

The Ungrateful Beggar J.C. Choate

The story is told of a traveler in India who, as he was walking along, came to a jungle area. On spotting a nice shade tree, he decided to lie down to rest for awhile. A beggar came along and asked this traveler for some help. Having seven coins tied up in a handkerchief, he had pity on the beggar, unwrapped the coins, and gave him six of them. All agree that the traveler was more than kind in giving away six of the coins, and keeping only one for himself. Surely he was thinking more of this poor man's needs than of his own. But this is not the end of the story: The beggar went a distance and waited for the traveler to go to sleep. Then he slipped back and took the seventh coin. We would cry out our disapproval of the beggar's actions. Instead of being thankful for the six coins he received, he was not satisfied until he had taken the seventh one also. How terrible! "How sad," we would say, "that anyone could be so ungrateful!" Surely we would not be able to find a kind word to say about the beggar in this case.

While condemning the beggar for being such an ingrate, are we not like him in the things we do? God has been so good and gracious to us! He has given us six days a week to work and to take care of all our needs (Eph. 4:28). Surely this ought to be enough. As for Himself, he has kept back only one day (Rev. 1:10). This is the day that He has set aside for us to worship Him (Acts 20:7). But what do we do? We take that day also as a work day, a day to visit, a day of recreation, or a day to do whatever WE want to do. Often we do not even give a part of it to Him. We don't even take the time to worship. After the Lord has done so much for us, it is hard to believe that we would do Him this way; but some do nevertheless. If He were asking for six days and giving us only one, such actions might be a little more understandable(?); but this is not the case. How long will we conduct ourselves in such a disgraceful manner?

But that is not all! Our Father give us all the things that we have (James 1:17). He blesses us spiritually, but He also blesses us materially (Eph. 1:3; Matt. 6). We don't deserve so much, but He continues to shower His blessings upon us anyway. Now what does He ask in return? Ninety percent of what we earn? Fifty percent? Twenty percent? He doesn't even state ten percent: Rather, he leaves it up to us to decide what we will give Him. The only guideline He has, is that we should give "as we have been prospered," as we have "purposed" in our hearts, and that it should be done "cheerfully" (I Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7). But what do we do in response to this? We not only keep our part, but the Lord's part also! We use it all on ourselves--and then offer excuses to the Lord that we would give something to Him, but it is all used up! Then if that were not enough, we go on and ask the Lord to continue to bless us--and actually expect Him to do so! If this is not mockery, then what would be? How ungrateful can people be?

May God help us to realize that we re-enact the story of the traveler and the beggar again and again. We can see the beggar's sin: we need now to see ours. Surely we can do better than this. Let's allow this story to give us determination to do better. We can and we must if we are going to be the kind of people God wants us to be. Let's be grateful for what has been give to us, and not rob our Father of that which belongs to Him.

Remember in Prayer

Betty Pierce is now at home.
Sam Swiney is at home but continues to be very ill.
Katherine Richardson (friend of Glenda Terry) is at Baptist Medical Center in room 4136.

Please continue to remember in prayer **Greg Englebert** and **Tera Harden**. Both came forward on Sunday, asking for prayers. We are thankful for their decisions.

Shut In

Maude Bell - PO Box 303, Adamsville, AL 35005.
Theola Brown - 206 10th Ave. SW, Graysville, AL 35073.
Ruby Glidewell - 120 Windsor Circle N, Graysville, AL 35073.
Ruth Parsons - 5300 Hazelwood Rd., Adamsville, AL 35005.
Bernice Snow - Adams House 5017 King Dr., Adamsville, AL 35005.
Glenn Terry - Adams House 5017 King Dr. Adamsville, AL 35005.

Franklin Camp Scholarship Fund

In memory of **Earl Martin**
by
Eulan & Robbie McCaleb

Wednesday Night Summer Series

Our **Wednesday Night Summer Series**, "Voices from the Past" continues thru August. We are viewing sermons presented by godly men who have since passed from this life unto their reward. The work of these great men still lives on today through the material which they wrote and through their sermons that were recorded. Please make plans to attend every Wednesday evening this summer as we study together.

August 12th
August 19th
August 26th

Hugo McCord -- Psalm 3 – The Morning Prayer
Bobby Duncan -- The Price of Our Redemption
Franklin Camp -- God is On HIS Throne

Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 11-14 -- Gospel Meeting: **Curtis A. Cates**
Oct. 17 -- Family Fun Day @ Tannehill
Dec. 31 -- New Year's Eve Singing

**Adams House Devo will be
Sunday @ 2:00 PM**

Youth Notes

Monday Night Meditation will meet each Monday at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall.



Lads to Leaders Leaderettes

We will Kickoff 2009-2010 year after AM worship services on August 16, 2009. Everyone (even if you are not involved with L/L) is invited to stay for our Lads/Leaders Kickoff. Please bring a covered dish for lunch for you, your family and any visitors that we may have. The themes will be announced, coordinators in each area will be announced and participants will register for the convention. We will have a great fellowship with each other. We continue with this great program with the goal of building godly Leaders and Leaderettes for today and tomorrow.

