

from the battlefield, her sin and the King's sin would have been hid-den, at least from everyone but God. If he had done so the need to have him killed would have disappeared. But he was loyal. Therefore, the sinners won the day.

The lesson is not that we shouldn't be good and loyal because by being good and loyal we are susceptible to the will of evil people. The lesson is that we should be servants of great things even unto death. "Great things" should be defined as the things of God, not things we or others may think are great. Jesus epitomizes this attitude. He served God the Father even to the point of death on the cross (Phil. 2:8; Heb. 5:8,9). His loyalty cost Him dearly, but He went ahead anyway. Had Jesus turned from His duty, all of mankind would have lost. He would have been spared the suffering, but at a horrible cost.

Paul told the Romans that dying for a good man is something some will do, although even those examples are not common (cf. Rom. 5:7). The willingness to give up one's life is something not taken lightly. Jesus, however, didn't die for good men, but for sinners (Rom. 5:8). He died when mankind was at his worst. It wasn't our worth that merited His favor, but our helplessness. Jesus served our needs, because we couldn't provide for ourselves, even when it cost Him the anguish of the cross.

We all treasure our lives and find it almost impossible to think of surrendering it freely for someone or something. But on occasion we see noble examples of people willing to do just

that. What are we willing to die in service towards? Our family, or friends, total strangers, or our God? Dying to self in order to serve God and others is the essence of Christianity. How is your service?

### God Does Not Fix Everyone

by Steve Ridgell



One of my favorite phrases is this: God is the great fixer. I believe that God is the fixer, healer, restorer of broken hearts, shattered relationships, and meaningless lives.

There are wonderful stories you can read in the Bible of David, a man after God's own heart, who battled anger, lust, and pride. Or of Peter, the man who preached the first sermon after Jesus died and was raised. This is the same Peter who two months earlier cried bitterly after he denied knowing Jesus. Have a Christian tell you the story of Legion, the Samaritan woman at the well, Bartimaeus, or the woman caught in adultery.

Today, I know alcoholics made sober, sexually immoral made pure, greedy people made generous, and angry people made sweet. I have seen broken marriages restored, wasted lives given meaning, and people with no hope find purpose. I have seen lonely people find belonging. I have seen the hungry fed, the sick healed, and orphans and widows become part of a family.

God is a great fixer.  
But not always.

Read the story of Cain who murdered his brother and was driven from his family. Or the story of Saul whose arrogance and jealousy caused him to lose his family, his kingdom, and eventually to commit suicide. Learn about the rich young man who left Jesus sad because he valued his money more than God. Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead by God because they lied to Him.

And I know marriages that ended in divorce. I know bitter, angry, hateful people who have no hope. I know alcoholics who have destroyed relationships. I know people who have died all alone. These people knew about God and Jesus. They were not fixed. Every one of those people that God fixed were those that turned to God, cried out to God, begged God to enter their life and do whatever it took to be fixed. And He did.

Every one of those people that were not fixed rejected God, ignored God, turned away from God, or left God. Or they refused to do what God asked of them. So he didn't fix them. So some people God fixes... some He doesn't. What makes the difference? It is a choice. Our choice. He can fix you. I know because He fixed me. It's your choice.

### The last supper surrounded by failure



By J. Randal Matheny

Matthew's gospel frames the last Pass-over with Jesus' predictions of betrayal (Matthew 26:20-25) and denial (vv. 31-35). Just as Paul tells of that last Pass-over and first Supper to teach how to eat at the Lord's table, it seems Matthew does the same. Like Paul's letter, Matthew's narrative warns us against eating unworthily, by showing us others who did.

Judas ate with betrayal in his heart. And maybe even a smile on his face, as he swiped his bread in the dish when Jesus did. For all their bravado and declarations of fidelity, Peter and the other ten broke bread and drank the cup, with doubts eating away at them. Even though the meal is beset with restlessness, Jesus is the calm in the center of the storm.

For those who desire higher salaries and posts, he offers thanks for God's gifts. "Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks he broke it [and] gave it to his disciples" (Matthew 26:26 NET). In the midst of a sinful crew, he offers forgiveness of sin, they among the many. "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, that is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:27c-28).

For those with a troubled present, the Lord speaks of a glorious future. "I tell you, from now on I will not drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matthew 26:29).

For the heavy of heart, Jesus sings a

hymn of praise and celebration. “After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives” (Matthew 26:30). And after prayers, and eating, and singing, he gets up to go do the will of his Father on the Mount of Olives, setting yet another example for the slow-minded.

