

The Lakeview Lamp

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." – **Psalm 119:105**

May 10

2009

The Dedication of a Mother

Troy Nicholson

In **2 Samuel 21** we read of a three-year famine in the days of David due to the actions of Saul. He had put to death the Gibeonites, those whom the Israelites had promised to protect (**Joshua 9**). When David asked the Gibeonites what should be done to make atonement, they said to *"let seven men from his (Saul's) sons be given to us, and we will hang them before the Lord..."* (:6). *"Then he gave them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the mountain before the LORD, so that the seven of them fell together; and they were put to death in the first days of harvest at the beginning of barley harvest"* (:9).

Two of those seven men were the sons of Rizpah. *"And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until it rained on them from the sky; and she allowed neither the birds of the sky to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night"* (:10). For around six months this mother dedicated herself to protecting the rotting carcasses of her sons – and apparently the other men, too – while the vultures circled above during the day and the jackals gathered around at night. Finally David heard what she had done, and he gathered their bones and buried them.

While this occasion may seem at first an extreme example of a mother's dedication, it is probably not that far from the dedication nearly every mother demonstrates for her children. How many mothers have spent countless hours, night after night, getting up several times a night to feed a crying baby? Those same mothers then spend their days trying to clean up messes as fast as their children can make them. They provide taxi service to all kinds of activities, athletics, and programs. They make sure their children have clean and mended clothes to wear and that they have nutritious meals to eat. All of these things and more take true dedication on the part of a mother.

The "worthy woman" in **Proverbs 31** was such a mother. It was only fitting that *"her children rise up and bless her"* (:28), and it is only fitting that we also rise up and bless our mothers who have been so dedicated to us.

Virgin Lips

Troy Nicholson

Those of you here last Sunday evening may remember Ken Weliever making mention of an article in that day's *Tennessean* (5-3-09) entitled "Couples save first kiss for wedding day." The article said, "In a culture where casual sex is the norm, some Tennesseans have taken the purity pledge to a whole new level, through a practice that some teens refer to as the 'Virgin Lips Movement.'"

Why would anyone wait until their wedding day to kiss someone? One woman who waited said, "It was so important to me because I felt a kiss was something very intimate, and something I wanted to give only to one man, to my husband." This reason is one worth considering.

Is a kiss "very intimate"? Two people cannot engage in a romantic kiss without drawing closer to one another and creating certain feelings within them. Yet Solomon warned, "*Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires*" (**8:4**). Is that not what a kiss does? Does it not arouse or awaken intimate feelings within us? If we are "arousing love" with someone to whom we are not married, then we are arousing love with someone forbidden by God. As someone wrote in relation to this topic, "Why preheat the oven when you can't cook the roast?"

There was a reason the woman "*dressed as a harlot*" kissed the young man she pursued (**Prov 5:6-13**). It played a part in the enticing and seducing she did to lead him to "*follow her as an ox goes to the slaughter*" (**:21-22**), and it "*cost him his life*" (**:23**). Kissing outside of marriage can still cost lives today by those who are led astray by it.

Solomon said, "*Your lips, my bride, drip honey; honey and milk are under your tongue*" (**SoS 4:11**). Under someone's tongue is where we need to leave the sweetness of a kiss until we are married to them. Then we can do as Solomon: "*I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride;...I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk*" (**5:1**).

Jesus instructed us to pray, "*And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil*" (**Matt 6:13**). We need to make sure that our actions match our words and that we do not lead ourselves into temptation. James explained spiritual digression in this way: temptation, enticement, lust, sin, death (**James 1:14-15**). A kiss out of marriage can start us down this path. Paul told Timothy to "*flee from youthful lusts*" (**2 Tim 2:22**), an admonition we all need to follow.

News and Notes

Members:

- * Geneva Copelin's heart is stopping at times, so she will be wearing a heart monitor some. The results from her kidney tests were good.
- * Estelle Hayes has felt weaker than usual lately.

Friends and Family:

- * Frank Hunter, friend of the Nicholson's in Indianapolis, is having open heart surgery tomorrow morning to replace his aortic valve and have three bypasses.
- * Robert Jackson, a well-known preacher in the Nashville area, died last Tuesday. His funeral was yesterday.
- * Farris Parham, Walter Boyd's brother-in-law, had a heart attack last week and had stints put in.
- * Michael Read, Cotton and Nancy Read's son, is recovering well from his colon surgery and will go back soon for follow-up surgery.

Absent: Bonnie Brown (FL), Chris Gertsch (Dresden).

New Reports: None known (Chad and Laura Lynn [WV] will be with us next Sunday morning, when he will speak for us.).



*“The LORD is for me; I will not fear;
what can man do to me?” – Psalm 118:6*