



The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL
JUNE 2021 – VOLUME 62 NUMBER 9

PASTOR'S PEN *(Please note that words, sentences and scriptures that are highlighted and underlined are links you can click on to get more information.)*

Recently, Naomi Osaka (a Japanese/Haitian woman who identifies as being Black), the second ranked woman in the world in tennis, made the statement that she would not do post tennis match press conferences for the French Open tennis tournament until she has completed the tournament. Her reasoning was that she struggles with depression and some mental health issues and the break from the press was warranted. She wanted to use her non-match time to regroup mentally and prepare for her next match. She was one of the favorites to win the tournament. However, after winning her first match and following through on what she had stated the French Open executives fined Osaka \$15,000, with more fines and penalties to come if she continued to refuse to do the post-match press conference. [Osaka, decided to withdraw from the tournament and to pause her competing in tennis tournaments indefinitely.](#) Her doing this was not to be arrogant or a prima donna. Her desire was to not be distracted from the tournament and to do what she felt she needed to for her own mental health and wellbeing. Some are critical of her position. I feel hurt and sympathy for her as she works through her struggle.

There are so many significant angles to this story that cannot all be covered in this Pastor's Pen. But let me share a couple that I believe are interwoven. Regardless of what a person does professionally, or in any other aspect of their lives, they are still human beings who struggle with personal issues as may any other human being. Just because they may be in the public light does not mean they don't have challenges that can be difficult to manage. We often don't give people the grace to be human.

There is another part that comes into play as well. Many people look at athletes when engaged in their sport as their "entertainers on demand." In other words, there is an expectation for athletes to do what their audience insists on them doing regardless of the physical and emotional sacrifice, or they will suffer from the audience's wrath and punishment. These athletes are seen as inhuman objects, or circus animals that must perform or else! The feeling to me is that they are looked at like gladiators who fight to the death in the Roman Colosseum, or worse, enslaved people who were made to serve, sing, dance or entertain in other ways for the "masters" and their guests. I have felt that way watching the reaction of "fans" at various sporting events. These rabid fans feel a sense of entitlement because they paid for a "show" and they want it regardless of the physical and emotional collateral. That is why there would be those who are critical of the position Naomi Osaka has taken. This is not the only case. [Star basketball players Kyrie Irving had a bottle thrown at him,](#) [Russell Westbrook had popcorn dumped on him,](#) [Trae Young was spat on,](#) and [the family of Memphis Grizzlies star Ja Morant suffered racist verbal abuse.](#) These may seem small in isolation, but it is a pattern that should be unacceptable. This is a part of the sad side of the world in which we live.

Naomi Osaka didn't want to dance to the music because of her concern for her own mental and emotional wellbeing, which she has the responsibility to take care of. I applaud her for having the wisdom and courage to do that even at the risk of loss of income and public ridicule. We, too, must do what is necessary to take care of ourselves even with the disapproval of others. This is God's expectation for these temples God has given to us ([1 Corinthians 3:16 – 17](#)).

Kelly M. Smith Jr., Pastor

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

Meet Disciple Paul Luter

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” ~2 Corinthians 4:7

Submitted by Rev. Joe Ella Darby, Assistant to the Pastor for Discipleship

How did you feel when Pastor Smith intentionally started moving us from membership to discipleship? Did you consider yourself as a disciple before this call to discipleship?

I felt good about it and was able to relate to what Pastor was trying to do. As a follower of God, I believe God wants us to be more than a church member. I took what Pastor was doing as him trying to lead us to do more in Christ by being doers of the Word and not just a hearer.

Yes, I did see myself as a disciple. I try to live my life in a way that hopefully people can see that I am a follower of Christ and have a relationship with God.

How have you grown as a disciple since we have made this shift?

The biggest growth is that I've increased my participation in the study of the God's teaching and attendance in Bible study and Sunday school. Pastor showed the importance of making that a priority and a need to do more of this. Pastor Smith stressed the importance of me as a leader leading by example and that meant I should lead in my attendance in Bible study and tithing.

