

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

By Jerry Cummings, Pastor of Living Hope Fellowship in Norton

Some time ago I heard a true story about a grandmother who offered a special dessert to one of her grandsons. The grandson, possibly thinking himself polite, answered, "I don't care." To this his grandmother replied, "then I don't care either." He never got a piece of that dessert.

Many Christians also seem to think that it is more honoring to God to respond to his offers (promises) with the attitude of "it doesn't matter, just do whatever you think". But just as the grandmother wanted her grandson to *want* what she had to offer, so God reserves his great blessings for those who deeply desire what He has.

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who *hunger* and *thirst* for righteousness, for they shall be filled." Jesus asked a man who had not walked in 38 years, "Do you *want* to be healed?" In another instance a blind man was calling out to Jesus, and Jesus asked him, "What do you *want* me to do for you?" The answers to these questions were obvious, but Jesus wanted them to state what it was they desired. Indeed, Spiritual desires are key to receiving promises, spiritual growth, and much more.

We even see this principle placed into the natural world by the Creator. People

and animals need to eat and drink in order to survive and grow. But we do not eat primarily because we recognize food as a need, but because God created our bodies to *desire* food and drink. We call it appetite. In fact, when people lose their appetite, we conclude that they must be sick.

God has made many awesome promises in his Word, but still he sometimes asks "What do you *want* me to do for you?" If we are healthy, in our hearts, we will have God birthed desires from which we will cry out to God.

Jesus told us to "Ask, seek, and to knock." If we do these He says we will "receive, find, and have doors opened to us." He could have just told us to be quiet, and He will give us what is best, but Jesus encouraged us to express our deepest desires unto God. He emphasized that God would respond. We fail to come to God in this way either because we are spiritually sick, or we have been taught by well meaning Christians not to want or expect anything from God.

God wants to fill our hearts with life, and holy desires. So today let's take a fresh look at the promises of God, and our Heavenly Father who made these promises so He could fulfill them for those who will hunger and thirst for them.



Just A Big Kid

Do you sometimes feel like you are older than you are? You shouldn't be surprised. We go to work...come home and work...go to bed...then back to work again. Maybe you don't remember the last time you actually "played". Recreation is important whether we are children or adults. Some studies on human behavior reveal that even children do not play as much as in the past. The word "recreation" speaks for itself. We need to create ourselves again each day for optimum performance.

The playwright, Norman Cousins, gave this advice... "Realize that each human being has a built-in capacity for recuperation and repair. Nurture the regenerative and restorative forces within you."

We need to rest the mind, body and spirit from the weight of daily responsibility. An essential element for renewal is daily trust in God's will and weekly worship. In Matthew 11:28, our Lord says... "Come to me, all you who are weak and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Won't you re-create yourself this Sabbath as you worship at your local church or synagogue?

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Matthew 28:16-20	Acts 11:1-18	Acts 11:19-30	Acts 12:1-19	Acts 13:1-12	Acts 13:13-31	Acts 13:32-52

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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PITCH TOURNAMENT

By JAKE DURHAM

It was a special day as it was May Day plus 1 and the Grandmothers were sharing May Baskets, a local tradition long upheld but becoming less and less observed but appreciated by all. Spring was definitely in the air as everyone seemed to have a light hearted attitude with smiles all around. The Knock table was full and most had come early to enjoy a few extra hands. The fishermen were in command of the situation as fish stories abounded and each one was more vivid than the last. Made you wonder, "Where did all those fish come from?" The Ladies Coalition was going over victory celebration details just in case, while the Fox and the Hound were making book on the possible competition. The situation always passes quickly when everyone is having fun and before you knew it the clock on the wall had hit time to start, but there was one team short when a couple wearing hip waders entered via the west door claiming they were here for the Cat Fish grubbing contest. They were instantly given the last even number and the Brown Eyed Girl shouted, "Begin to Commence."

There seemed to be a somewhat lighted approach to the situation as there was more than the usual conversation at most tables but it was also obvious that another championship was on everyone's mind. Team Double Z was feeling high as they took first round honors for the initial lead and then improved their situation with back to back honors as they capitalized on round two also. The Farmer and the Secretary cashed in on the third round but the lead went to a pair of ladies as the Queen of Hearts and the Maid of Honor, playing solid rounds all the way, went to the top of the board. The Brown Eyed Girl declared it was time for a break and everyone bolted to the snack table. A close look at the situation revealed the scores were tight and that in all probability it was going to be another close encounter all the way to the end. As the fourth round got underway, a puff of smoke came from the south end of the room as the Minute Men fired off a blast and captured fourth round honors and took the lead by a margin of one. The situation was getting more unstable with each hand and as the fifth round came to a close, the Farmer and the Secretary made it a double but not enough for the lead as the Queen of Hearts and the Maid of Honor moved to the top of the board once again. The call for the second break sounded as round six came to a close and as the scores were recorded, most everyone watched intently. Bug Man and the Exterminator, finding themselves in a struggling situation along the way, had taken sixth round honors but the Queen and her Maid remained at the top of the board. By now there was a definite gap in the scores as the leaders had a solid ten point advantage and the next ten teams were bunched up like grapes on a vine. Needless to say this called for some serious consideration during the break as deep thinking and high level strategy definitely was the order of the day. Even though there were some deep gaps in the scores, none could be counted out as there were four rounds to go.

