

**LEADERSHIP:**

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 Tom Lovelady  
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 Gary Swanner

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Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12 1-2



**When Jesus Singles You Out – Mary**

Not everything Jesus did and said has been recorded for us. “Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written” (Jn 21:25, ESV). So when Biblical authors make effort to record a distinct comment Jesus made about an individual, it is worth our attention. Why did Jesus single them out?

Jesus said of a woman in Matthew 26:10-13 (whom we know to be Mary), “She has done a beautiful thing for me...wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.” It would be hard to draw more attention to Mary than these explicit words by Jesus. Mary had just poured a flask of luxurious ointment on the Lord’s head. What was so special about that? Why was this worth telling the world for ages to come? Was it because it was such an expensive gift? No. Jesus said that “she has done it to prepare me for burial.” Jesus had just told His disciples that He would die. How crushing this would’ve been to Mary! In love, she offered what she could in the moment. With His death imminent, it may have appeared to have been a small or meaningless gesture – but it was “a beautiful thing.” When we love Jesus and desire to please Him, even the small things He appreciates.

*The above article was written by Cooper Atkeson.*

“Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
 The Lord is the everlasting God,  
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
 He does not faint or grow weary;  
 his understanding is unsearchable.  
 He gives power to the faint,  
 and to him who has no might he increases strength.  
 Even youths shall faint and be weary,  
 and young men shall fall exhausted;  
 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
 they shall run and not be weary;  
 they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:28-31, ESV

Given the current situation with the latest Executive Order from Governor Abbott, the ministerial staff and Cheryl are going to be working from their homes. If you need to contact any staff member, please call their cell phones.

If there is a need for food, medications, etc., and a member is unable to get out, please contact either the staff, or one of the elders.

Let us pray for all of the Covid19 victims in the world and pray that all of our brothers and sisters stay safe from this virus. Let's pray especially fervently for all in our congregation who have underlying medical conditions, that they do not catch this virus.

Let's remember all of the health care workers we have in our congregation, and those around the nation and world, who are on the front lines of the pandemic.

Pray for our president, our governor, and all those in authority in our nation, that they will have wisdom from God to make the essential decisions to save lives and restore the health of the country.

### **Youth Reading Challenge:**

Last week: Ephesians (ERV or NLT)

This week: Acts 1-14 (ERV or NLT)

*"They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good for them and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul. This is what the Lord says: As I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them." Jeremiah 32:38-42*

*"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1*

### **Health Updates:**

Please pray for **Garland McConal** as he recovers at home from surgery to repair a broken leg, **Don Taylor** and **Barbara Dodd** as they continue to recover from their knee replacements; **Tara Brubaker**, recovering from hip repair surgery; **Scott Stork** (son of Chuck and a missionary in China), who is having radiation treatments; **Teresa Owens**, (sister-in-law to our Jeanie Haby) and Teresa's parents **Billy and Sarah Lucas**, who have some serious health concerns **John Meadows**, as he recovers at home from several medical issues; **John and Carlla Tittle**, as Carla struggles with ongoing cancer issues, and problems related to treatment; **Dee House**, from Lac Cruces, NM, suffering from heart problems; **Sharon Lawson**, daughter to Gene & Kathy Vance, recovering from back surgery; **Bill Fitch and his wife Peggy**, son and daughter-in-law to Katie Fitch (Bill has a recurrence of cancer, and his wife has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer); **Larry Smith**, friend of the Lovelady family, suffering with colon cancer. **Vida Spangler**, recovering from a broken hip in PRMC, room 391. **Dennis Lange's** daughter-in-law in Houston, recovering from a kidney infection, and his son and daughter-in-law in Albany, NY working on the front lines in the hospital, as well as **Chris Mulliniks'** sister Cindy, a nurse in Tennessee.

Please pray for **Holly Macy, Jordan Barraza, Jim Mays, and LaJean Hendrick**, as they continue their treatments.

Continue to pray for all Riverside family and friends facing health concerns.