One major milestone in my discipleship journey was participating in our international mission trip to Tanzania. I never thought that I could be capable of such a task. I never felt like I could go and spread the gospel as I did. God gave me the courage to step out and let His will be done. It wasn't me; it was God because I didn't think I had it in me. I took a risk in being open and letting God use me. Yes, I was able to use my professional gifts of helping to plan and oversee the logistics and finances but teaching a Bible lesson and praying for others were so out of my comfort zone. But it was a joy to see how God used me when I didn't see that in myself.

As a retiree, how do you find ways to continue intentionally living out your discipleship? What are some spiritual practices that you enjoy?

As a retiree, I have more time to devote to the church and our mission. I receive a great sense of joy from being able to do more for God and from helping others. The spiritual practice I enjoy most is being able to assist where needed and serving others in the ministry. I'm happy to have the time to serve.

How would you encourage others in their discipleship journey?

I would encourage others to get out of their comfort zone and let God move according to His will. Be open to God and just let God use you.

A few lyrics from “Use Me” by Ron Kenoly. May it become our response to God's grace in our lives.

If You can use anything Lord You can use me
 If You can use anything Lord You can use me
 Take my hands, Lord and my feet
 Touch my heart, Lord and speak through me
 If You can use anything Lord You can use me

Lord, You called Moses from the wilderness and You put a rod in his hand; You used him to lead Your people over to the Promised Land; Lord, I'm willing to trust in You so take my life Lord and use it too; Yes, if You can use anything Lord come on and use me

When David fought Goliath and that mighty giant fell He proved to his people that God was alive in Israel Lord, I'm available to You and I'm waiting to be used Yes I am, Lord if You can use anything Lord Come on and use me take my hands and my feet Touch my heart, speak through me

If You can use anything Lord You can use me

JUNE NEWS AND EVENTS

*Beginning Sunday, June 6, 2021, we will have weekly in-person Sunday Morning Worship Service in our sanctuary! We ask that you wear masks and practice social distancing while in the building. We will continue to offer our online worship experience as well for those who prefer that option. Either way, we look forward to you joining us!!



“We would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to our First Baptist Church family for your prayers, calls, cards, and acts of kindness extended to our family during the health challenges of Sheldon and Robert.

Your compassion and generosity have been a great comfort to each one of us”.

*The Greene Family
Sheldon, Anita, Robert*

Deacons of the Week for June 2021		
Week of	Deacon	Phone#
6 th	Pamela Wood	(615) 259-0623
13 th	Carol Boone	(615) 851-1527
20 th	Derek Howard	(615) 318-6469
27 th	Martin Currie	(615) 832-9662

**First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill, a Torch History Series:
(Part IV-final)**

*The Story of the Love and Dedication of Jane Elizabeth Watkins Napier (1825-1909)—A Brave,
Determined Free Negro Mother who refused to Leave Her Children Uneducated . . .*

Just prior to Gov. Isham G. Harris committing treason and declaring Tennessee “independence”[Secession] by June 22, Jane Elizabeth Watkins wisely slipped out of Ohio and brought her three children home to Nashville. (July 30, 1861) “Jane E. Watkins and W. C. Napier” acquired a Davidson County (TN) marriage certificate. Even though high school-educated in Ohio, James Carroll Napier went to work in his father’s hack and carriage businesses. (Feb. 15, 1862) the Union Army of the Ohio soundly defeated Rebel Gov. Isham G. Harris and Jefferson Davis’ Confederate Army of the Tennessee at Fort Donelson. (Feb. 23) 17-year-old James Carroll was the driver of W. C. Napier Co.’s finest carriage that transported Mayor R. B. Cheatham and officials down Broad St. to row across the Cumberland to Edgefield (East Nashville) and surrender the city to Gen. Ulysses Grant’s victorious Union Army.

