

Weatherly Weekly

April 10, 2022

2022 Edition, Number 15

SIN & MY FRIDGE

Michael W. McLemore

I wonder if I could convince you that all you need to know about sin you will find in your refrigerator? Give me a few lines...

SIN IS EASY TO HIDE! Close the door and no one sees it. You don't have to think about it because it's out of view as long as the door stays closed. We have even learned to respect it in others. One of the things you never do when you are guest in someone's home is open a closed door, especially the fridge. It might not be pretty!

SIN BUILDS UP! A condiment here, an expired bottle of milk there, we cram the leftovers into the back. We stack the Tupperware so it doesn't fall over if the door is carelessly opened. Sin gets pushed back, stacked up and forgotten until it collapses under its own weight. Like the mess in the fridge, we sin, then stack up excuses to keep conviction contained. What a mess!

SIN STARTS TO STINK! The leftovers go stale, the containers begin to leak. Worse, unwanted things begin to grow! What could have been

dealt with in an unpleasant but quick moment accrues into an repulsive stew that takes time and effort to scrub up completely. Now, just like the fridge, our heart just stinks!

Convinced? What now? Three things. **Expose it.** Open the door and flood your sin with light. Stop hiding the depth of sin. **Ask for cleansing.** It's not just apologizing for one wrong, but also for the unintended consequences, patterns that have resulted, ways we've grown calloused, and so much more. **Seek a renewed heart.** With compiled sins cleared out of the way and God at work deep in our hearts, we aren't left with resentment over the consequences or shame over needing cleansing.

It begins and ends in the heart. Expose what's wrong, stop hiding it, then ask for God's thorough cleansing. He's faithful and able to renew you – "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness," *1 John 1:9*. □

Advocates for Justice

Michael W. McLemore

After the end of the Second World War in 1945, the Austrian artist named Ivo Saliger conceived a large and impressive etching he deemed "Justice." He went so far as to include the characteristic American copyright 'c' within the etching to the lower right. His thought was that the great many Americans stationed in Germany and Austria at this time and the post war trials at Nuremberg would insure justice against his adversaries.

Advocacy is clearly seen in "Justice" where an advocate steadfastly and mercifully defends his frightful and helpless client who is threatened by the mob before them. This is brilliantly portrayed by the clenched hands and pointing fingers in the foreground. Behind them looms the giant figure of justice with her familiar symbols of the scales, the sword and the blindfold.

The Bible parable of the importunate widow, forever etched into the mind of every NT Christian, is about persistent prayer – "And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart," *Luke 18:1*. Jesus uses a real-world illustration to emphasize an attribute of God that Christians would do well to emulate – Advocacy. Is not God more responsive than a cynical unbelieving judge?

A widow had been wronged. She keeps appealing to an unjust judge, "Give me justice against my adversary," *3*. An unrighteous judge, out for himself and no other, was her sole available resource. She wants an advocate in her case. Her boresome appeals eventually become weariness to the contemptuous magistrate and sheer exhaustion with her dogged demands bear her desired result. He gives in, does

the right thing, and advocates for her. The Lord's point, of course, is that God is not an unjust but a just Judge. How much more should we keep praying to him? He will be just. He will be our advocate.

This important attribute of mercy should be apparent to the careful reader. We are invited to persistently pray to the one true God who will faithfully and mercifully embrace the role of our advocate.

The parable implies the advocacy that must necessarily be asserted on behalf of powerless people. We all have suffered wrong. We also know someone who needs and deserves justice. The word "justice" appears four times in the parable. Justice is the very thing Jesus makes prominent. He gives no hint that the widow was at fault. She needed an advocate.

God does not merely intimate advocacy in a single parable among many. Christ came to earth to model it – "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous," *1 John 2:1*. Advocate is a prominent NT word (Grk *parakletos*) meaning "to come along

side." In the matter of sin God sent His Son along side to advocate in our case. He has called us to follow His lead in coming along side our brother in his most vulnerable moment to "bear one another's burden," *Galatians 6:1-2*.

Saliger's etching turns the abstract ideal of justice and advocacy into a practical reality for an accused person when everything is on the line. To hold back from advocacy, to keep a low profile until the storm blows over, to keep quiet, to adopt a "wait and see" neutrality when an accused person justly needs courageous advocacy—to stand by in silence when we could make a real difference for a person under fire is cowardice. □



Watch LIVE!

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



We're Back TONIGHT at 6!

FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

The son of our **Maragem Harbin** and brother of **Jimmy, Raymond Harbin**, fell at home last week and sustained several contusions. He was hospitalized as a result. Most of concern is the diagnosis of dementia. Please pray for Raymond and for his family.

We are continuing to remember **the Jacks'** grandson, **Owen**, in prayer as he recovers from his recent surgery. He is progressing.

