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RLA NEWS AND NOTES

**Thoughts, Words, and Deeds:
Be Pleasing in Your Sight**

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14

Removing the Barriers Between Me and God

By Stephanie Raquel of Proverbs31 Ministries on Oct. 31, 2018

<https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2018/10/31/removing-the-barriers-between-me-and-god>

"Listen to the word of the LORD, people of Jacob — all you families of Israel! This is what the LORD says: 'What did your ancestors find wrong with me that led them to stray so far from me? They worshiped worthless idols, only to become worthless themselves.'" Jeremiah 2:4-5 (NLT)

It had been a busy morning, running teens to school for a pre-dawn swim practice, then trying to meet up with a friend to exercise. All before I had spent any time in God's Word that day. So multi-tasking during my workout, I read my Bible on my phone. And that's when it hit me. Smack in the middle of reading Jeremiah 52 (the last chapter of the book), the fall of Jerusalem and tragedy experienced by one of Israel's kings pierced my soul. Suddenly, I couldn't help but think of how awful it must have been for King Zedekiah as he lived out his days. My eyes pooled after I read about God's judgment on the entire nation.

Jeremiah was a faithful messenger, sent by God to speak truth to a corrupt generation. God repeatedly used Jeremiah to warn Zedekiah and his evil predecessors to change their egregious ways and stop worshipping false idols. *How did they miss all those warnings? Why hadn't they changed?* I wondered. The more I pondered it, I had to admit that sometimes, even good things can become "idols" and spiritual distractions in my life if I let them. My next thought was simply, *Dear Lord, please ... help me avoid those same choices, and don't let me miss out on a relationship with You.*

Jeremiah urged the rebellious Israelite kings to change their ways for decades, explaining that God's judgment was imminent. God repeatedly warned that consequences would come from their blatant disobedience. We see this cautionary tale woven throughout the book of Jeremiah: *"Listen to the word of the LORD, people of Jacob — all you families of Israel! This is what the LORD says: 'What did your ancestors find wrong with me that led them to stray so far from me? They worshiped worthless idols, only to become worthless themselves'"* (Jeremiah 2:4-5). Yet the kings (except Josiah) flaunted their idol worship and committed the worst of the worst sins against humanity, resulting in God having the final say. He would not be mocked and allowed Babylon to destroy the Jerusalem temple and take the majority of Israelites into exile.

Part of me thought, *Surely, I'll never need to worry about something like that happening to me.* But the truth is, I can easily let an idol have its way in my life. Idols don't just appear as little statues hidden in our homes. Usually, they're far more subtle. Even "good things" can take the form of an accidental idol (something replacing God's importance) for me, if I let them. Just that morning, I allowed my kids' schedules to derail my uninterrupted time with God. Next, spending time with a friend seemed more valuable than sacred moments with the infinite One who unconditionally adores me.

Thankfully, there's abundant grace in how we spend our time with God. However, I'm also committed to try and make that connection with Him happen every morning, even if it's just reading one verse at a time. In that moment during my workout, I felt the Holy Spirit remind me how many early morning distractions I've let take precedence over spending time with God. *Email. Social media. The dog. Breakfast. Coffee.* (And that's just the first 30 minutes of the day!)

In and of themselves, these things are morally neutral. Repeatedly allowing those distractions, however, can easily transform them into idols — things that stand between God and me. I'm grateful His infinite mercy lets me start over every single day. God *wants* to spend that connecting time with me — and you — each morning. *Lord, I pray You help me do just that!*

Dear God, thank You for Your mercies that are new every morning. I want to keep You as a priority in my life, but I desperately need Your help. Make me keenly aware of whatever might become an idol in my life. I pray that nothing — big or small — gets in the way of my connection with You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sweets & Serenades - Tomorrow

Join us for a lovely evening of music, desserts, and items up for auction (including 3 pieces of artwork that the kids took part in). You can sign up to attend by contacting the office for a special parent discount of \$5/person.

NJHS Inductions

We will be inducting 4 new members to the National Junior Honor Society next week. These students have shown not only academic achievement, but also commitment to the pillars of service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Congratulations!

Fine Arts Fair - Next Week

We are very excited that the Fine Arts Fair is coming up next week! Don't forget to invite friends and family to enjoy the evening of musical talents and our own art gallery. There will be a reception following the program. **As a reminder, students from K-8th grade are required to attend.**

Save the Dates

Apr. 26 – Sweets and Serenades (7pm)

A casual night out to support the school. Many of our students will be sharing their musical talents.

Apr. 29 – Indy Field Trip (K-8th)

We will be departing on buses at 8am and returning to school between 6:30 and 7:00pm.

May 2 – Fine Arts Fair & NJHS Inductions (6:30pm)

K-8th grade students are required to attend. It will celebrate the academic and service achievement of several students as well as the musical and artistic talents of our student body.

May 4 – Work Day (9-noon)

Volunteers wanted to help with beautifying our campus. Indoor and outdoor jobs will be available.

May 6th-10th Book Fair

Watch for more information on daily hours!

May 8 – Sports Banquet (6pm)

Open to everyone to come celebrate our student athletes. This will be a pot-luck event.

School Clean-Up Day

We are having a school clean-up day 9am-noon May 4th. Help us make our school and grounds more beautiful. Inside and outside jobs will be available, come when you can and leave when you must.

Book Fair

Keep your eyes peeled for information about our Scholastic Book Fair: May 6-10. This is a great way to encourage your little readers and help RLA.

2019-2020 Registration

Registration is now open! Please let us know either way with your intentions for next year. If you need another copy of your re-enrollment form, contact the office. Know someone who might be interested in joining our RLA family? We would be happy to schedule a tour! Don't forget, there is a \$500 "RLA Buck" bonus for families that refer students who enroll in K-8th grade!!

RLA T-Shirt & \$1 Jean Fridays



Every Friday, our students may show their School Spirit by wearing official RLA t-shirts. You may also wear jeans for \$1.00 on Fridays. Our National Junior Society chooses and organizes charity drives for the school as part of their leadership. During April, we collected money for World Wide Fund for Nature.

Illness

As a reminder, your child should be free from fever, diarrhea, and vomiting for 24 hrs before returning to school.

ILEARN

The state-wide tests for 3rd-8th graders started this week. Please make sure that your child is getting a good breakfast and lots of sleep during this time!