Old slave master William E. Watkins was on his dying bed. (Nov. 3) To complete preparations for the pending battle of Murfreesboro and the construction of Fort Negley and other fortification, the Union army impressed 32 of Watkins’ ablest slaves, leaving 15 mostly women and children workers including Rachael and her three children; John, Jane and Milly, and other slaves: Ellen, Nancy, Sarah, Felix, Mag, George, Alfred, David, Milly and Rob. (Nov. 7) Alfred was taken “for federal [labor battalion] service.” The Union Navy bombarded Watkins buildings as target practice. Watkins slaves gladly helped the Union cavalry’s foraging parties find supplies hidden on the properties. They told Union soldiers that Dr. William J. Bass, a Watkins relative by marriage, was home on furlough from the Rebel army. Federal soldiers killed Dr. Bass as he fled his hiding place at the nearby Belle Meade mansion. The Union Army headquarters at Nashville recruited William C. Napier twice to act as a white man, visiting and taking homemade supplies to his white Napier relatives in the Rebel army camps poised near Murfreesboro. William’s crucial intelligence and that of several other Negro men and women spies helped Gen. W. S. Rosecrans’ Union Army of the Ohio know precisely where and how the Rebel army divisions were arranged near the Stones River battlefield. (Dec. 31, 1862-Jan. 3, 1863) The Union won the victorious battle. Meanwhile, Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, Jan. 1, 1863, exempted Tennessee; nonetheless, thousands of enslaved Negroes began leaving the farms and plantations.

Nashville’s Negro population increased from less than 4,000 in 1860 to some 12,000 by 1865. (March 5, 1865) Tennessee approved amendments to the 1835 state constitution to abolish Slavery. (December 18, 1865) The Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution abolished Slavery throughout the nation.

After the 1864 death of William E. Watkins, Jane Elizabeth's white brother sued her for return of all the money "loaned to her by their father." The pro-Union courts ruled in Jane Elizabeth's favor. J. C. Napier returned to biracial Oberlin College as did his sister Ida who studied music. (1872) Under the founding law school Dean John Mercer Langston (d. 1897), J. C. Napier completed a law degree at Howard University, became a lawyer, businessman, politician, and city councilman (1878). He immediately caught the trains to DC to marry Dean Langston's daughter—Nettie DeElla Langston (1861- 1938). After William's death (1895), Jane Elizabeth lived in St. Louis with her daughter Ida Morton Napier, who was married to Dean Langston's son, Arthur Langston. Jane Elizabeth and W. C. Napier's son, James Carroll Napier became Register of the Treasure under President William H. Raft (R)—the only Tennesseans to hold the position (1912-1914) with the treasurer's name inscribed on the US dollar bills (see display at TSU Library). Her son, James, was a member of Phi Sigma Phi (Boule') Beta Chapter (1912-) and a founding member of the Nashville NAACP (1919-). Jane Elizabeth' death was honored by Nashvillians; the Rev. R. H. Boyd eulogized her funeral. Jane Elizabeth Watkins and William C. Napier; Arthur and Ida M. Langston; James and Nettie Napier and their adopted daughter Carrie Langston Napier, and other Napier-Langston members of that famous "aristocrat of color" family are inconspicuously interred in the prominent front southeast section at the Greenwood Cemetery (1887-) on Elm Hill Pike, where the Rev. Kelly Miller Smith Sr. of First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill, is buried. End of story.

Submitted by Bobby L. Lovett, Ph.D., historian, all copyrights reserved (2021-).

Benefits for Landlords Who Accept Housing Subsidies

Are you a Davidson County landlord interested in learning about the benefits of housing subsidies?

Metro government in partnership with United Way has established a Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund for landlords who accept housing subsidies and agree to enter one-year leases with tenants who transition out of homelessness.

Purpose

The Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund aims to incentivize landlords who accept housing subsidies from people who transition from homelessness to permanent housing. Those housing subsidies include rent assistance through Rapid Re-Housing programs or housing vouchers including Section 8, Shelter Plus Care, and VASH.

