



Break My Heart

As I have been studying the story of Jonah there has been a song that I keep hearing in my head. The song is **Break My Heart**. I am not sure that we have sung this song together at Elmwood yet, but it has been one of my favorite songs since I first heard it my freshman year of college. The song is actually a beautiful prayer. Here are the words:

Verse 1:

*Break my heart, dear Lord,
Tear the barriers down,
Show me with, convicting tears,
The glory of Your crown.*

Chorus:

*My heart is hard, my soul so weak
The ways of evil cut so deep
I need You, Lord, to come inside
And gently break my heart.*

Verse 2:

*My sin is great, but I can see,
The glory set for me.
Show me Father, where to start.
And gently break my heart.*

Sometimes our sin runs so deep that we can become callous and numb. I believe Jonah was at this point. I believe his heart was hard, his soul was weak, and the ways of evil truly were cutting deep. When it gets to this point there is only one cure. Jonah needed the Lord to break his heart.

Have you been there? If so, maybe it's time for you to ask the Lord to gently break your heart. ~Gilbert

A Sacrifice

The story of Abraham and Isaac on the mountain for a sacrifice is a powerful one. We join up with Abraham in Genesis 22:1 when God tells him, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." One of the things that I find interesting is that the text does not give us a hint about how Moses is feeling in this text. The text matter-of-factly describes Moses' actions as he carries out the Lord's orders.

And yet, though it is not stated explicitly in the text, we know that Moses must rank this day as one of his least favorite days ever. We know that Isaac is dear to Abraham because God says, "your son Isaac, whom you love," and in verse 12 God tells Abraham, "I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." God, wanting to know that nothing took precedence over God's own self in Abraham's life, asked Abraham to sacrifice that which was the most important thing to him. Well, most important, next to God as it turns out.

What is the thing that you hold to be most important? Could you sacrifice it for God? If your answer is no, how do your priorities need to change? -Phil

Dottie Roberts was in St. Elizabeth Hospital for a few days. She is now at home recuperating....

Steve Cable continues to improve. He was able to worship with us last Sunday!....**Bailey**

Anderson's surgery went well....**Mike Sutherlin**, brother of Greg Sutherlin, already in the hospital (New Jersey) with fungus in the lungs and being treated for cancer, suffered a mini-stroke....

Alberta Cagle, Lorraine Weckerly's mother, is home after 10 days in the hospital, including surgery to remove her gall bladder. Lorraine is staying with her this weekContinue praying for **Elaine Borie, Leon Johnson, Courtney Clingenpeel, Janet LaMothe, Charles Willison, Eugene Zinn, Randi Verett, Jean Stockberger, John Tapscott, Phyllis Kirby, Lance & Lane Pepper, Valley Stockton, Mandy Anderson, Hattie Coffel (now at home), Christi Everett, Dale Kinser, Eileen Richardson, Kaden Koebecke, Amanda Powlen, Julie Lichty, Pat Johnson, Marge Campbell, Irene Sims, Henrietta Frampton, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Eagle Bailey, Minnie Scott, and Irene Fox.**

Serving in our military: **Philip Devine, Mark Wilson, Shawn Wilson, and Ti Draughon.**



Welcome, Carrie!



Caroline Elizabeth (to be called **Carrie**) was born September 12, to Chad & Becky Pitt. She weighed 8 pounds 9 ounces, and measured 20.5 inches long. Mom and baby are now home and were welcomed by big sisters and brother, Annabelle, Evelyn and Spencer. Congratulations, Chad and Becky.



Dear Friends,
Thank you all so much for the cards, the phone calls and the beautiful potted plant from the Elmwood congregation since the loss of my father, Kenneth Clubb. Your outpouring of love and support during this difficult time will never be forgotten.

Sincerely, Kristi Smith



The food pantry is always in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and toilet paper.** Also, **grocery sacks/bags are needed!**

September 14, 2008
Class: 177 Worship: 300
Contribution: \$5,617



"Give us eight weeks and we'll give you a Dynamic Marriage!"

If you could make one change in your marriage for the better, what would it be? Would you like to find a pathway to make that change?

Enroll in the **Dynamic Marriage** class to start on **September 23.** Contact **Bill Bell** at 491-3326 or talk to him at church.



New Addresses

Mark Moore
Harding University
Box 12053
Searcy, AR 72149-2053

Patrick Ruhl
Harding University
Box 13373
Searcy, AR 72149-3373

Cody & Jenny Sipe
1803 Fleming Road
Greensboro, NC 27410



What Kind Are You?

LIFE Groups are up and running and I am excited about the teen study for this semester. We are doing a study called "No Turning Back," based on the life of following Jesus, or discipleship. On Sunday, we began with a study taking a look at what it means to be a disciple and identified three different kinds of disciples. The categories are probably oversimplified, but they are helpful in making us think about our own lives of following Christ. Since not all of our students were able to be at LIFE Group and because I think the descriptions are helpful for adults, too, I have decided to share them here. Young or old, please prayerfully consider the following categories.

The first category is "casual disciple."

- I get excited about church and Bible study, when it's something I like or am interested in.
- I am serious enough about God right now.
- I am not sure I am capable of keeping a commitment to Christ.

If you agree with these statements, you may be a casual disciple, but that is not the end of the world. We are all in a growing situation. Pray that God will help you get what you need to keep growing in your relationship with Him.

The next category is "convinced disciple."

- I have all the right (pat) answers.
- I don't get excited about spiritual things.
- I do lots of "Church" things.
- My life at church and my life in the "real world" aren't exactly the same.

