Mrs. Stephens came up with a plan. After sharing the Bible story of Jesus' resurrection, she gave each one of her students an empty plastic egg and said, “We are going to take a walk outside, and I want each one of you to find one sign of life and put it in your plastic egg.”

As the children filed out of the room, Mrs. Stephens noticed Danny, a little boy with Down syndrome who

had been coming to her class for some time. His bright smile and sunny disposition had immediately won her heart. In fact, when it came to Danny, she often thought he had taught her so much more about the unconditional love of God and the joy of simply being a child of God than she could ever teach him. When she heard the other children



make fun of him, it broke her heart. She always corrected the children and tried to help them see just how special Danny was, but Danny seemed oblivious to their hurtful words, and thought of each child as his “buddy.”

The children soon returned from their walk, depositing their eggs on the teacher's desk as they made their way to their seats. Inside one student's egg was a lady bug. In another was an ant. Others had collected flowers, twigs, blades of grass and leaves to fill their eggs. But one egg had nothing in it. Everyone knew whose egg it was. Mrs. Stephens silenced the giggles with a look of warning. When she asked Danny why he had not put anything inside his egg to show signs of life, his

face broke into a huge grin as he responded, “Because the tomb was empty.”

Danny got it. He truly understood the profound truth of Easter. The empty tomb is the ultimate sign of life and a miracle like none other.

Jesus Christ had risen from the dead. The women knew Jesus was dead. Some of them had seen Him die. And

they were sure His body was in the tomb; it had been there since Friday. But when they went to anoint the body on that Sunday morning, the tomb was empty! The body could not have been stolen. Nobody was playing

tricks on them. They were not merely fooling themselves. The miracle was real. They could see the empty tomb with their own eyes. Jesus Christ really had risen from the dead!

I would love to have been there that morning when the women went to the tomb – expecting to deal with death and instead found life, wouldn't you? You may be dealing with death in your own life – the loss of a loved one – the death of a dream – the pain of a broken body. Just as Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He can breathe new life into your heart and mind. Right now, quietly turn to Jesus. He is waiting for you – healing and restoration and new life are in His hands.

Missions Corner

As you may have noticed the Missions table has been moved near the Library door entrance.

This is also where the tall toiletry container for all personal hygiene products like toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and soap can be found.

This month all hygiene

products have been donated towards the Little Free Pantries found around the city of Wabash. In the past, these items have also been donated to our local food pantry, F.I.S.H.

So, if you have travel size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, lotions and other toilet-

ries, please keep the pantries in mind and consider donating them to help our community.

Also, the first Sunday of each month is dedicated to bringing in non-[perishable food for F.I.S.H., our local food pantry that continuously provides assistance to the Wabash community.



Community Outreach

As part of participation with “Focusing on the Mission,” a project sponsored by Lighthouse Missions in Wabash, this month’s theme is “**Sanitary Sunday.**”

We are asking all members consider being a

part of this mission by donating *hand sanitizer, antibacterial soap, disinfectant spray, and tissues.*

All donations should be brought to church by Sunday, April 29.

Baby Shower

Mark your calendars!

Family Life & Igniting Ministries is organizing a **Baby Shower on Sunday, April 29**, for Emily and Pastor Chris who are expecting a baby girl this summer.

More details to follow.



Serving for April 2018

8am Greeter — Laura Thomas

10am Liturgist — Dan Sparling

10am Greeters

Betty Buchanan, Janet Titus, Joe & Donna Schneider

10am Ushers — Kurt Brackenhamer, Dale Hollenback, Rollin McCoart, Ernie Passwater

Scripture Reading for April

4/1 Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

4/8 Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133;
1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

4/15 Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

4/22 Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23;
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

4/29 Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31;
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Services
Sunday 8 am & 10 am
Sunday School for all ages 9 am

Phone: 260.563.3308
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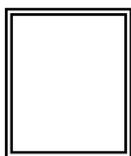


Items for the next newsletter should be submitted to the church office by **April 20th.**

We're on the Web!
wabashchristumc.org



[Check us out on Facebook!](#)



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