Nashville-Davidson County is about to receive additional emergency housing vouchers through the American Rescue Plan. With these additional funds, Nashville expects to have an estimated 500+ vouchers available for landlords to use during 2021. These housing vouchers will significantly reduce Nashville's homeless population.

The goal of the Metro Homeless Impact Division, which serves as the coordinating entity to administer the Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund, is to ensure that landlords have the support they need to utilize the funds, provide housing to people in need, and receive incentives to partner with the service provider community to end homelessness for 500+ people within the next 12 months.

Incentives

Participating landlords will be eligible to apply for rent loss during a turn-over should a tenant exit the lease agreement early. In addition, the Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund will also provide up to \$1,000 in additional damage coverage beyond the security deposit.

Maximum claim amounts per landlord per year depend on the amount of units a landlord owns:

- Up to 10 units: \$5,000
- 11-50 units: \$7,500
- 50+ units: \$10,000

LANDLORD RISK MITIGATION FUND BENEFITS

Move-in costs including first month rent, security & utility deposits

Support services for tenants from area nonprofits

Rent coverage of up to two months (not to exceed \$2,000) to hold a unit during turn-over

Up to \$1,000 in damages above security deposit

Filling units with traditionally high turn-overs

Assistance to advertise unit with THDA's housing search website

Landlord information phone line: 615-800-0195

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL DEON.TROTTER@NASHVILLE.GOV



Prayer Request/Sick & Shut-in List

In order to keep our prayer list current, please let the church office know if you (or someone you know) have changed address or if someone should be added to or removed from the prayer list.

Deacon Richard Dinkins
Sis. Jan Jones Carter
Sis. Rosa Mimms
Major Alicia R. Bodie

Sis. Elizabeth Backus
Wesley Common
1110 Marshall Road #6220
Greenwood, SC 29646

Bro. Derrick McDaniel
Good Samaritan Health & Rehab
500 Hickory Hollow Terrace
Antioch, TN 37013

Sis. Rose McDonald
111 N. Carolina Ave. #204
Lexington, NC 27292

Sis. Maggie Roper
Green Hills Health &
Rehab
3939 Hillsboro Circle
Nashville, TN 37215

Sis. Leslie Williams
2929 Old Franklin Rd
Nashville, TN 37013

B I R T H D A Y S

JUNE

4 Imani Byrd
5 Kyndal Christion
6 Anaya Campbell
11 Breneatha Demonbreum
Courtney Greene
Weldon B. Kidd
15 Jamar Ritch
Samuel L. Robinson
Joy M. Sims
18 Desiree' Robertson
Da'Kari Shyes
19 Jewel Burks Solomon
20 Kerry Schrader
William Webb, IV
21 Ernest C. Rhodes
23 Ryan Gentry
25 Leigh Lovett
Kena M. McDaniel
Kenya McDaniel
Taylor A. Slay
Sandra Weaver
28 Anita Greene
Harley Wood

JULY

1 Darrell Hayes, Jr.
Ruth McGriff
D. J. Woodson
2 Nanette T. Lacey
Aaron Powell, III
4 Torian Young
5 Keven Littleton
6 Herman E. Jackson
Simon E. Morrow
7 Rosetta Perry
8 Crystal Beasley
9 Arrol N. Martin
10 Larry Babb
Gary Rowe
11 Kelly M. Smith Jr.
12 Evelyn P. Fancher
Tanae McKnight
14 Isolina Rankins
15 Tamarah Daniel
Sheila Littleton
17 Maribeth Crutchfield-White
Mona Hayes
20 Keenan J. Robinson
22 Ryann O. King
23 John Alexander
25 Sue Smith
Erma Todd
Robert Wood, II
27 James R. Collier
Ernest E. Dismuke
Benny Perry
Beverly A. Scott
30 Sheldon Greene
31 Harvey Doughty