If you relate to these statements, it is possible you are a "convinced disciple" and once again, there is hope because you have begun your life of faith, but there is still more ahead. Ask God to keep revealing Himself and His path for you.

The final category we identified is "committed disciple."

- I have committed my life to Christ.
- I do my best to make Jesus the most important relationship in my life.
- I have paid the price in certain areas to follow Jesus.
- Others can see that I love and follow Christ.
- I know I have not arrived, but make every effort to daily take up my cross and follow Jesus.

Whew, finally made it, huh? Not exactly, reread that last characteristic. We are never done with our growth in Christ...that is, until He calls us home. The life of discipleship is the one that God calls us all to. It is a life of learning and changing, it is a growth process and we are all at different stages. We sometimes even find ourselves in a stage we thought we had "grown past." Keep your eyes on Jesus and ask Him to guide you and fill you every day!

We won't be giving you a recap of each week's LIFE Group lesson, but we do pray you will track along with us as we seek to be able to say, "I'm following Jesus and there's No Turning Back!"

-Lee



for Phil & Katy, September 21

In honor of the recent marriage of **Phil & Katy Travis** and to welcome Katy to Elmwood, Phyllis & Erin Simmerman and Chris & Kelsey Sutherlin are hosting a wedding shower for them at the Simmerman home, 415 Oaklawn Dr., Lafayette, **this Sunday, September 21, from 2:00 until 4:00.** Money for a group gift may be given to Phyllis, Erin, Chris or Kelsey.

Prayer Partners 2008

Do you want to help school-aged students (K-12) grow in Jesus and lean on Him throughout their lives? It's not too late to commit to being a Prayer Partner for one of Elmwood's students. Call Christi Branstetter at 423-5650 for more information.

Hunger Hike 2008

This **Sunday, September 21, Food Finders Food Bank and Lafayette Urban Ministry** hold their annual Hunger Hike event to help feed the hungry. Hikers and their sponsors help meet the needs of hungry families in the Greater Lafayette area. Thousands of low-income families depend upon these programs for food security. Registration is at Riehle Plaza, downtown Lafayette, from 12:30 until 1:30 PM. The 2-mile hike begins on the Wabash Heritage Trail at 2:00 PM. Call the church office for more information and sponsor forms.



Sept. 17, 5:50 PM....Good \$ense Class with Janet Boston

Sept. 17, 7 PM....Bible classes

Sept. 21, 2-4 PM....Wedding shower for Phil & Katy at the Simmermans' home, 415 Oaklawn Dr., Lafayette

Sept. 21, 6 PM....LIFE Groups meet

Sept. 23, 7 PM....Dynamic Marriage course introductory meeting. See Bill or Carol Bell for details.

Read:
 Isaiah 62-66; Psalm 112-119
 Colossians 1-4; 1 Timothy 1-3

2008 Spiritual Adventure


Week 39: September 29-October 5

“Rules” for Holy Living

As I read Paul’s letter to the Colossians I was struck by the contrast between chapters 2 and 3. In chapter 2, Paul reminds us that, in Christ, we are free from LEGALISTIC human regulations. Such regulations are expressed in the NEGATIVE; “Don’t do this, or don’t do that rules.” In chapter 3, Paul lays out rules for holy living and rules for Christian households. The casual reader might ask, “What? More rules!? Wasn’t Paul just condemning legalism in the previous chapter?” But if we look more closely at the rules in chapter 3, they’re expressed, for the most part, in the POSITIVE. For example, “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” The “rules” that Paul lays out in chapter 3 are not so much rules as they are the expressions of love that flow naturally out of the Spirit filled Christian who is striving to be like Jesus. Read chapter 3 again, and as you read, imagine what the church (or Lafayette, or Indiana, or the United States, or the world) would be like if everyone practiced these “rules” for holy living. I like what the author Henry H. Halley wrote:

“Legalists are those people who base their salvation on themselves and what they do – especially their religious behavior – rather than on Christ. Of course, we want to believe all the doctrines correctly and obey all the commandments to our utmost. But if in our own thinking we put too much stress on what we believe or what we do, are we not perilously close to basing our salvation on ourselves? Christ – not a doctrine, not a commandment – is our Savior. He – not I myself – is the basis of my hope. We must not minimize the necessity of believing right doctrines. But after all is said and done, being a Christian is essentially loving Christ, a Person, rather than believing this or that doctrine or obeying this or that commandment or having a particular experience.” -Joe Ruhl

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions
<p>Sunday</p> <p>Worship 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Worship 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Life Groups 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Bill Bell 463-1139</p> <p>Joe Mathews 474-8369</p> <p>Rick Swensen 463-6822</p> <p>Don Vice 471-8653</p> <hr/> <p>Staff</p> <p>Ministers</p> <p>Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652</p> <p>Lee Porter 463-6993</p> <p>Phil Travis 447-2874</p> <p>Office</p> <p>Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874</p> <p>Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874</p>	<p>Kevin Chambers</p> <p>World Christian Broadcasting</p> <p>Anchor Point, Alaska 99536</p> <p>Loren and Penny Hollingsworth</p> <p>Phuket, Thailand 83000</p> <p>E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com</p> <p>Bren and Cheryl White</p> <p>P.O. Box 245</p> <p>New Market, MD 21774</p>
<p>Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.</p>		

 **Elmwood**
 CHURCH OF CHRIST

2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904
 (765) 447-2874 (765) 447-0878 FAX
 E-mail: office@elmwood-church.org
 www.elmwood-church.org

Christian Student Center
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY
 115 Waldron Street
 W. Lafayette, IN 47906

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