

## Message from Amy

*“...for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; a time of singing has come...”* (Song of Solomon 1:11-12a)

The kids were the ones to make the discovery. A week ago Monday, they went into the basement before school and returned upstairs with the exciting news that it was flooded.

Water had pooled to over an inch in one corner, and had seeped in around the perimeter of the remainder. The water ruined a couple rugs and some scout paraphernalia, but everything important was unharmed. (The cats were momentarily befuddled as to how to get to their litter boxes, which sat in about an inch and a half of water; we moved the boxes to higher ground.)

I've heard various reports of how much rain poured on Independence that weekend, somewhere between 6 and 8 inches. That came after a week of rain, which saturated the ground and left nowhere for the new water to go, except into our basement.

As we examined the exterior and interior of the house, we concluded that a good deal of the problem was with our gutters, which were clogged with leaves and sticks and other debris. Instead of running into the gutters, the rainwater ran over them straight onto the saturated ground and down the foundation, to seep into our basement.

What we had neglected to take care of on the top of our house, resulted in damage at the bottom of our house. Not attending to the “highest” aspect resulted in damage to the “lowest” aspect.

Looking at this as a theological metaphor, we could say the same is true in our lives. When we neglect the “highest” aspect of our lives ~ that is, our relationship with God ~ we are bound to encounter trouble in the “lowest” aspect of our lives ~ that is, our common day-to-day existence. When we neglect to pray, when we neglect to pay attention to God's will for our life, when we neglect to sincerely worship and praise God, there's bound to be trouble. We start to feel anxious, empty, or purposeless. We lose track of what's important. Our friendships and family may get off track.

But when we develop a discipline to start our morning with prayer, to check in during our day with God, to worship faithfully, and to follow the example of Christ in generosity, such troubles evaporate. Much of the trouble we face day-to-day stems from losing track of what's important. There is nothing more important than our relationship with God, and when we tend to that sincerely and earnestly, our lives will be blessed in ways we'd never imagine.

Here's to a beautiful spring, and dry basements everywhere!

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