



By Streams of Living Water

Psalm 1

*Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked
For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous*

May 17, 2015

Thought for the Week

Scripture: Luke 4: 14-28

Never Accepted by Your Own

Jesus paid a visit to his hometown where you would think people might have welcomed him. The people didn't seem to trust Jesus ~ his message was not to their liking or understanding. They wondered how someone with such humble beginnings could have acquired so much knowledge. Instead of listening, they immediately judged Jesus and asked him to leave.

How much are we willing to listen to others instead of judging how much we think they know? We never know whom God is choosing to give a message to. If we do not listen, God can't work within us. Take some time this week to have a conversation about something meaningful with another person. You may be surprised!

The Wheel of Change

Millions of people struggle to make positive changes but fail in their quest. The reason they fail is because they try to change their life without first changing the way they think. Until they change the way they think, positive change will not happen. Changing the way you think is the key to positive change. Inside your mind is a collection of thoughts that defines what it means to be you. That collection is unique, and is the only part of you that you can change, or that would ever be worth changing.

If you want to change who you are, you must change the collection of thoughts that defines what it means to be you. What you put into your mind changes who you are, and what others put in changes who you are as well. That's why the media battles so strongly to gain your attention. They want to control the way you think so they can control you and how you spend your money. They fill your world with billboards, advertising, and fifteen-second sound and video bites. Their business is all about changing the way you think.

It's not hard to change your life; you do it all the time. Every time you put something new into your mind, your life changes. When you put in good things, your life becomes better, and when you fill it with garbage, your life becomes worse. The wheel of change always turns in the direction of what you put into your mind.

You already know how to change your life. You don't need to go to a university to get a PhD in psychology to change the way you think. You simply need to start putting different things in your mind. Watch different programs on television, or better yet, turn off television and start filling your mind with good books.

At the most basic level, you are what you think about all day long. That's why, what you put into your mind is so important. When you put in positive thoughts, you become a more positive person. When you put in empowering thoughts, you become

a stronger person. When you put in resourceful thoughts, your life moves in the direction of excellence and you become a better person. When you put in unlimited thoughts, you realize there is no limit to how good your life can become.

You might want to do some mental exercises. Try saying to yourself: the wheel of change always turns in the direction of what I put into my mind.

Repeat those words out loud several times. You may even want to write them on a piece of paper to ensure they are a permanent part of your memory.

If you want to experience positive change, you are going to have to start putting positive thoughts into your mind, and now is a good time to get started.

Life is good!

Prayer Thought for the Week - Norway

We give thanks to you, Lord God, and praise your mighty works of peace.

We pray for all people in their daily life and work: for our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who feel the ache of loneliness.

We pray for this community, the nations, and especially for the people of Norway. May we listen for your guidance in learning to live in peace.

We pray for all victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression. We pray for all who are in danger, who sorrow, are sick or friendless. Let them be aware of your nearness, we ask, and open our minds to ways we can alleviate such circumstances.

We pray for peace and unity among the leaders of religions and nations and for all who work for justice and peace.

We pray for the special needs of those here gathered. Guide us, we humbly ask. We confess to you our failings. In your compassion forgive our sinfulness, whether known or unknown, whether done or left undone.

We thank you for our many blessings this day, and pray the Holy Spirit will be with us as we seek to know and do your will. In the name of the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

Stewardship Thoughts

I remember once during an offering the Bishop asked us, "why should we tithe?" I said wryly to my friend, and don't take this the wrong way, but I said, "Well, the President's gotta eat."

But I mean that literally. The President has gotta eat. He shepherds this flock and oversees the operation of our entire church, visits the sick and represents the faith to the nation and the world and still manages to visit Reunions and do sermons whenever asked to do so. And he's not alone in this.

A missionary once told me there are three parts to a mission: those who serve, those who give, and those who pray. These categories are not mutually exclusive.

We're a big church, a global church, bigger than we've ever been. We have volunteers, we have paid staff and we have logistical demands on all sides; the buildings need maintaining, the missionaries need training and support and congregations need financial support too sometimes. We depend on our General Church staff to do the things that keep the church running. It's on us to make sure they get the tools and rightful livelihood for their service, because we're all partners together in this Christian mission.

"For where your treasure is there shall your heart be also." May our treasure be in each other, as the body of Christ. We are in this mission together.