Most seemed anxious to get underway, the crucial seventh and eighth rounds were coming up and as those low on the board were determined to make some bold changes, bidding reached a new level of intensity. However, all does not go well with reckless abandonment as was evident by the moans and groans across the room, often referred to in some areas of competition as the agony of defeat. Bug Man and the Exterminator made it back to back honors as they captured the seventh round to bring them in definite contention, but it was Farmer and the Secretary and Team Double Z, long time competitors, who moved to the top of the board. Things were heating up as the top six teams were within three points of each other. As the man from Louisiana said, a high round or a bust could have "gator" effects at this point of the contest. There was a lot of honking from the back of the room as the Goose and the Gosling failed to connect and as the eighth round came to a close, the Mail Man and Figaro captured the honors. For them it was too little too late as the Farmer and the Secretary, playing conservative Pitch maintained the sole possession of the lead. Round nine was coming up and a catch up break was declared and as the tallies were turned and recorded, Bug Man and the Exterminator had made it a Hat Trick as they made it a triple high round honor, but a close look at the situation had the Farmer and the Secretary locked in a tie with CK and Dr. Bones for the lead. Two points off was the Queen of Hearts and the Maid of Honor, and rounding out the top five two points down was team Double Z and Muley and the Turkey Man.

There was definite serious communication taking place during the catch-up break as a solid performance could capture the title for a half dozen teams and a miss calculation could spell disaster. Good card could be a help as well as high level playing, either way the tenth and final round would tell the story once again. Sighs of desperation as well as chuckles of success could be heard around the room and as the final round came to a close, CK and Dr. Bones put the finishing touches on a closely contested championship as they captured the tenth round honors to gain the victory. It had been the first time in quite awhile the pair had turned the trick and they took their accolades with dignity and humility and vowed to return.

Top ten teams in order were: 1. Carl Neff and Doc Peterson; 2. Julia Roeder and Kay Harman; 3. Dee and Thelma Bushnell; 4. Jerry Darling and Lynn Thiele; 5. Kim Gallentine and Stacy Breiner; 6. Merle Taylor and Weldon Brooks; 7. Arnold and Dorothy Zillinger; 8. Darren McMullen and Bill Glennemeier; 9. Todd and Doyle Brooks; 10. (tie) Dave Shely and Pat Donovan; Ron and Sondra Kester. Wining score by Neff and Peterson was 129 points for an average of 12.9 points per round. High round scorers were: Arnold and Dorothy Zillinger; Dee and Thelma Bushnell; Merle Taylor and Weldon Brooks; Jerry Darling and Lynn Thiele; Fig Millan and Dan Hazlett; Doc Peterson and Carl Neff. Highest single round score was 19 points which was shared by Arnold and Dorothy and Zillinger; Dee and Thelma Bushnell; and Jerry Darling and Lynn Thiele. Triple high round honors went to Jerry Darling and Lynn Thiele; double high round scores went to Arnold and Dorothy Zillinger and Dee and Thelma Bushnell. Other teams not previously mentioned were: Ed and Kathleen Berlier; Dennis McMullen and Duane McEwen; June Jolly and Margaret Magers; Kathryn VanMeter and Junita Eckhart; Rusty Goss and Jason Breiner; Barbara McKee and Donna Millan; Larry Harman and Tony Hildebrand; Coy Christy and John Hildebrand; Lothar Fuerstenau and Paul Schultz; Alice Chance and Jeanette Groothoff; Eleanor Jensen and Joyce Sumner; Ed and Cynthia Glennemeier; Mary Jane Wahlmeier and Norman Walter; Jake and Joe Durham.

Children invited to Bible School

"Rick the Brick" invites area children ages 4 years old through 6th grade to Vacation Bible School sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton. School will run from 6:15 p.m.-8:30 p.m., July 11-15 at the church. This free program includes Christ-centered Bible stories, cre-

ative learning activities, skits, music, crafts, recreation and a snack. There will also be an adult Vacation Bible School class. Space is limited so call to let them know you are coming by June 23. Call the church office at 877-2430 or Erin Manning at 874-4714.