

Making Life Better

with **Jesus**, in **Community**, on **Purpose**

a weekly email from **Pastor Lynn**

7.15.2016

Greetings –

THIS SUNDAY, a **NEW Summer Sermon Series** begins: **“The STORIES He Told”**. All of us enjoy a good story. Join me as we learn a lot about ourselves and God’s Kingdom on earth. We’ll begin in Matthew 20 with a controversial story about **Grace and Generosity**. If you have ever found yourself thinking you “missed the boat” or that “you have been treated unfairly,” you will want to hear this story and its application.

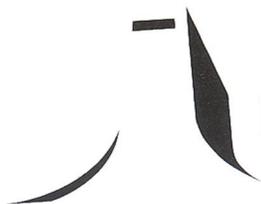
Lots of people coming and going on trips and vacations.
Keep everyone in your prayers.

One thing about summer is “things grow”! Lawns have to be mowed. Weeds have to be pulled or treated. Consider the analogy that “things grow in our minds and souls.” Consistent worship and fellowship reminds us of what a well ordered lawn (heart/spirit) looks like. A faithful pattern of worship sharpens our spiritual eyesight to those things that otherwise “take over.” Adoration is an antidote to self-absorption. Praise is an antidote to discontent. Giving and gratitude are antidotes to stinginess. May your summer heart look great!

The summer heat is symptomatic of the heightened turmoil in our society. It is hard to get away from either. The violent events captured in endless video clips, articles, tweets, blog postings, and conversations reveal just how problematic our culture is. Nearly 40 years ago Alexander Solzhenitsyn remarked that our society “has a smooth surface, but it is thin, with only the illusions of stability and health.” We Christ followers need to:

- admit our own biases and willful ignorance regarding differences in our society,
- “be quick to listen and slow to speak” James 1:19 (constructive versus negative)
- Even if we don’t know how to repair all the problems, we can “Lament” (Ezekiel 9:4), and instead of being ambivalent we can pray. Our society needs the resurrection power of our Lord. Mourn with those who mourn and cry out for wisdom to the God who sees all.

Keep listening for God’s voice. – **Blessings!**



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