

Devotions – May 12-18, 2019

By Doris Kewley

Bethany Lutheran Church, Amasa, MI

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Text: Ezekiel 8:3a

“He stretched out the form of a hand and took me by a lock of my hair and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven.”

Has God ever grabbed you by a lock of hair? I haven't been but He's gotten my attention in other ways. Once it was “But you'll say ‘I am not a teacher.’” I couldn't say it. That's how God sent me (?) to lead a Bible study at the Mission Bible Training Center on January 19, 1990.

For 29 years I have been blessed by sharing the book of Acts with all the men and women who have come to receive help in overcoming their addictions by choosing to come to this God centered program.

The mission has an 86% success rate thanks to God's love for all. Hopefully someday it will be 100%.

Let us Pray: *Father God, we thank you for loving all your children so much you sent Jesus to redeem all sinners, including us, from our sins. May we, your church, be quick to follow your lead and glorify your name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*



Monday, May 13, 2019

Text: John 3:8

“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

The wind blows and we walk into it, letting it slow our steps.

The wind blows. We let it blow at our backs to speed us onward into our journey.

The wind blows. What is it? We can see and feel the effects of the wind, but we cannot see it. We cannot hold the wind. We cannot taste the wind.

We can hear the wind in the cold winter nights when it howls around the corners of the house. It is the gentle breezes of spring that melt and evaporate the snow. We can hear the wind as it

murmurs across the flower strewn meadow in the summer. The wind gaily tosses the leaves of autumn.

The wind is a wonder to behold. Rather the effects are wonders to behold. The branches on the trees are bouncing up and down in joyous abandon. They flex their limbs up and down. They are the winds playthings---branches.

Jesus said, "So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." We can feel the Spirit but we cannot see the Spirit. We can see the effects in ourselves and others as they are joyfully worshipping and serving the Lord.

Let us Pray: *Lord, let your Holy Spirit abide in us so that we may share your word joyfully with others, and they may see the effects of your Spirit in us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*



Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Text: Psalm: 117

**“Praise the Lord, all you nations;
extol Him, all you peoples.
For great is His love for us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord.”**

Let us Pray: *Oh Lord our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, hear our prayers for all the nations. Teach all peoples to extol you. You have shown that your love and faithfulness toward us endures forever. We praise you, Lord. Amen.*



Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Text: Acts 9:16

“I will show him (Paul) how much he must suffer for my name.”

Wow! I'm sending you to the Gentiles to proclaim my name. You're going to be run out of town, imprisoned, stoned, shipwrecked, judged guilty of blasphemy and hated by your own

people and Gentiles. But you will bring many, many people to me and be rewarded for your testimony that I Am.

How eager would you be to take on a job like that? Paul rose to the task and his influence is still being felt because he testified and taught “Jesus is your Messiah” to the Jews and “Jesus is the Savior of all who will believe in Him” to the Gentiles and Jews.

Here I sit, why am I here? A little negative comment will send me to the dumps. A little praise will stroke my ego. Paul was faithful in all he endured. I’m ready to throw in the towel any time a request seems too hard or too inconvenient. Mostly I know it and feel blessed for the doing. Will I ever learn that little lesson, “It is more blessed to give than to receive”?

For many years I disliked Paul and refused to read his epistles because he was so opposed to women. Fortunately, through Bible studies and more than a few sermons I slowly changed my mind. Now I even read his epistles.

Let us Pray: Faithful forgiving God, thank you for your patience with me all these years. Thank you for all the mentors you’ve brought in my life. May they receive many blessings for their faithfulness in teaching and living your word. In Jesus’ name I thank you. Amen.



Thursday, May 16, 2019

Text: Matthew 1:1

“This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham.”

Matthew traces Jesus’ ancestry back 42 generations to Abraham. Luke takes the ancestry all the way back to Adam, the son of God.

There are noble and ignoble in the ancestry of the perfect man Jesus. We have a whole book full of information about those people.

How far back can you trace your lineage? I can go back to my grandparents, to a great-grandfather and great-grand uncle. Ancestry.com might have difficulty going much farther. There are surname changes already in what I know.

In conversations with a gentleman at Synod Assembly a few years back, I learned the English translation of my maiden name is “slave or servant of Benedict”. Obviously, there’s no royalty there.

Jesus had the greatest father of all. The character of any one of his other ancestors really doesn’t matter. He was born for a specific purpose, to redeem lost human kind. Though he could have refused to do so, he followed the Father’s chosen path. Aren’t we glad he did?

Let us Pray: *Father, we give you grateful thanks for the greatest gift we can possible receive, salvation through Christ Jesus and eternity with you. In Jesus' name we gratefully pray. Amen.*



Friday, May 17, 2019

Text: Mark 10:51b

“The blind man said, ‘Rabbi, I want to see.’”

The nameless blind man bravely said, “I want to see.” Others tried to hush him, he was an irritation calling out to Jesus, but the blind man did not hush. He knew Jesus had the power to give him sight. It didn’t matter to him what others thought or how irritated or angry they were. He wanted to see. He knew Jesus could give him sight and he was going to get it.

Such faith. Such tenacity. Where did it come from? This event resonates with me. I’ve been diagnosed with macular degeneration and have been getting shots in my right eye for a year. On May 1, the left eye vision was different. My daughter called the Eye Clinic of Wisconsin and I was given an emergency appointment for 1:00. It was another day of having to take a day off from work to get mother to another doctor’s appointment. Now it is shots in both eyes.

Where is my faith? Why don’t I cry out to Jesus, “I want to see”? Why am I afraid to ask the council members, the elders to anoint me with oil and pray in the name of the Lord for me? James tells us to and even writes “it will be done.”

Lord, give me the faith to believe and ask the council to pray and anoint me with oil.

Let us Pray: *Lord Jesus, just as the blind man was unafraid to call on you for healing, give me and others with illness the faith to know we can be healed by your powerful healing touch. Thank you, merciful Jesus. Amen.*



Saturday, May 18, 2019

Text: Psalm 66:1

“Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;”

At the Medical Care Facility church service, it is easy to make a joyful noise on the days we have no organist. We have one man with a beautiful voice who knows exactly what the starting note is, so he gets us started. Some follow him, some rush ahead, some fall behind, some stay on key, some change keys, some like our leader, have beautiful voices, some not so beautiful but everyone is enthusiastic, and we make a joyful noise.

The people who choose to come to church services on Thursday afternoons are so grateful for these opportunities to worship together. They come to the Episcopalian, Methodist, Lutheran and Presbyterian services. A couple of Catholics come faithfully and even take communion.

We appreciate the organist when she can come. She does get a joyful welcome when she appears in the doorway.

Organist or not we all are blessed by the presence of God with us.

Let us Pray: *Father God, we bless you and praise you for our times of gathering together to praise you in worship and song and fellowship. We know you listen to our joyful noise with loving ears. Thank you. In Jesus' name we praise you, Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

