

Remember Who You Are

If you are familiar with the story *The Lion King*, you know the critical point of Simba's life. He was a young lion cub destined to become the next King. But due to some tragic events, including the death of his father, and the evil influence of his wicked uncle, he had left his homeland to grow up in a distant land. True, it was a land filled with happiness and joy, but there was something missing. It wasn't home. Simba searched and longed for the perfect place to live, the perfect place where he belonged. As time passed, he wrestled with the calling to return to his homeland and become the king he was meant to be. While struggling with that decision, he one day heard the "voice" of his father: "Simba, you have forgotten me. You have forgotten who you are, and so have forgotten me. Look inside yourself, Simba. You are more than what you have become. Remember who you are. You are my son." Remembering that he was the son of the king was the critical turning point in Simba's life, and the future of the pride of lions. He did go back and became what he was meant to become.

Remembering who we are is a critical point in our life, too. As Christians, we are children of the King of kings (Colossians 1: 13). Sometimes events happen to us that influence us to leave our homeland (death of a loved one, accidents, a job change, neglect, lust of wealth, boredom, yielding to sinful lifestyle, divorce, health issues, etc.). Whatever those events may be, the reality is that we are no longer at home, even if we still live at the same address. We may even be in a pig pen. Sometimes we have people to help us come to our senses and return home (like Nala in *The Lion King*). Sometimes we have to come to our senses all by ourselves (like the Prodigal Son in Jesus' parable – Luke 15). Either way, the key to making a good decision about returning home is to remember.

Our lives can get messed up big time, but if we will allow ourselves to remember the Father's house, there is hope ("Remember the height from which you have fallen!" - Rev. 2:5). In the distant land we are not who we were meant to be. It may be fun for a time, but all the while there is a nagging emptiness in our conscience knowing that we are not where we need to be, urging us to return home. When we do return home to the Father's house, we can once again be on track to becoming what we were meant to be.

We need to remember that we are the children of the King. As such, there are expectations and responsibilities, and the standards are set high. Children of the King have high moral and ethical expectations (Colossians 3:1-17). We have great commands (Mark 12:29-31) and a great commission (Matthew 28:19-20). It is imperative that we "remember who we are," and work to become it.

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Joe Chesser

via Jackson Church of Christ
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Prayer Requests

- ♥Please keep Gerry Wyer (Dianne Tonkery's mother) in your prayers. She will be having tests done to make sure her cancer did not spread.
- ♥Please pray for Leah Earle's father. Ken Holbert has been diagnosed with cancer in his nose.
- ♥Keep Betty McFee in your prayers. She is in the Wishing Well Assisted Living facility. If you would like to send her a card, her mailing address is: 1543 Country Club Rd., Faimont, WV 26554.
- ♥Continue to pray for Edwina Summers, Harold Phillips, Greg Toothman, Gentry Vass, Paula Huber, Rolle Sullivan, Joan Lough, Bill Davis and Dallas Shaffer.
- ♥Charlotte Wilson asks that we pray for her daughter, Shelly Cunningham.
- ♥Prayers are requested for Nola McKain. Nola is dealing with tongue cancer and will have to have radiation and chemotherapy. Nola is Mary Lough's aunt.
- ♥Rick Pyles continues to suffer with a cyst on his kidney.
- ♥Remember Buck and Kim Osborne in your prayers as Buck has his dialysis treatments at home.
- ♥Pray for Don and Edith Gull. Don and Edith both struggle with their knees.
- ♥Ebie Titchenell is scheduled to have her gall bladder removed on Tuesday, the 21st.
- ♥Betty Jo Shaffer is in UPMC and is struggling with some very serious health issues.
- ♥Bernard and Virginia Kisner are both under the weather.
- ♥Rex Bartlett's brother passed away. We express our deepest sympathy.
- ♥Becky McCoy's mother is dealing with severe back issues. Doctors believe she has two slipped disks.
- ♥Reegan Kisner is now home after a stay in WVU Children's Hospital after struggling with an intestinal blockage.

News & Notes

Pleasant Acres – Whitehall is in charge of worship services TODAY at 2:30 PM.

Church Directory - There will be another chance to get your picture in the directory if you haven't done so already. Pictures will be taken today, March 19th, in the room next to the Library. If you have any questions, please see Marsha Sparks.

Save the Dates...Our **Spring Friend and Family Day** will be on Sunday, April 30th. Please mark your calendars!

Vacation Bible School will be the week of June 5th. If you would like to help, please see Mary Lough.