

The Shoe Polish Test

BY RON MCCLUNG | APRIL 20, 2019

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb. (Matt. 27:61)

Nippy Jones played baseball—not that you would have heard of him. He played for the St. Louis Cardinals when they won the World Series in 1946 and for the Milwaukee Braves when they won the World Series in 1957.

During the 1957 series, Nippy was at bat when a wild pitch struck him on the foot. Usually that means the batter gets to take first base, but the umpire refused to allow it. He said the ball never hit him.

Nippy asked to see the baseball and after examining it, he showed it to the umpire, pointing to a black spot on the ball. Nippy claimed it was shoe polish. The umpire said that was enough proof and sent him to first. Nippy scored and the Braves went on to win the game and ultimately the world championship.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary had proof that Jesus rose from the dead. We remember they were at the empty tomb after Jesus rose again. What our verse today shows us is that they were also there when Joseph of Arimathea placed the body of Jesus in the tomb. Both scenes were imprinted on their minds as vividly as shoe polish on a baseball.

What do you know for sure? Has the risen Christ made a difference in your life? Do you have the shoe polish smudge to prove it?

List the ways you have changed since Jesus came into your heart.

Ron McClung lives in Fishers, Indiana, with his wife Carol. He has written his weekly column, Positive Perspective, for more than thirty years.

April 21, 2019

Sermon Notes:

John 16:8-11

Colossians 2:12-15

1. Because Christ _____ and is _____, in Him we have new _____

Ephesians 2:12

2. Because Christ died and is risen, in Him we have _____ of all our _____

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

3. Because Christ died and is risen, in Him we have _____ over the forces of evil

James 4:7

Reflection: What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS?

The Word of God directs us as we consider what the *next step* is for our lives. Have you experienced the New Life found in believing upon Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If not, have you ever taken time to thoroughly investigate the validity of the scriptures, what they say about God, and what our human condition is apart from new life found in Jesus?

If you have, do not be afraid to share this story of transformation in your own life with someone new this week.

Challenge: This week I will pray for the following life giving churches in our community:

Communion at FOCUS

Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the **Lord's Table, also known as Communion.** We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

FOCUS Small Groups

Are you interested in connecting with others throughout the week? We have several Small Groups meeting and some who are preparing to start additional groups. Here are the groups already gathering during the week:

~ **Women's Group** - 11 AM Wednesdays - Upbeat Café

~ **Men's Group** - 11 AM Wednesdays - Upbeat Café

~ **Women's Life Group** - Wednesday Evenings 7 PM - **Life Group member's Home, Sadieville, KY**

**If you would like more information about joining or starting a small group please contact Pastor Anton.
afolz@focuswesleyan.org*

FOCUS Youth Group

We invite you to come and join us next Sunday night, April 28 from 6:30-8PM for games, worship, and growing together! Friends welcome, snacks provided!



FOCUS
WESLEYAN CHURCH

**At FOCUS we exist to;
Worship God,
Live for Jesus,
Love all People,
and Serve the World.**

Welcome.
Thanks for Coming!

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