



Today's Passage:
Pastor Tony's message is from the Old Testament book,
Joshua 24:14-28

Sermon Notes:

Welcome to the Celebration!



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, April 17, 2016

Vol. 9, Issue 28

Pastoral Pondering

Running in Sin

Recently I laid Salem in his bed around 1p.m. This happens every afternoon. He knows the routine. Lie down and take nap. Get up and play for the rest of the afternoon. As I left the room, I looked at Salem and said, "Please stay in your bed, okay?" He smiled and responded, "Okay." I continued on with my to-do list. It wasn't long before I heard the sound of little toddler feet pattering on the floor above. I could hear Salem rooting through his toy box and pulling out some of his toys. I waited a moment or two and then quietly headed up the stairs.

As I snuck up the stairs, I was found out. I heard those little toddler feet run across the floor, and, with a leap, Salem landed in his bed. When I reached his door I quietly pushed it open. Salem had already covered up and was hiding his face under his blankie. I can remember pulling the same trick when I was little. Obviously Salem wanted me to think, "Hmm... I must have been hearing things, because Salem is in his bed sleeping. He's been here the whole time."

It must be human nature to run when we've done something wrong. I never taught Salem to hide when he disobeyed; however, this was his natural response. It's the same response we have. Our nature tells us, "Run. Hide. Don't show your face," when we are in the wrong.

Consider the first sin of man. After being convinced to eat of the fruit, Genesis tells us Adam and Eve's response to their wrong doing: *"Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden"* (Genesis 3:7-8 ESV).

Adam and Eve covered up with figs. Salem covered up under in his blanket. Then, Adam and Eve, upon hearing the footsteps of the Lord, ran and hid. When I approached Salem's room he heard me. So he ran and leapt into his bed and hid his face.

Let's explore this just a little more.

Sin makes us cover up and/or run away. First, what are ways that we cover up when we are in sin? Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves. We cover with other things. We fake holiness. At church, we act like we have it all together. In front of brothers and sisters we pretend that life in Christ is all good. There's nothing creating a wedge in our relationship with God. We cover up.

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Visitor Card

We'd like to get to know you. Please take a moment to fill out this card then drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

- First-Time Visitor
- Returning Visitor

Name:

Date:

Email:

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How to access the sermon archives:

If you would like a copy of an audio (CD) or video (DVD) of a sermon from our archives (\$2 per copy), please complete the following and drop this card in the wooden offering box near the back of the room. Your order will be available for pick-up at the video booth the following week.

Name:

Sermon Date:

Scripture Passage:

To download sermons for free, go to newlifechristiancommunity.org

Prayer Card

If you are in need of prayer or would like to share a praise report, please share it below then drop this card in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Please check a box below:

- This may be added to our congregation prayer wall
- Share this only with the pastor and elders

Optional:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

If you would like someone to pray with you today, you may come to the front of the church immediately following the service.

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell 715.417.1982
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Greg Mattson 715.417.2444
Rene Milner 715.483.0185

Checkout New Life Online newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

- Events • Sermons Online • Set Lists • The Table • & More

Be sure to tune into our pastors' podcast at the beginning of each week. You can access the podcast through our website, the Table, or the podcast icon on your Wi-Fi enabled Apple device.

This Week's Schedule of Events:

Apr 20 Immerse Family Grp. Studies
6:30 - 7:45 p.m. NLCC Building

Apr 21 Men's Bible Study
Book of Acts
6:30 a.m. at NLCC Building

Apr 21 Women's Bible Study
Book of Hebrews
9:30 a.m. at NLCC Building

Apr 21 Evening GriefShare Mtg.
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Green Room at NLCC Building

Upcoming Potlucks & Meal Teams:

April 17 Meal Team #6
April 24 Meal Team #7
May 1 Potluck Sunday
(Bring your favorite dish to Share)
May 8 Meal Team #1
New meal team rosters available in the kitchen.

April Memory Verse:

1 Peter 2:4-5

"As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (ESV)

Pastoral Pondering

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Others of us skip to step two when we sin, run. We run away from the holiness of God. Going to church on Sunday morning is no longer an option for us. If we come to church we might have to confess what's truly going on. So we run somewhere else on Sunday mornings. Personal devotions go out the window because, when we look in the Scriptures, our transgressions are revealed. We're caught red handed. Fellowship and community cease because we couldn't possibly share the issue with others. We are afraid we'll be judged and condemned. We cover up and we run.

