

University Heights Church  
of Christ  
445 Columbia Ave.,  
Lexington, KY 40508  
(859) 255-6257  
www.uheightschurch.com

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Sunday**

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is  
immediately followed by a  
short worship period)

**First Friday of Each Month**

Singing: 7:30 PM

**LEADERSHIP**

**Elders**

David Collins

John Thompson

Troy Antle

**Evangelist**

Adam Litmer

**Deacons**

Richard Brundige

Matt Thompson

Adam Litmer

Bill Morelan

Jim Parsons

Pat Seabolt

Adam Daniels

Jamie Powell

**In need of prayers**

Jim Parsons, Edith Huffman, Diane Thompson, Karen Spivey, Jeff Howerton (also his aunt), Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Paul Atkisson, Lois Weatherholt, Cassie Neel, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Erlene Young, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul Lyda, Sandra Queen, Annie Allen, Elijah Ossege, Chassey and Paisley Seabolt, Tammy Goble (member at Fayette recently diagnosed with cancer), Veronica Bowman (confirmed mesothelioma)

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 10--Number 50

November 25, 2018

## **Eliab: A Poor Role Model**

Adam Litmer

David's brother, Eliab, was far from pleased upon hearing his youngest brother questioning trained soldiers about why no one was silencing the giant Philistine defying the armies of the living God (1 Samuel 17:26). Eliab pulled him aside and began scolding him. *Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle (17:28).*

I suppose there could be any number of reasons for Eliab's ire. Perhaps he was truly concerned with the sheep David had left in the wilderness and feared for the family's livelihood. Perhaps he was embarrassed by his little brother's forwardness in walking into their midst and questioning why nothing was being done about Goliath. Saul, Jonathan, and Abner (17: 55; 18:1) were all present at the time. Perhaps Joab and his brothers were there as well. Who did David think he was to speak out in such mighty company? It could be that Eliab was ashamed because he recognized the truthfulness of David's words and knew that they *should* have been standing

up to Goliath instead of shivering in fear. Whatever the reason, Eliab was angry with David.

In his anger he said something to David that highlights a constant and continuing problem for man: the haste to judge the content of someone's heart. Eliab declared that he could see directly into the heart of David and judge what was there. He knew David better than anyone in that army. He spent time talking to David, working with David, joking with David, arguing with David, and everything else an older brother does with his younger counterpart. With his intimate knowledge of David, Eliab believed himself qualified to gaze upon his heart and pass judgement. Well, he certainly passed judgment on David's heart yet in the process proved himself sorely unqualified to do so. He missed the truth by a wide margin.

Eliab is not a good role model so no Christian should ever pattern their behavior toward another after him. Even so, I have known to Christians declare that a penitent Christian was only repenting because they sought to be the center of attention for a time. They only wanted the hugs, backslaps, and words of encouragement that loving saints always extend to the one making things right with God and brethren. I've heard Christians declare that they'll forgive the penitent Christian but they just know he or she is going to turn right around and do whatever they're repenting of again. If such did occur and that brother or sister fell into their sin one more, I've seen them nod and declare that they just "knew" the person's repentance wasn't real and

that they'd soon "fall right back in it" or "do it all over again."

Beloved, we cannot see a person's heart no matter how well we may know them (spouse, parent, child, friend, etc.), thus we're told how a loving saint is to behave. Love is not resentful (1 Corinthians 13:5), meaning that it is not counting up a list of wrongs to whip out the moment the penitent Christian stumbles again. Love believes and hopes all things (13:7), meaning that if that struggling Christian repents of the same sin for the 100<sup>th</sup> time, I will believe with all my heart that *this* will be the time that he or she finally overcomes it and there is *nothing* I hope for more than that. Is that naïve? Paul would call it being a Christian.

If we're there, let's get out of the business of judging a brother or sister's heart. That's God's area of operation, not ours. In fact, a chapter earlier, Samuel found himself gazing upon an impressive young man and thought that the new king must surely be standing before him. God spoke to Samuel and said, *Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.* (1 Samuel 16:7). Only God has the power to gaze upon the heart. By the way, the rejected heart belonged to one of David's brothers. His name was Eliab. Do not follow the example of one rejected by the Lord.