AUGUST

1 Dorothy Jarrett
2 GERALDEAN JOHNSON
Carl E. Jones, Jr.
Zuri Walker
3 Ilene White
4 Helen Anderson
Robin Battle
Ivan Davis, Sr.
Delores Grimes
Catherine Lovett
5 Augustus Bankhead
6 Paiton Williams
Paris Williams
7 David Jones, Jr.
8 William Baton
9 Gwendolyn Harris
Mary O. Pleas
10 Shirley Bass
11 Joey Faught
12 Danielle Anderson
15 Sharon Dixon Gentry
Brian Jones
Paul Luter
Elisha Richardson
16 Pamela Wood
17 Doris Freeman-Hull
Deborah Howse
18 Sylvia Burton
22 Christopher B. Easley
Shanell McGoy
Randall Washington
24 Monica B. Carter
25 Terrance Hurd
26 Junior Breveard, III
27 Jane G. Fort
Barbara Mines
30 Richard Dinkins
Sherika Webb

Christian Education

June 2021 Readings and Sunday School Lessons

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Why Do You Worry		
Monday, May 31 st	“Worried? Seek God’s Counsel”	1 Samuel 9:5-10
Tuesday, June 1 st	“God Cares for His People”	Ezekiel 34:11-16
Wednesday, June 2 nd	“Rich? Set your Hope on God”	1 Timothy 6:17-19
Thursday, June 3 rd	“Enlarge Your Faith Practices”	Matthew 17:14-20
Friday, June 4 th	“Overcome Worry through Faith”	Luke 12:22-34
Saturday, June 5 th	“Serve God with Your Whole Heart”	Matthew 6:19-24
Sunday, June 6 th	“Live Worry-free Every Day”	Matthew 6:25-34
Adult: No Worries	Youth: Keep Calm and Carry On	Children: Why Worry?
Why Are You Afraid?		
Monday, June 7 th	“Do Not Fear the Storm”	Mark 4:35-41
Tuesday, June 8 th	“Do Not Fear Persecution”	Matthew 24:9-14
Wednesday, June 9 th	“No Separation from God’s Love”	Romans 8:31-39
Thursday, June 10 th	“I Have Overcome the World”	John 16:25-33
Friday, June 11 th	“Choose to Follow Me Now”	Matthew 8:18-22
Saturday, June 12 th	“Jesus Delivers the Demon-possessed”	Matthew 8:28-34
Sunday, June 13 th	“Jesus Stills the Stormy Sea”	Matthew 8:23-27
Adult: Calming the Storm	Youth: It’s Only a Storm	Children: Stay Calm
Healed By Faith		
Monday, June 14 th	“The Fringe Aid to Remember God’s Commandments”	Numbers 15:37-41
Tuesday, June 15 th	“Disciples and Family Witness Girl’s Healing”	Luke 8:40-42a, 49-56
Wednesday, June 16 th	“A Woman Testifies to Jesus’ Healing Touch”	Luke 8:42b-48
Thursday, June 17 th	“Jesus Opens the Eyes of a Blind Man”	Matthew 9:27-31
Friday, June 18 th	“Jesus Restores Speech to a Mute Man”	Matthew 9:32-34
Saturday, June 19 th	“Join the Lord’s Harvest Today”	Matthew 9:35-10:1
Sunday, June 20 th	“Faith in God Heals Many Ills”	Matthew 9:18-26
Adult: A Healing Touch	Youth: Just Believe	Children: A Fresh Start
Lydia Called to Serve		
Monday, June 21 st	“Let’s Sing of the Lord’s Faithfulness”	Isaiah 38:16-20
Tuesday, June 22 nd	“The Baptist Dies for the Faith”	Matthew 14:1-12
Wednesday, June 23 rd	“The Crowds Anger Is Satisfied”	Matthew 14:13-21
Thursday, June 24 th	“Believe the One Sent to You”	John 6:22-29
Friday, June 25 th	“The Sick Are Healed”	Matthew 14:34-36
Saturday, June 26 th	“Speak Confidently to Civil Authorities”	Mark 13:9-12
Sunday, June 27 th	“Savior of the Fearful, Doubter, Needy”	Matthew 14:22-23
Adult: An Amazing Feat	Youth: No Need To Worry	Children: Why Do You Doubt?
An Attitude of Gratitude		
Monday, June 28 th	“God Welcomes Foreigners”	Isaiah 56:1-8
Tuesday, June 29 th	“Naomi’s Sorrow Turns to Joy”	Ruth 4:3-6, 13-15
Wednesday, June 30 th	“Symptoms and Treatment of Leprosy”	Leviticus 13:1-8

