

Family Information

Today's Sermon Title

Undeserving Rewards

Theme Passage

Matthew 20:1-16

Thoughts to consider

- 1) Have you ever received a reward that you did not deserve?
- 2) Have you ever resented someone else receiving an undue reward?
- 3) Do you compare your faithfulness with the faithfulness of others?

Ladies Retreat

Friday, May 3rd and Saturday, May 4th. Heartland Retreat Center, Marengo, Ohio. Cost is \$70. The first payment of \$35 is due by March 31st. Friday only or Saturday only options are also available. Hope you can join us! Please see Vicki Cowans for payments (to Northland) and more info.

Northland Banquet Reminder

April 6th. Arrival 5:30-5:45 p.m. Dinner buffet begins at 6:00 p.m. Der Dutchman, 445 S. Jefferson Ave., Plain City, OH 43064. Final reservations have been submitted. Please give money to Pam Estep if you still need to pay.

Camp

Fort Hill Church Camp Registration - A \$20 discount is offered if you register and pay by May 15th. Camp Week is July 14-20, Let Josh Evans know if you are interested in attending.

Calendar

March

31 Area Wide Worship At Spring Road

April

3 Singing At Willow Brook Home 10:30am
 6 Northland Banquet, 5:30pm @ Der Dutchman
 13 Choices Youth Rally
 14 Services At Willow Brook
 14 Single Sisters Lunch
 15 Tax Day
 19-20 LTC
 21 Easter Sunday
 25 Take Your Daughter Or Son To Work Day
 27 Congregational Work Day

For The Month of March

Invitation/ Responses: Mike Evans

Foyer Duty: Bobby Graham Jr.

Greeters: Mike and Leisha Evans

Communion Servers

James Allison	John Allison
Glenn Culler	David Estep
Gary McMasters	Leon Norwood
Frank Rynearson	Art Silva

Contribution

Last Week	Average YTD
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General:	\$4572	\$5131
Designated:	\$130	\$168

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Ghana Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Ghana Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Spanish Worship	3:00 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Minister: Caleb Dillinger

Elders: Roy Estep, Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins

Deacons: Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva

Spanish Ministry: Elmer Renderos



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Our God Is Full Of Compassion

The cords of death entangled me . . . I was overcome by distress and sorrow. Then I called on the name of the Lord: Lord, save me! - Psalm 116:3-4

When the world's cords entangle our hearts, when we are overcome or distressed by its sorrows or its emptiness, we can always call on the name of our Lord to save us, and we can always put our times and hearts into his trustworthy hands.

The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. The Lord protects the unwary; when I was brought low, he saved me. - Psalm 116:5-6

We are too weak to protect ourselves from all of the accuser's snares and the world's distractions, and sometimes they may catch us when we are unwary; yet in God's unfailing compassion he lifts us up when we stumble, and he saves us from the entangling cords of spiritual death. For Jesus has opened the door to God's presence, where we may find rest for our souls - *Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you. - Psalm 116:7*

In Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven", a sleepless, distressed man is desperately looking for meaning and solace from book after book, when a raven quietly comes to visit him. The raven perches on a bust of Pallas Athena, the goddess of wisdom, and the narrator is amused at first. Then he eventually asks when his sorrows will disappear; and "quoth the Raven, 'Nevermore.'" Though the narrator realizes this is true, he becomes frustrated with the raven. Yet, when he also asks the raven when it too will leave, as "other friends have flown before . . . as my hopes have flown before," he is able to find some comfort in the bird's answer, "Nevermore."

As long as we live in this world, its sorrows and its discouragements and its pains will never go away; yet God will always be with us to comfort us and to reassure us and to help us persevere, and moreover, he has prepared a place for us where we will live with him forever.

Just as Poe's poem concludes, "the Raven, never flitting, still is sitting . . . just above my chamber door," God will never leave us, he will never forget what we are going through, and he will never forget what we really need. Like Poe's raven, sometimes he may tell us things that our earthly ears may not want to hear, yet our Heavenly Father tells us truths that comfort our souls.

