

Another Word    Sept. 21, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

We had a great time at my nephew's wedding in Georgia, making new friends, and seeing family, but it's really nice to get back home again.

It's not too late to be part of our latest study, "Henri Nouwen and the art of living." Tuesdays at 10:30 am and 6 pm. Even if you miss the first session, you can still be part of a lively and heartfelt discussion.

If the weather holds, what do you think about having a cookout at the pavilion after church in 2 weeks? Each can bring their own meals and we can have a fire at the fire pit, cook hotdogs, roast marshmallows etc. Just let Ellie, Linda, or me know by next Sunday if you would like to participate.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are: Psalm 124, and James 5: 13-20.

"Sounds like praying might just be important." Ellie Wells is the Elder.

Thank you for your prayers for my nephew Chase. At the last minute, the heart and lung transplant was stopped because of an irregular heartbeat of the donor heart which could have jeopardized the success of the surgery. They are again waiting for another donor. The family still covets your prayers. Also, please remember Karen Light who is scheduled for more tests next week, and remember Wanda Bateson as she recovers from surgery.

May we be in prayer;

Most Holy God. We are grateful for Your deep and lasting love. A love that is so strong that no worldly troubles could ever tear us from You.

Guide us, especially in these times of uncertainty. We ask for protection for all those who unselfishly answer the call to help those in need. And we also hold up to You our friends, neighbors, and family that are going through the trials of physical healing. May we always live our lives by Your Heavenly Wisdom taught to us by Jesus, Your gift to the world, Amen.

Revenge!!

Have you ever wanted the satisfaction of “getting” back at someone who “did you wrong?” To make them hurt, to make them pay?

In the summer of 1992, a friend of mine flagged me down as I was out for a ride. A sad moment in his life had just happened and he needed to talk. So, I rode home, parked my motorcycle in the garage, closed the doors, jumped into his car, and off we went for coffee.

The next morning as I opened the garage, there was something wrong. My mind raced trying to figure out what. Then it hit me, my motorcycle was missing. Gone from a closed garage with a dog inside, a car next to where it stood, and even a car, outside, blocking the door! As my mind reeled, I remembered that in my haste to go with my friend, I had left the key in the ignition. But, who had taken it? Who had come onto private property, got past two parked cars, a closed garage door, and a dog, and then taken my ride?

After calling the police to report the theft, I became really angry. If you only knew the thoughts I had, and the punishments that I wanted to inflict on the culprit when he was caught!! To say the least, it would

make you blush. The next day, my motorcycle was found, wrecked in a ditch. And the 15-year-old youth who took it was apprehended. What should I do? What revenge should I take?

The other day, I was reading 1 Samuel Chapter 24, and it reminded me of the story above. David has been made King, taking away the crown from King Saul. Saul is pursuing David to kill him, but David loves and respects Saul. David and his men are hiding in a cave when who should walk in; Saul himself. David's men want to kill Saul out of revenge, but David said no. David goes against the desire to get even. He then quietly cuts a piece of Saul's robe. When Saul leaves the cave, David comes forward and shows him the cloth. Saul is speechless. David could have ended Saul's life, but chose to spare it out of love and respect. Saul left in shame, and did not pursue David any longer.

So, Rich, what does this have to do with a stolen motorcycle? Well, a few days after the insurance adjuster wrote a check for the damages, there was a knock at the door. When I opened it, there stood the young man and his father. I could have screamed, yelled, threatened lawsuits, etc. etc., but I didn't. I could tell he was afraid, nervous, and very ashamed.

He explained how he got the cycle out and even said we had a really sweet dog, (So much for a good watch dog) and then said he would take any punishment I thought was fair. After apologizing, he handed me my rain suit, the only thing left that was not damaged.

In our conversation I realized he knew he had made a huge mistake and wished he could turn back the clock. I asked if he enjoyed riding and he said yes, and hoped that some day, after he had his license he could get his own motorcycle. That was when it happened. I handed back my rain suit and said, "If you are going to ride, you will at some point need one of these. Let it be a reminder to you of how easy you can get into trouble, but also to remind you that it is much easier to do what is right."

James tells us in chapter 3 that we can live by the world's wisdom that will always get you into trouble, (like our young man) or by God's wisdom, that will direct us in living a peaceful, loving and caring life. And further, that we should always let our words be kind, gentle, and sincere. David chose righteousness over revenge which ended the pursuits and brought about peace. I chose forgiveness, and as far as I know, that young man never got into any further trouble.

Living our lives through Love, kindness, and understanding to others is the true trademark of being a follower Of Christ...and anger and revenge is never the answer.

In His Peace,

*Rich*