



Richard Howe

Birthday 09/21/2020

Dan Robinson

Birthday 09/23/2020

Pam Williamson

Birthday 09/24/2020

Gracelyn Cunningham

Birthday 09/24/2020

Ali King

Birthday 09/26/2020

Contributions

Week 3 September 2020

\$ 2,353 MTD \$ 15,806

For those who give by check and are meeting by Zoom, you can simply mail your check to Kerry Lashlee 9748 Bent Brook Dr Montgomery, AL 36117



Nehemiah 8:10 Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. **Isaiah 41:10** So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. **Exodus 15:2** The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory.

PERRY HILL ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST



Bulletin

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

A Fly in the Ointment



One of the serendipities of our current itinerant ministry is having some Sundays open when we're traveling and being able to hear fellow preachers.

Not long ago we were visiting the West Citrus church in Crystal River and I heard Michael Lusk preach a sermon entitled "A Fly in the Ointment." I've thought about that lesson ever since and today's post draws its inspiration from my notes that day.

"A fly in the ointment" is an English idiom that expresses something greater than what is actually said. It's figurative, not literal. It speaks to a problem, issue or irritant that ruins something that would have been special, great, or important. While this idiom was probably used more by past generations, it is still found in books, movies and everyday conversation. What some folks don't know, is that it originated from the Bible.

Dead flies putrefy the perfumer's ointment,
And cause it to give off a foul odor;
So does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor.
—Ecc. 10:1

Ointment was used in Bible times for various purposes. It had medicinal use for the sick and was also used to anoint the bodies of corpses as well as the clothes in which they were wrapped. Some forms of ointment were used by the wealthy for cosmetic purposes. Luxurious ointment was a perfume that emitted a pleasing fragrance.

Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, anointed the feet of Jesus with an expensive ointment that "filled the house with the fragrance of the perfume. This raised the ire of Judas who complained it could have been sold for 300 denarii, which was about a year's wages, and the proceeds given to the poor. Of course, his motives were corrupt because he was the treasurer and a thief (Jn. 12:1-7).

Now, suppose a fly got into the jar of ointment, died and rotted in it. The wonderful aroma now stinks. The ointment is ruined. A little fly has fouled up something wonderful. *Continued inside.....*



Marsha Williamson - Parkinson's & stomach issues

Beth Beasley (Marsha's sister) - fractured shoulder, COPD, Hospice

Patricia Lange (Carrie Puckett's mother) - chemo

Agnes Kochik - (Ron's mother) - stroke recovery

Susan Kochik - Ron's niece) - chemo

John Humphries - AFIB & congestive heart failure

Bess Powell - Tested positive for COVID-19

Todd Thayer family - COVID-19

Samantha McDonald's fiancé, Garrison's brother Gavin - COVID-19

Eric Aldridge family (Gary McDaniel's friend) - COVID-19

Demitrius & Tabitha Griffin family (Brenda Turner student) - COVID-19

Cooper Terry - Praise God - now cancer free

Jess & Pat Hart - death of his sister, Ann Wise

Katherine Trefethen - death of husband, Bob

G.T. Stewart - death of Helen - He is alone 5 days/wk

Please continue to pray for our **deacons** (Jim Keith, Kerry Lashlee, Ron McDonald, Bud Porter, Paul Puckett, Craig Sims, Gary Smith, Curt Williamson) and their work. Please continue to pray for our **elders** (John Burch, Rodger Cobia, Ron Kochik and Neal Smith) and their work.

Please continue to pray for the **evangelists** whom we support (Navitesh Dutt in Fiji; Joel Holt in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Ricky-Shanks now working in Georgia; Gustavo Marino in Montgomery area and our own Bill Robinson.

Continued

The wise man's analogy was that just a bit of foolishness can tarnish the reputation of who is otherwise respected and honored. A fly in the ointment.

This principle has many applications for Christians.

We may get a fly in our thinking. A spiritually minded person, who regularly reads the Bible, prays without ceasing, and attends every church service, may allow their thoughts to become negative, hyper-critical, or resentful. Their negativity about life, constant complaining about their circumstances, or their bitterness toward someone who's wronged them becomes a "fly in the ointment."

We may get a fly in our character. Think of the rich young ruler who apparently was a good, moral man who obeyed the commandments of Moses' law. Yet, his greed and love of riches was the fly in the ointment that hindered him from following Jesus. His good deeds did not outweigh this character flaw.

It's a good lesson for all of us. It's easy to rationalize our shortcomings by citing either the good we do, or the horrible sins that we do not commit. But it's appropriate to ask, "Do you have a fly in the ointment?"

Is your "fly in the ointment"....

...Greed, covetous, and love of money?

...Gossip, backbiting, and slander?

...Prejudice, partiality and a racial bias?

...Uncontrolled anger that explodes with the fury of a raging storm?

...An addiction to alcohol, drugs, or some other controlled substance?

...The "green-eyed monster" of envy or jealousy?

...A lack of concern for the poor, disenfranchised and "the least of the these"?

...Selfishness that refuses to share your blessings with others?

...A private lust of the flesh fed by pornography?

...A secret sin that you won't let go of?

...Pride and self-righteousness that you're not guilty of any of these sins?

"A fly in the ointment" will ultimately create a spiritual stench that will finally be found out. Its foul odor will negate our influence and diminish our good deeds.

Finally, neither the point of this passage nor this post is suggesting we can become sinlessly perfect. Flies will get in the ointment. But when they do, get them out. Don't allow them to purify and create a stink.

-Ken Weliever, The Preacherman