

05-15-19 Wednesday Musing

As we move past Mother's Day I am reminded that much like a Mother's love for her children... God loves us... His love is inexhaustible... unending... unconditional... God loves us so completely that if we trust in Him... if we let go of our control and turn it over to Him... His love will overpower the pain we feel inflicted by living life... giving to Him what He so desires of us...

God made us in His own image... male and female... He made us... Out of His love for us... He gave us free will... He could have commanded that the earth and all who dwell on it bow down and worship Him... but He didn't... we can choose to live under the grace that flows from God... or we can choose to steer our ship the other direction... His gift of family... and make no mistake... family is a gift.... Is a wonderful example of God's plan for us and our existence with Him and with all people... The 5th commandment tells us "Honor your Father and your Mother." Exodus 20:12... and is reiterated by Paul in Ephesians 6:2 "Honor [esteem, value as precious] your father and your mother [and be respectful to them]—this is the first commandment with a promise— so that it may be well with you, and that you may have a long life on the earth. (Amplified Bible Version). Families come in all shapes and sizes ... some good... some bad... some large... some small... and for the most part... the make up of our family is totally out of our control... much like the storms we endure in life... some of them we brew ourselves... but many are blown into our lives without our input... Have you ever considered that the Lord can cause any storm in your life to blow you to the place where He intends you to arrive? Many of us think that... (and act accordingly) ... that it is up to us to decide where we are going... and in some respects it is... But when we claim Jesus as our Lord and Savior... those decisions are up to Him... not us. We can make plans... and we are wise to do so... but our plans must always be the result of prayer and made with total flexibility that if this is not what God desires for us to do... we will be quick to alter our course. Proverbs 16:9 - "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps."

The storms we endure in life often leave us with deep wounds... that heal in time with God's grace... or fester and transform into something deeply painful and infectious. If we open our lives to live in communion with the One who made us... we find that our wounds heal... and the scars we thought as ugly are altered into something useful... Beautiful even...

Just as the Pharisees planned to put an end to Jesus' life... God took the ugliness of death and turned it around with a Resurrection... and just as Joseph told his brothers after their reunion "20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. 21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them." Genesis 50:20-21.

Remember... we are called to serve an awesome God... A God that knows the very count of the hairs upon your head... and every secret you harbor within your heart.... Trust Him... He's got this.... Whatever your "this" is....

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As we bow our heads in prayer this week... let us remember...the family of Pat Sellars, Faye Strickland, Millie Fraser, Frances Morgan, Selma Simpson, Jeanne Williams, Mary Jane Pettigrew, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman, And also friends: Nancy Toney, Connie Papadis, Daughter of Evelyn Rey—Carol Mitchell, Family of Barbara Smith, Jeanette Hudson—mother of Connie Collins, Family of Dolly Watson, Sarah Wilson—Niece of Mike Smith, Family of Steve Williams, Brother of Jessie Falls.

Rev. Fonville is away on vacation this week and we will have the joy of welcoming to the pulpit Sharon Wheeler this Sunday. Her sermon title is "What Is Love..." and the Scripture will be read from Acts 11:1-18 and John 13:31-35.

Happening around the church and within our community... The Board of Finance will meet Tuesday, May 21st at 2pm in the conference room, Newsletter articles are due in the office Wednesday, May 22nd. Susan Bowen extends an invitation to join her for a presentation on sexual assault and rape that she will hold at St. Marks Church on Thursday, May 16th at 6:45 pm in the atrium based on the story of Tamar in 2nd Samuel 13. It will include information to help deal with friends or family members who suffer this tragedy.

May God's grace and peace surround you today and always,

Joan 😊



**FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,
DECLARES THE LORD, "
PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU,
PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.
JEREMIAH 29:11**