

Family Information

Today's Sermon Title

Stranded On The Roadside

Theme Passage

Matthew 20:29-34

Thoughts for the Week

- 1) Have you every disregarded someone's needs while claiming to follow Jesus?
- 2) Do you see yourself as someone who needs mercy?
- 3) What value do you place on your "free" time?

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.

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.

VBS theme- My God is so big
VBS meeting on Sunday April 28th right after Church

Calendar

April

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
28	VBS Meeting

For The Month of April

Invitation/ Responses: Jeff McVicker
Foyer Duty: Jack Evans
Greeters: Perry and Jenny Coate

Communion Servers

Franklin Agyei	Lynn Champney
Glenn Culler	Isaac Kyeremateng
Yaw Odoom	Phil Stafa
Yaw Tieku	Randy Yates

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3827	\$5030
Designated:	\$430	\$188

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

Because Of God's Great Mercy

Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. - Daniel 9:17-18

God hears our prayers, not because of anything righteous we have done, rather because he is a faithful God who gives us what our spirits need. Our Heavenly Father looks on us with favor, not because of our earthly talents or accomplishments, rather because his love is from everlasting to everlasting with those who walk in the light of Jesus. As Daniel had opened his prayer - *Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong. - Daniel 9:4-5*

God rebuilds the ruins in our hearts because *The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving (Daniel 9:9)* and he only asks us for the living offering of a soft and reverent heart. God rises to give us the grace we need, because of his great mercy, and he rejoices in unfolding his words to us, because he has made us his own children of light - *Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name. - Daniel 9:19*

When Frederick II became king of Prussia in 1740, he began to institute a series of reforms. Afterwards, he would tour Prussia unannounced to see whether they were being implemented. One of Frederick's reforms was the humane treatment of prisoners, so in about 1760 he visited a prison in Berlin to see how the prisoners were being treated. Yet as soon as the prisoners saw the king, they all began shouting that they were falsely accused, or had been framed, or tried unfairly.

This disappointed the king, so he looked around to verify that the food and the conditions were greatly improved, and was just about to leave. Then Frederick noticed one prisoner who had been sitting quietly the whole time, so he went to this man's cell and asked him whether he too was innocent. Yet this convict respectfully and contritely said that he was guilty and he deserved to be in prison.

Hearing this, Frederick called the warden, and said, "Release this guilty man at once. We don't want him kept in this prison where he could corrupt all of these innocent people." The king realized that this man had been humbled and that his perspective had been changed, so he gave him a second chance.

Likewise, *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8)*, yet God reassures us, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us (1 John 1:9)*. God's ways are far higher than ours, and his grace overflows to those who humbly acknowledge our need for him every step.

- Mark Garner



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The Promises Of God

God's promises are like the birds of heaven
That fill the hours with music all day long,
Too oft unheard and oftener unheeded
Amid earth's voices of despair and wrong;
Each one a thought of God, a joy, a comfort,
If we but pause to listen to its song.

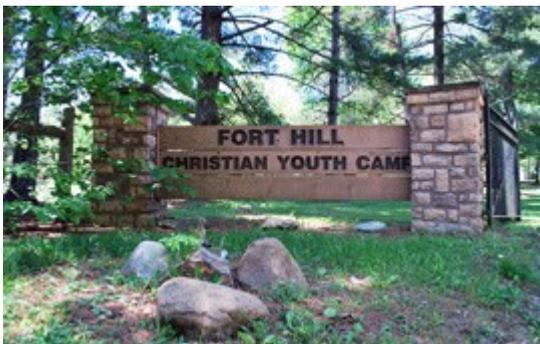
God's promises are like the rain of heaven
That falls in blessing from the cloudy skies,
The mown grass and the tender herb rejoicing
When all the land is parched and verdure dies,
Replenishing the streams of His refreshing
Till from the dust of earth new harvests rise.

God's promises are like the winds of heaven
And each in turn His trumpet message brings . . .
Reviving forces that can sooth and strengthen,
Life in the touch and healing in their wings.

God's promises, forever fixed in heaven,
Though earth and heaven pass, shall still abide;
Yea and amen they are in Christ the Saviour
And all our needs in them are satisfied.

- Annie Johnson Flint (excerpts), 1866-1932

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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 Church of Christ bulletin on July 24, 1988, and it was written by Bill Hopkins. Bill was a minister at Northland for most of the 1980s, and he was also an elder here in the early 1990s. Last year, Bill was with us to be part of Northland's 50th anniversary weekend.

Behold The Lamb Of God

On one occasion John the Baptist was preaching . . . As was the custom, he had several followers (disciples) with him. Suddenly he stopped, directed their attention to a man who was walking along . . . and said: "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:35). Almost without hesitation these disciples left John and began following Jesus. Evidently they were not concerned with the cost of following Him, for they somehow knew that it would be worthwhile.

Another story tells us of a group of fishermen who were tending to their family's business (Mt. 4:18-22). Out of the blue a man appeared on the shore and invited them to join his team of missionaries. Without discussing it with their families, they dropped their fishing equipment and began following the Lord. Can you imagine the changes which must have been required of them as they left their boats? Again, the cost did not seem to be a real concern for these people. They were willing to make every change and pay every price required to be a disciple of Jesus.

How often have we seen the same thing happen in the 20th century? We have seen college professors, engineers, doctors, attorneys, students, and many others leave the traditions and beliefs of the past to become followers of the Master. They are willing to follow wherever He leads. They are not concerned with the sacrifices required. They know that He is Lord and will give them everything that is right and good. We have never heard anyone say, "He let me down." Jesus has always kept His end of the bargain.

- Bill Hopkins (abridged), July 1988