What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. - Psalm 116:12-13

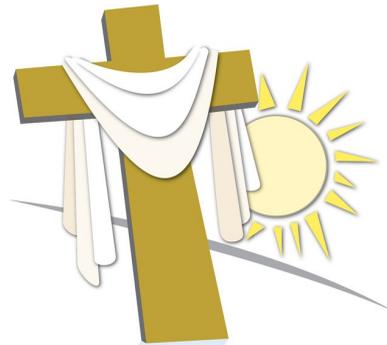
We could never repay our God for all his goodness, all of the wonders of grace he does in our hearts, and all of the beautiful spiritual truths he has shared with us. So God gently calls us simply to open our hearts to him and call on his name with humble and grateful hearts.

- Mark Garner

In The Cross

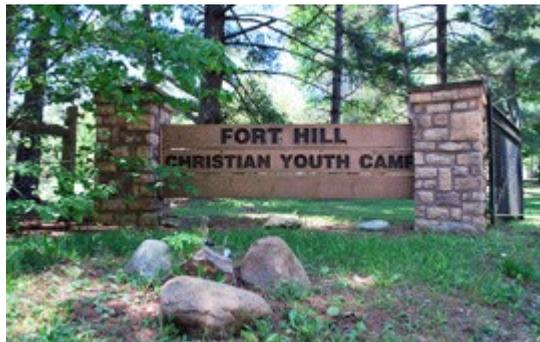
In the Cross is salvation; in the Cross is life; in the Cross is protection against our enemies; in the Cross is infusion of heavenly sweetness; in the Cross is strength of mind; in the Cross is joy of spirit; in the Cross is excellence of virtue; in the Cross is perfection of holiness. There is no salvation of soul, nor hope of eternal life, save in the Cross.

- Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471)



**“...the LORD has
laid on him the
iniquity of us all.”**
Isaiah 53:6b

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VBS date is set! Monday June 24-Thursday June 27. We will finish VBS on Thursday June 27th
by providing food for our neighboring families. More details to come!

From The Northland Archives

This article appeared in the Northland bulletin on August 5, 2001, and it was written by Linda Chivington. Linda, her husband Kevin, and their children were fixtures at Northland during the 1990s and the early 2000s; and they still visit our congregation from time-to-time.

Healing Words

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." Prov. 12:18

The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life." Prov. 15:4

The things that come out of the mouth come from the heart." Matt. 15: 18

Who do you think of when you hear the word "wise"? A grandfather or grandmother . . . perhaps a dear lifelong friend? Who is it that knows just the right thing to say when you're confused or hurting?

I know that I'd like to be one of those people. Without the Holy Spirit as my counselor, though, the advice or healing words that I would give people would be downright scary! We need to start with the obvious, and fill up first of all on God's Word. Where else can true wisdom be found? If we meditate on godly wisdom and let it fill us up, we'll have healing words overflowing from our hearts.

Further godly wisdom instructs us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak." I'm sure you've heard that that's the reason why we have two ears but only one mouth. Makes sense, doesn't it? How many times have I said something recklessly and deeply regretted it later? I'm sure you have, too. If we take a little time to weigh things out with the Word, hopefully some of these careless words can be avoided and stopped before they do any damage.

Christ is our example of perfect wisdom. Although we fall dreadfully short, we are to make every attempt to be like Christ. He listened - really listened and used life-giving words everywhere he went. His words were sometimes soft and pleasant; sometimes, they weren't. Sometimes he would have to say things that didn't merely soothe our itching ears, but rather call us higher. The end result is his desire to see us transformed more and more into his likeness, healing and making us whole . . .

May God help us to see people from His perspective. May we be forgiven for our reckless words and be truly slow to speak, filling the hearts of those around us with the refreshment of Christ.

- Linda Chivington,
August 2001