

Lewiston Church of Christ

March 12, 2023

 **MESSENGER** *Growing Friendships, Families & Faith.*



Weekly Services

Sun. Bible Study 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship 10:45 AM
Sun. Day/Evening Groups
Wed Bible Study 6:30 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Joe Bieren: 208-305-1136

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

DEACONS

Education: Shawn Bolm
Finance: Tom Hill
Outreach: Mark Whittaker
Tech. & Safety: Eric Kjorness

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building: Ken Vogtman
Custodian: Hannah McKee
Fellowship: Joe/Carrie Bieren
Grounds: Cody/Doyle Dawes
Sing Ministry: Timauri Stearns
Secretary: Renee Hill
Technology: Cody Dawes

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Web Site:
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FB:
Class & Sermons online
Check email notification

Monthly Service Schedules:
Posted in the foyer. Please find a replacement if you will be gone.



Breaking Rules

At king Hezekiah's invitation, many 8th century BC Israelites traveled a great distance to celebrate the Passover in the temple (2 Chronicles 30). The Passover had been neglected for too long. However, several of God's rules for worship laid out in Scripture were broken. They took several liberties regarding worship--missing the designated month for the Passover and holding it a month later. The purification process was incomplete for those who traveled and many unconsecrated Israelites ate the Passover lamb. They broke the rules of the sanctuary (2 Chronicles 30:18-19) and then extended the feast for seven more days. There was great joy in Jerusalem (30:26).

These things were not done in rebellion. Hezekiah humbly prayed asking God to bless those who came from afar with their hearts set on seeking God (30:19). The Lord heard Hezekiah's prayer and pardoned the people (vs. 20). Their technical infractions were overlooked because "...the Lord your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn his face away from you, if you return to him." (30:9).

This does not justify willful disobedience. God demands a faithful heart in worship and when the heart is true, the specifics fall into place. This is fool-proof for pleasing God because, unlike you and me, God can see the heart.

In their temple service, Nadab and Abihu were not killed for a technical mis-step. As priests under the old law, they knew better and God knew that. Also, God did not zap Uzzah dead for accidentally touching the ark of the covenant. It was for his "irreverence" (the Hebrew word, *'shal,'* in 2 Samuel 6:7 conveys an irreverent or deceitful heart). Uzzah knew better and his heart was not true.

There is no record of God executing anyone, including Ananias and Sapphira, for an accidental or well-intentioned mistake. It takes a rotten spirit, corrupt heart, or outright lies. True worship flows forth from the inside-out. Keeping worship rules and regulations correctly with an impure heart cannot please God. We are called to set our hearts on seeking God (2 Chronicles 30:19) and to worship Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).