

Ink marks and crimson stains

RON MCCLUNG | APRIL 25, 2018

The telephone rang at 7:00 a.m. and the staff hurried to Mamie Eisenhower's bedroom. When they knocked and entered, they discovered big black spots all over the sheets, covers, pink dust-ruffle, headboard, everything. To be exact, they were "dabs and blotches and swipes of indigo."

"What on earth can we do?" the First Lady cried.

They jerked the sheets off the bed, promising to take them to the laundry room to soak and to send a maid with some spot-remover for the rest.

Mrs. Eisenhower explained, "My nose was all stopped up and I had a jar of Vicks on my bedside table. So during the night when I woke up, I reached over to put some in my nostrils. Well, it seemed to just get drier, instead of moister, so I kept applying more and more. I didn't want to wake up like, so I didn't turn on the light. Then this morning, I discovered that I was using ink to cure my cold."

Realizing the staff was going to make it all right, she began to smile.

"But you should have seen me. Black and blue all over – and the President too."

"I don't think anything is permanently damaged," the chief usher, J. B. West, assured her. "I'm sure it will all come out in the wash."

West told this story in his book, *Upstairs at the White House: My Life with the First Ladies*, based on his life experience as assistant to the chief usher, then as chief usher, in the White House.

The prophet Isaiah knew that sin leaves its peculiar stain, which is impossible for us to remove. Only God can expunge such deep blemishes. The prophet gave the good news: "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool" (Isaiah 1:18 NIV).

The songwriter said, "Praise Him for the power that reaches deeper than the stain has gone." Fortunately, his love and forgiveness go deeper than your sins and mine.

April 29, 2018

Live by Faith - Not by Sight

Sermon Notes:

What are some examples of people or things that are great in your mind?

Hebrews 7:4

Genesis 14:17-20

Hebrews 6:20

Psalms 139:14

Psalms 19:1-6

1. Giving protected Abram from _____

Acts 2:42-47

2. Giving connected Abram to the very _____ of _____

John 3:16-17

3. Giving increased Abram's

Genesis 15:1-6

4. Giving _____ blessings in Abram's life

Hebrews 11:11-12

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. What is your next step? Have you experienced the greatest of almighty God? Do you believe that He is worthy as Abram did in Genesis 14? What are you being called to surrender?

Challenge: This week I will pray for the following unsaved friends or family members:

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.

SuperRecycling Day provided by Toyota - Sat. May 12th

On Saturday May 12th from 9 AM to 3 PM Scott county and Georgetown Residents can bring items such as; pesticides, batteries, paint, TVs, computers, phones, ink cartridges, and documents to be safely destroyed. Follow the signs at Gate 7.

FOCUS Youth Group - Sundays 6:30-8 PM

Friends welcomed, snacks provided.

Wednesday Night Meal

We would like to invite you and your family to join us for supper this Wednesday. The meal will be served from 5:30-6:30 PM. All ages are invited and welcome!



FOCUS

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NOT BY SIGHT**



2 CORINTHIANS 5:7