What's a proper response to sin? Simply put, a proper response to sin is the opposite of how Adam and Eve responded.

First, we must expose (confess) our sin. We don't cover up. We confess that we have wronged God and others. We confess that we have fallen short of God's holy standard. We confess we need forgiveness. Jesus made a way for sinners to know God, but to come to God there must be confession that Christ is needed (Romans 10:9). J. C. Ryle said, "Christ is never fully valued, until sin is clearly seen."

Secondly, we need to repent instead of run. Repentance is turning around. It's leaving the hiding place of sin. Our repentance, however, isn't a guarantee that we can do better. Yes, we should strive for holiness, but the repentance we need is a turning around into Christ. The repentance we need is to stop running away from God and run into Jesus. Acts 11:18 put it this way: *"When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, 'Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.'*" The only repentance that leads to life is repentance that confesses I cannot but Jesus Christ has.

Let's not let sin drive us away from God. Sin should drive us to the feet of Jesus where all our guilt and shame is wiped away. Then, in His sufficient forgiveness, there is no reason to hide from God; there is no reason to run from His presence.

Pastor Chandler

Fellowship follows our service every Sunday, along with a great meal.

Please stay and join us!

We are looking for someone willing to make up three more busy bags as well as fill them with the following:



- Christian coloring books or pages
- Crayons
- Color & regular pencils
- Washable fine point color markers

Just a reminder we keep these busy bags for our little ones available by the doors to use during service.

Ministry Directory:

Building & Grounds Ministry - Jim Nelson 651.283.2132 his email: lynnjimnelson@gmail.com

Children's Church Ministry - Cara Gilbertson: 715.755.3517 her email: cara.gilbertson@gmail.com

Children's Nursery Ministry - Sara Fugate: 715.379.8799 her email: fugate.sara@gmail.com

Community Outreach - Phil and Pam Stratmoen: 715.491.5779 email: philstratmoen@gmail.com

Finance Administration - Cory Mattson (Finance Secretary): 715.417.0945 her email: cory79mattson@hotmail.com or Pete Manship (Treasurer): 715.755.3330 his email: pete@pbmpkmanship.com

GriefShare Ministry - Connie Bayle: 715.557.1431 her email: conjoh1@gmail.com

Meal Relief Ministry - Julie Minell: 715.417.1981 her email: mrs.minell@yahoo.com

Missions Outreach - Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661 her email: lrmliner@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration - Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453 her email: djholm@lakeland.ws

Sunday Meal Services - Barb Manship: 612.804.9793 or 715.755.3330 her email: bmanship55@hotmail.com

Transportation Services - Eve Bjork: 715.497.6418 her email: sofiesydney@yahoo.com or Art Behr: 715.220.6882 his email: behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry - Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172 his email: jmabee@centurytel.net

Youth Group Ministry - Pastor Chandler Wiley: 815.575.6122 his email: pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Announcements/Upcoming Events:

When it comes to our Children!



With all the construction going on in the entry way - we are asking people to be extra careful. Please help us keep our kiddos safe by keeping them from running in and out of the construction area.



"Caring and Sharing through Food"

Home & Away Ministries Ctr, 210 Park Ave E, Luck

Tuesday, April 19th 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

\$20 cash donation

IMPORTANT: Bring 2 laundry baskets/boxes to carry food.

Please consider collecting food for someone else in need.



Save the date and spread the word about **AN EVENING OF IMPROV** by The Knights of Improv! Special guest appearances by Pastors, Tony Minell and Chandler Wiley. This event is a free will donation fundraiser for Child Evangelism Fellowship's summer ministries. Friday, May 13th at New Life's Building and Saturday, May 14 at Crosswalk Community Church in Frederic. 7:30 p.m.



Joyful Noise 2016 presented by Ministry Partner Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities will be June 3 and 4 at the National Sports Center in Blaine.

Tickets are on sale at the low price of \$55 for both days (plus fees) of the festival, \$40 for just Saturday, or \$35 for just Friday right now, but don't wait. It's almost sold out. Ticket prices will rise on April 30 unless there is a sellout. Call 651.631.5151 to order tickets by phone.

Gates open at 10 am. Saturday also features an inflatable toys field from 10 am to 6 pm. Concerts will end around 10 pm each night.