



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church *Pastor Terry's Thoughts of the Week*

Conversations & Controversies

It seems to me that the hardest thing in the world to “get rid” of is love. We can give it away by the bucketful and we still have a lot left. It is partly because we have an unending supply of love from God. When we are so filled up with love, we can give it and give it and it just never ends – thanks to God! Some of us have trouble giving “loving jesters”. I don’t think I ever saw my folks holding hands in public and kissing in public was just not the way, back then. Being both a stout New England family and a family of staid European background, public affection was just not normative. Save it for private times. Still, my family was a loving family. It was obvious when it seemed to me that anyone who needed a good ear or, in one case, a year of help, came to my family. I have no idea how many coffee pots my mother wore out, but there was always “kaffe kalas” (coffee and conversation) available. Examples of generosity were easy to come by even though money was carefully taken care of in the family.

On the “children’s page”, which I know many of you adults also check out, there is a suggestion on how to note what is important in a person’s life. I challenge you to check out your own calendar and your own checkbook (or your credit/debit care statement). How much for family, how much for charity (love), how much for recreation (restaurants, movies, golf, other enjoyable activities), how much for necessities and how much for saving for a rainy day. I think all of these things are important, but when we let one overwhelm all the others, that’s trouble.

You may feel that last one is all money, but it isn’t. Check your calendar or your daily activities. How many days (hours) do you usually spend helping someone else? How much time do you spend alone in day dreaming, thoughtful planning, mediation and prayer? How much time do you spend in

recreation? How much time is spent playing games on the computer or wasting time shooting the breeze about nothing with others?

Again, all of these things are healthy for us, but when one overwhelms all the others, we are in trouble, physically, spiritually and mentally.

We need to have well-rounded lives and our calendars and checkbooks need to reflect that. All in all, Jesus had a well-rounded life. He learned a trade, he worshipped, he helped other people and he showered love on the world.



That's what this Lenten season is all about, remembering all the things he did and finally the incredible amount of love he gave to us, his brothers and sisters. He knew the love of God was never ending and he knew that whatever happened, his father would not desert him.

That's a hard lesson to learn – that God is the most loving father we can imagine – so loving he would never desert us. When life seems to deal us sour oranges instead of good fruit, remember that God walks with us and teaches us how to make the best of a bad situation. Jesus situation couldn't have been worse, but he hung in there, knowing he would be carried through even the worst of situations.

TMK

-- Week of March 7, 2010