

## Another Word May 6, 2025

To our family and friends of King Road Christian Church

I guess the cleverest thing I can say is, "April showers bring May showers!" Spring is here, but it sure seems to be avoiding us. Never fear, temps will rise and the sun is sure to shine!

LifeWise has ended for the year. It has been a privilege and a joy for our church to host the many students as they learn about our Lord and Savior! I want to thank all who have volunteered and supplied needed funds to make this year a great success. Because of your generosity we were able to provide well over 400 meals for those in need!

Monday, May 12 will be the last Jazz concert of the season. Erik Gimbel and His Big Band will perform at 7pm. This band is made up of well-known performers from across the State of Ohio. This is a concert you don't want to miss!

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting The Ashland County Cancer Association's, "Night of Music, Community, and Hope." Beginning at 6pm, there will be a silent auction, a 50/50 drawing, refreshments, and an evening of great Gospel Music performed by The Needhams. We hope you can join us for an evening of faith, fellowship, and a time to help provide help and support for local cancer patients.

As we go to prayer, please remember Dick and Lennie as they recover from their ailments. Also pray for David and Lana Bell's son Adam, as he and Alexis Wagner will be joined together in Holy matrimony, this Saturday.

May we pray- Dear loving God. We lift Your name above all names. There is no one greater than You. As we pause and listen for Your voice, give us clarity, patience, and understanding. May we not allow the world and its distractions to distract us from You as we reach out to help one another in our quest for peace and harmony in our broken world. We acknowledge Your love, and pray for Your blessings to fall over Your creation. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.

Have you ever had a scripture jump up and get right in your face? Actually, it happened to me this morning as I was writing this letter and drinking a cup of coffee.

Donita often rolls her eyes when she looks at my favorite coffee cup. I have a (bad) habit of not washing the cup, sometimes for a week. Oh, I rinse it out, but by the end of the week it is a little, shall we say, gnarly inside. It's a white cup and looks great on the outside, but the inside becomes a brown stain.

Enter Matthew 23, especially verse 25. Jesus begins this chapter telling the people to follow the laws, but then, concerning the teachers of the law and the Pharisees He says, "...do not do what they do." Jesus then turns to the teachers of the law and the Pharisees and calls them hypocrites. You see, they were keeping certain requirements of the law, but were, "neglecting the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy, and faithfulness." (verse 23)

Now comes verse 25. Jesus says, "You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence." Jesus goes on to say, "First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside will also be clean." Can you imagine me sitting there reading

these verses and taking a sip of coffee? And then, looking inside my discolored cup? Busted!

Obviously, Jesus wasn't referring to my unwashed coffee cup. His words though, should make us aware that we all at times, can put on a good show. Act as if we are spiritually clean, even spotless on the outside. However, just like my cup, we are stained with sin on the inside. And who or what can wash away these inner stains? As the old hymn says, "Nothing but the blood of Jesus!"

I have decided to wash out the inside of my cup every day from now on. And I bet my coffee will even taste better. It's the same with Jesus. If we let Him into our hearts, He will clean us on the inside, washing away even the hardest of sins and stains. And we will, as the Psalmist wrote, "Taste and see that the Lord is Good!"

In His Peace,

*Rich*