Mackenzie Steele, granddaughter of **Cathy & Gene Preston** continues to have a need for or prayers. We will pass additional information as it becomes available. Most of you are aware that Gene & Cathy are in the process of relocating to the Athens area.

Ciera Elledge, granddaughter of **Will & Sa-**

Sam Holland Baptized

Friday afternoon **Samuel "Sam" Holland** was baptized into Christ by his father, **Nick**. A small group of family and friends looked on with pride and rejoiced in Sam's courageous decision. It has been our great privilege to watch Sam grow to be a wonderful example of faithfulness and devotion. Please keep him in your prayers. We expect great things from him in life. FYI: Sam told his mom and dad that we wanted to be baptized at Weatherly.

rah Starks is wrestling the ordeal of cancer treatment. Please say his name to the Lord as you pray daily. This is a difficult time.

Zoila Herring, **Mechi Hunt's** sister, continues to have an interest in our daily supplications on her behalf.

Pray for those who are in assisted living facilities and memory care — **Laura Phillips, Jim Risner, & Lane Roberts**. ☐



Daily Prayer List:

Glenda Cavender **Melvin Godette**
Laura Phillips **Ron Harmon**
Charlotte Hagewood **Lane Roberts**
Bill Reavis

TODAY AT WEATHERLY

Sunday morning Bible Class begins at 9:30. Today **Mike** is beginning a study of **2 Timothy** — Fulfill Your Ministry.

Sunday morning worship begins promptly at 10. **Mike** is continuing his series — **Lessons from Jesus' Last Week**. His lesson today is titled **Betrayed** from **Luke 22:1-6**.

Sunday evening worship begins at 6. We're happy to report that our attendance last week was beyond expectations. It was really great to see so many little ones on the front seat for **Bible Skillz!**

Wednesday **Mike's** class will continue the study of **2 Timothy**. We meet at 7 pm. ☐

Palm Sunday

Michael W. McLemore

Today is embraced as Palm Sunday around the world. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem the week He was crucified, he rode on a donkey to a kingly welcome from his supporters and a baffled distaste from the powers of that era. That distaste was already metastasizing into the violent hatred that would scream for His blood days later.

Palm Sunday is for acknowledging both of those truths about our hearts — the unaffected joy they pour fourth when at last they see righteous leadership coming, and the fearful rage with which we reject that joy when its new kingdom threatens our own self-importance.

Palm Sunday is a day for affirming that the inestimable dignity of the human person puts the so-called nobility of the world to shame. The donkey was a symbol of abasement. He rode no mighty steed. He came not in a kingly chariot. The powerful assailed while the weak lauded praise.

Palm Sunday appealed to the common, the simple. It is not the global elite that God exalts. The humble are called and will live with Him. The kings of this world will wither like grass. But your king is mighty to save.

Palm Sunday will forever invite reflection in those who adore Him. Reflect! Reaffirm! Rejoice! ☐

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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 am
 Sunday AM Assembly 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Assembly 6:00 pm
 Wednesday Classes 7:00 pm

Stay informed and engaged online at
www.weatherlychurch.com

WATCH:

 Sermon archive or live stream during all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

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Will Starks 256 883-5273

Evangelist

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Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough **Steve Hagewood**
Kirk Hatcher **David Jacks**
Hill Roberts **Collis Terry**
Bobby Wright

Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, April 10

Welcome: **Will Starks**
 Song Leader: **David Jacks**
 Opening Prayer: **Marty Hunt**
 Lord's Table Lead: **Phil Furlough**
 Luke 22:1-6
 Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
 Betrayed!
 Closing Prayer: **Adam Hagewood**

Sunday, April 17

Tommy Hill
Hill Roberts
Alex Thompson
Bill Thompson
 Luke 24:1-12
Mike McLemore
 He is Not Here!
Riley Monroe

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz **Mike McLemore**
 Songs Leader: **David Jacks**
 Opening Prayer: **W.D. Patrick**
 Closing Prayer: **Ron Harmon**

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore
Hill Roberts
Ed Dill
Dwight Ivey

Wednesday, April 13

Songs Leader: **Hill Roberts**
 Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
 Closing Prayer: **Collis Terry**

Wednesday, April 20

Phil Furlough
Mike McLemore
David Jacks

2022 Lectures TBA

Quarterly Adult Classes March — June 2022

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
 Fulfill Your Ministry
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
 Second Timothy
Mike McLemore

Serving in April

Serving on the Lord's Table AM & PM
**** Overseer**

**** Collis Terry (4-3), Phil Furlough (4-10), Bill Thompson (4-17), Phil Shaver (4-24)**

Communion Prep
 Building Lockup

Phil Furlough

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



4-13	Sherrie Stovall	4-18	Peggy Monroe
4-20	John Stokes	4-21	Charley Carter
4-21	Dianne Dill	4-21	Mechi Hunt
4-23	David Jacks	4-25	Sue Terry
4-27	Lauren Thompson	4-29	Harrison Smith

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WEEKLY WALK

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