

Another Word March 15, 2023

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

We are now half way through the season of Lent. It is our hope that our journey through Mark, chapters 14 and 15 is bringing you closer to Jesus, and the passion that He went through for each one of us. As a reminder, there will be a Maundy Thursday service, April 6th at 6:30 pm.

Associated Charities sends us a great big "Thank You" for the much-needed bottles of shampoo. Over the past 2 weeks we collected 75 bottles. And I say, thank you for showing God's love in practical ways.

The baby bottles for The Ashland Pregnancy and Care Center are due back Easter Sunday. If they are already filled, you may return them sooner.

Our scriptures for the next 4 Sundays are as follows:

March 19- Psalm 32 and Mark 15: 1-20, "Taken to The Praetorium."
Dale Campbell is our serving Elder.

March 26- Psalm 34 and Mark 15:20-39, "Golgotha, the place of The Skull." Shelley Carpenter is our serving Elder.

April 2- Palm Sunday. Psalm 22: 1-5, 22-31 and Mark 15: 40-47, "In the Garden of Tombs. Lana Bell is our serving Elder.

April 9- Easter. Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 and John 20: 1-18, "Dancing from the Garden." Linda Gardner is our serving Elder.

Please keep all those who are in need of healing and our loved ones who can't be with us in your prayers.

May we pray. Dear Holy God. As we travel through Lent may we express our love and gratitude for all that Jesus did for us. Sometimes

we simply forget to say thank you. We are grateful that you provide for all our needs as well as guiding us in ways to live fruitful lives. We ask for blessings and healings to be showered on all those that we hold dear. Guide us through Your word and inspiration so we may help bring peace and comfort to a world that desperately needs Your love. We pray this in Christ's most Holy Name, Amen

Last Sunday's message made me stop and think about Peter and what Mark records that Jesus said to him earlier in the evening. Jesus said, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me 3 times." Peter, after denying he knew Jesus, ran from the courtyard of Caiaphas and wept bitterly. It appears that Peter missed his chance.

Let's face it. We live in a world that allows one chance, and one chance only. Game shows that give you one chance to answer. Get it wrong and you lose. Or, one chance to hit in the winning run in the bottom of the 9th, or one chance to make the winning basket before the buzzer goes off. Take a test and what you write will determine pass or fail. Besides a mulligan in golf (if the person you are playing with allows it), our world doesn't give many do-overs.

What came to me was this. What if God only gave us one chance in life to get it right? Think of Peter at that moment. I'm sure he thought he had committed an unpardonable sin. How often do we each think the same thing? Peter had a chance to "get it right," and failed. How often have each of us failed in the same way?

Seems to me I recall when Jesus was asked, how often should you forgive someone, up to 7 times? His answer was, "not 7, but 77 times." The devil wants us to believe there is a limit to God's forgiveness, but Jesus is saying God's grace is unlimited. When (note: I say when and not

if) we make a wrong choice, confess it to God and receive His forgiveness and restoration, (1 John 1:9) and know that there is no limit to our Loving God's grace.

But what about Peter and his dilemma? Well, I guess you will have to wait until after Easter to learn, "The Rest of The Story." (My apologies to Paul Harvey.)

In His Peace,

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