

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE



"Life Isn't Always Fair"

By Pastor Kirk Kasson, Almena Congregational Church

Luke 6:27-31 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Life isn't fair. If we can teach our children one useful piece of information, after the fact that they are unconditionally loved, it might be that life isn't fair.

Not everyone gets first place. Some people are born with more, some with less. Sometimes cheaters get away with it. Sometimes the 4-H judge's opinion is different from yours. Bad things do in fact happen to good people, and, according to scripture, "it rains on the just and the unjust alike." (Matthew 5:45).

C.S. Lewis has noted that one clue that there must be a God is that we seem to naturally feel that life should be fair. A Godless evolution would not have any interest

in fairness. Why would our DNA program a notion of fairness into us? Evolution is simply driven by molecules and circumstance. Fairness does not suit the process of weeding out the weak.

Yet, every toddler knows when he or she has been cheated.

We know life isn't fair, and we don't like it.

So, it came as a bit of a shock to me when I realized, God doesn't expect it to be fair.

Oh sure, I understand about the fall of man. In the Garden of Eden life was peachy. Then mankind began its habit of sinning and we have been

fighting nature and each other ever since.

But there is more to life's unfairness than the fall. Jesus actually tells us to give in, to let others take advantage of us.

Turn the other cheek. If someone steals from you, offer to give them more.

If someone takes advantage of you, see what other needs they have.

Give to those who can't give back.

Give to your enemies. Bless those who curse you.

It seems God doesn't intend for us to come out even. He wants us to give so much that we are guaranteed to come out on the short end of the stick.

I suspect it is because He wants us to be more like Him; He is, by His own nature, a giver.

He is the giver of all good things. He is the author of grace and the provider of eternal forgiveness.

He has given you so much that you can trust Him with what you give to others.

God delights in your faith, when you trust Him with the hard things in life, and when you learn to be a giver.

Sharing the View



How is it that the same view can look different through another's eyes? When we share the same view, each may see it differently; no one vision is unique. As we see and learn, how can we get trusted guidance with interpreting what we observe? What is our understanding...or misunderstanding? An opportunity to discuss spiritual questions can be found in our house of worship. God's Word gives us understanding and direction to our lives. In Deuteronomy 11:18-19, He tells us, "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds...teach them to your children..." Is your family sharing the spiritual view? Find it at your house of worship.

Weekly Scripture Reading						
Hebrews 3:1-19	Hebrews 4:1-13	Hebrews 4:14-5:14	Hebrews 6:1-20	Joshua 1:1-18	Joshua 2:1-24	Joshua 3:1-17
Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society						
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7/28/2013

Sudoku Solution #2978-M

8	5	6	9	1	7	3	4	2
1	7	2	3	8	4	9	5	6
3	4	9	6	2	5	7	1	8
4	8	1	2	3	9	6	7	5
9	6	3	7	5	1	8	2	4
7	2	5	8	4	6	1	9	3
5	3	4	1	9	8	2	6	7
2	9	7	5	6	3	4	8	1
6	1	8	4	7	2	5	3	9

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