On every side, men fail. Sleep at the moment of vigilance. Eyelids heavy from weak flesh when a ready spirit is demanded. A false greeting. A treacherous kiss. And though they can swing a sword — which is but another failure — they cannot make the tongue confess their Lord.

But the Lord is steady still. His emotions reel from the task, but his mind is set on the cross. He puts it all in his Father’s hands, and rises to meet the betrayers and accusers. For this has he come. The weakness of his own men is all the more reason to carry through.

He knows that more will eat unworthily at his table. But still he presides. Still he offers the full course of God.

Because he is sure that “the kingdom of God does not consist of food and drink,” nor of ambition and politics and greed and vice, “but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17).



*Our Christmas Dinner is set for December 4, 2011 after Sunday morning Services.*

Prayer List: **Cancer:** Kenneth Dunn; Rhonda Bogus; Rick Campbell; Debbie Boggs; Lowell Crumfield & Barbara Hill; Tammy Hodges; Barbara Francis; Jeff Wiley Hamilton. **Health problems:** Virgil Steele; Donald Rife; Eugene Holdren; Steve and Pam Poorman’s-daughter; Glenna Dempsey; Marlin Harles; Hazel Farr & JR Farr; Jean Walden; Kara Christian; Gary Durham; Rex “Jimmy” Backus; Dosie Branscome & Katie Hensley. Arnold Dempsey; Ken McWilliams; Gene Booth; Wanda Rowe; Diane Haleston; Billy Myers; Zack Holland; Mini Mills; **Strokes:** Richard Clement; Amanda Lance. **Other:** Shelby Lindsey-fibromyalgia; Kyle Hockenberry-recovering from military injuries; Betty Bailey-not eating; Brooke Family, Ken McWilliams friend Wolf - eye problems; Junior Taylor-is not doing well; David Carrico-Leukemia; Lura Durham-dizziness; Ken McWilliams friend Wolfson and his wife were involved in a bad car accident; Shelia Gates-fractured her knee; Robin Hodges; Betty Scott- tests; Hazel Anderson-fluid around her heart; Blake Morris-recovering from Eye surgery; Debra Lagos-issue with her pregnancy; Justin Begil’s nephew Payton –meningitis; Hazel Lowe pneumonia; Steve Mullins-waiting on test results on his heart. Whitney Lockman–health problems; Edna Roberts-tumor on thyroid; Kimberly Redden –Spots on lungs; Christine Asbury-back surgery on November 7; David Allen-surgery on his neck; Barbara VanoverCarr-walking pneumonia; Britney & Caleb Hill –foot and mouth disease; Travis Durham-back problem and pneumonia; Jean Myers-breathing problem; Edsel Forrest-bronchitis; Ethan Oliver-Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. Konner Lively–Mass; Kim Lively-spots on liver; Dominick Collins-blood in his urine. **Alzheimer’s:** Zella England; Mary Lou Thomas, & Leo Hamby. **Nursing home:** Peggy Barie is in the Loving Hands Adult Care; Ethel Pitzer– Country View Assisted Living; Franklin Fletcher **Military:** Zachary McConnell.

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*Services:*  
*Sunday:*  
Bible Study: 9:30 AM  
Worship: 10:30 AM  
Evening: 6:PM  
Wednesday: 6:PM

*Serving Communion:*  
Don Davis  
Don Hill  
Gary Jones

*Attendance:*  
October 30, 2011  
A.M. Worship –39  
P.M. Worship -15  
November 2, 2011  
Wednesday: 14

*Contribution: \$ 449.70*

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*In Search of the Lord’s*  
Way 7:30 am  
INSP Channel

*The Gospel of Christ*  
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# Church of Christ



**Exhorter**  
**November 06, 2011**



## SERVICE UNTO DEATH

By Dennis Curd

A well known story from the Old Testament deals with King David and his sin in the matter of Bathsheba and Uriah (2 Sam. 11). We know a great deal about David, and some about Bathsheba, but little is known about

Bathsheba’s husband, Uriah. We know he was a Hit-tite serving in the army of Israel. We know that his character was exemplary in service to his king and his country. We know that he died in that cause, even when his death was probably avoidable. We see no indication of reluctance or regret in any of his actions.

He served unto death. True, he didn’t know what his wife and his King were doing. He didn’t know of the plot in which David had instructed Joab that led to his death. He only knew his conviction, and he knew the purpose and the value of the warfare in which he was en-gated. His own honesty and integrity led to his death. If he had gone in to his wife when summoned