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

Sermon Digests

April
18

“The Blessing in Waiting”

Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.
Psalm 130:5-6

Submitted by: Kathy Harrell

So much of this past year has been spent “waiting”. Although waiting has been something we have done all of our lives, it was brought to a new level in this past year. We have grown tired and weary of waiting!

The blessing is **IN** the waiting, not the blessing **of** waiting, for not all waiting is a blessing. Waiting, being patient, is a virtue. Many scriptures in the Psalms tell of the importance of waiting on the Lord. Often, people took matters into their own hands trying to get ahead of God instead of waiting on Him.

How can we see the blessing in waiting?

Point 1- There is the blessing in waiting when it is a testimony to our faith.

We often thank God for hearing our prayers and not holding against us some of the troubles we have gotten ourselves in to. We must learn that shifting from prayers to testimonies of faith will help us commit ourselves to the Lord. The blessing of our faith testimonies means that we allow ‘The Lord’ to be our master. In waiting, we will still follow The Lord and let Him direct our paths in His own way and His own time.

Point 2-There is the blessing in waiting when it gives us discipline.

It is not enough to just say with our words that we will wait on the Lord. We must repeat it in our minds until it we feel it in our souls. Repetition leads to discipline. If we do not internalize the message of ‘waiting’, we tend to slip back to our habits of trying to take control. When we wait for the Lord, we live our lives with everything in us that compels us to patiently on the Lord.

Point 3- There is the blessing in our waiting when we anticipate the morning.

Many of us have been long suffering with life and life’s issues, either with our finances, relationships, or our physical and emotional health. We are waiting for the morning. Morning symbolizes a ‘fresh start’ from issues we had the night before. We wait for the morning hoping that things will be changed for the better. We look for God in our morning. Remember, it was morning when the women realized that Jesus was resurrected!

‘Morning by morning, new mercies I see’!

April
25

“Finding Our Way”

Pastor Kelly Smith, Jr.
Psalm 25:4-5

Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown

Psalm 25:4-5 “Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope in in you all day long”. David shows us that this is the prayer of a man who had long loved and served God.

Pastor Smith prodded those present and watching online that God/Christ Jesus’ people cannot get be a successful society without Him guiding and directing our paths. Society has lost its way whether it is with police killings, those refusing to social distance, those willing to compromise their standards, and those who fear the consequence of speaking out; can all be barriers for a successful outcome.

God/Christ Jesus’ people are to allow His principles to guide and direct one’s path during struggling times that all humankind will experience at some point and time in life and living. He can help each of His children to find their way. The three (3) major points are as follows:

Point 1-You must want to find your way: When we mess up or mess comes our way, we must pray, seek His guidance or counsel for strength, no matter what is happening in one’s life.

Point 2-Choose humility as our way. This is not a weakness; but it can be a sign of control of self and an appearance of being powerful. It can demonstrate being foundationally grounded, not self-promoting and arrogant. Always seek God’s counsel to help and direct decisions and actions in advance preferably. God/Christ Jesus promotes equality and fairness for all of His people.

Point 3-Having God in the center of our way. God/Christ Jesus is to be our pilot and human beings need to get and stay out of His way. We are to ask Him to teach and show us His way; constantly seeking for Him to be our center which shows us our way in how to follow His plans for each individual’s life. Our hope is to always be in God/Christ Jesus, and He will never fail to guide us in the right direction.

Amen, Amen, & Amen.

“The Requirement to Bear Fruit”

May
2

Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.
John 15:1-2

Submitted by: Deborah Luter

In the last conversation Jesus has with his disciples in John chapters 13-18 HE does most of the speaking. He tries to solidify his message in the minds of those who have the responsibility for establishing the church. He maintains this theme of building community. Disciples of Jesus Christ produce fruit.

What is this fruit? It is to demonstrate the love of God to the community around us. It is to always initiate, act and respond in love.

The challenge for many is that they believe bearing fruit is optional. Producing fruit is NOT optional. My statement does not say disciples of Jesus should produce fruit. Because if you don't produce fruit, you are not a disciple of Christ.

Point 1- In order to bear fruit God gives us essentials.

There are three components of this passage that are essential for bearing fruit. Jesus tells us he is the vine. He tells us that God is the gardener. And we are the branches of the vine. That means we are to be extensions of Jesus Christ.

Point 2- In order to bear fruit God cuts off the unproductive.

What I hear Jesus saying here is we are needed but not necessary. God needs us to bear fruit and to work to advance God's kingdom. But if we are not productive then we are not necessary. And don't think the kingdom cannot survive without you. We should not look at this verse as a word of judgment but a word of guidance.

Point 3- In order to bear fruit God prunes the fruitful.

We have to realize there are some things that we have gotten attached to that we don't want to let go of. But many of these things keep us from being more fruitful. But when God prunes, we develop the capacity to grow.

“A Mother's Request”

May
9

Pastor Kelly Miller Smith Jr.
Matthew 20:20-23

Submitted by: Conra Collier

Mother's Day

In today's scripture, Matthew connects Jesus with the present and Old Testament prophecy. On the day before Palm Sunday, a mother (Salome) requested that her sons be seated at Jesus' right and His left in His kingdom. She was the mother of James and John, possibly Jesus' aunt, and the wife of Zebedee. Jesus questions whether they will drink His cup of suffering. The other disciples were offended by her request. Jesus replied that His Father would determine the answer to Salome's request.

Why should this mother's request not be rebuked?

Point 1- The mother's request came from a good place.

These sons were part of a family fishing business. Jesus called them the "Sons of Thunder" because of their personalities. This mother wanted the best for her sons and requested it. We should watch our motives.

Point 2-A mother's request came from a mindset of reward.

People compete for rewards for good work. Some are part of the inner circle. The Christian faith does not reward, as God gives His grace to all. The desire to serve, not seeking positions, may bring more responsibility.

Point 3-A mother's request came from an eye towards balance.

We seek balance. The Kingdom of Christ may involve suffering and pain, not the hierarchy of earthly kingdoms. We should make a difference for others. Have a reason that pleases God. Be connected with Him and His service.

First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

625 Rosa L. Parks Boulevard at Nelson Merry Street | Nashville, TN 37203

www.firstbaptistcapitolhill.org

Kelly M. Smith Jr., Pastor

Our Mission

First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill is Building, Restoring, and Revitalizing lives through Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

Love God, Make Disciples, Serve Community

Looking for a Church Home?

If you are looking for a church home, we encourage you to come and visit us! There are several ways to become a member of FBCCH.

Baptism - when a person is willing to initially express a belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and is willing to live one's life according to His will. Baptism is the symbolic initiation into the Christian faith.

Christian Experience - when a person who has previously been a member of another church chooses to unite with FBCCH, believing this to be the place for one's spiritual nurturing. These people have already been baptized and have committed a faith relationship with Jesus Christ.

Watchcare - when a person wishes to have his or her membership with FBCCH while he or she is temporarily living in the city.

Associate - when a person who has a membership in another church wishes to have a membership in FBCCH.

Restoration - when a former member chooses to rejoin FBCCH.

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Scheduling Access to Church Buildings

To all groups needing entry and use of the church, sanctuary, and Ennix-Jones Center during the week, please call the church office at 615-255-8757 in advance of your event. This is to ensure personnel are available to allow entry and to have a record for security purposes. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

Please send all electronic correspondence to: fbch13@gmail.com.