



North Fort Myers Church of the Nazarene Messenger

September, 2018, Volume 9, Issue 5

Just Me and the Master

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14

We began a new emphasis in our Wednesday night Bible study on discipleship this week. We focused in our first lesson on the idea that with this emphasis we will need to not only be learning how to disciple others, but that in the process, we will be also taking a look at how we are doing as disciples ourselves. Self-evaluation is not always pleasant. Sometimes, we find areas in our lives where we are missing the mark and where we know the Lord would want more from us. In order for us to see the truth about where we stand with the Lord, then, we must first be willing to lay aside our pride and allow the Spirit to reveal to us the truth. We have to be honest with ourselves. There is great benefit if we are making these adjustments and are looking honestly at what needs to change, repenting of those places where we have failed, and letting the Holy Spirit direct us.

However, one of the most frequent pitfalls that can happen when we effectively evaluate our lives and make constant corrections in order to draw closer to the Lord and become more effective disciples, is that we begin to bear better fruit. When the fruit begins to be seen, people will usually take notice and make comments that can actually lead us off course if we are not careful. Because, as disciples of Christ, the most important focus for us cannot be what others believe about us, but what the Lord thinks about us. “Compared to others” we may appear to be many things. However, we absolutely must avoid comparing ourselves to other disciples and how and what they are doing.

The Apostle Paul warned us in 2 Corinthians 10, that these kinds of comparisons are unwise. If the Lord is the one setting the standards and goals for our lives, our only concern should be meeting His expectations and what He

asks and requires. It would be easy to find someone with whom we could compare ourselves and conclude that we are doing pretty well. There will always be someone who will look worse than we do and someone who will look better. However, if our goal is to truly become the disciples Christ longs for us to be, we must lay aside the comparison temptation and learn to move forward as a “Team of two – Jesus and you.”

The value in regularly checking how we are doing in our walk as disciples is that it keeps us reminded for Whom we are living and the One Whose expectations are important. But it also keeps us reminded that the world’s expectations and evaluations will almost always lead us to the wrong assumptions about ourselves.

We were given the sad news that a well-known minister of the Gospel took his own life this week. No one but the Lord knows everything that was in his heart or what his motivations for such a terrible conclusion to his earthly walk were. But we do know that he suffered from depression and anxiety, and he was the leader of a large church. Without drawing any conclusions, we can only imagine that the demands on him to be more than he felt he could be were most likely constant.

We will never know whether it would have benefitted him to have someone in his life reminding him to remember to keep looking to Jesus for the evaluation on how he was doing, and to make certain he was not looking anywhere else. But we can learn from this terrible tragedy, by recognizing that no matter how closely we walk with the Lord, even the best of us can lose our focus. We can also use it as a reminder that no matter who you are sitting next to, listening to, reading about, watching or thinking about, you never know through what that person is going, or whether they are perfect just the way they are. Do yourself a favor and assume that everyone is just like you - in need of concentrating so hard on keeping their hand firmly gripped in the hand of the Master, they have no time to focus on anyone else. Blessings, Becky

Prayer Needs:

Libbie Smith	Laura Lee	Patrick Lindsey	Janet VanSkiver
Laurel & Dorothy Chapman	Janice O'Lynn	Michael Romano	Ryan Woodby
Paul & Grace Boling	Matthew Morgan	Ida Chaplow	Ardyth Eldridge
Orion Predko	Phoebe Barr	Beth Kurland	Mark & Kim Barr
Sheryl Colie & Family	Joseph Groves	Eileen Massett	Louis Perez
Ernie Rybold	Regina Williams	Alice Daugherty	Phyllis Obney
Kenny & Gail Goodman	Bonnie Rose	Eileen Jennings	Vanessa Hinckley
Raymond Jungles	Annie Krapu	Ken Vandelinde	Cody Church
Steven Leo	Janice O'Lynn	Jeff Werling	Betty Retter
Sandy Reedy	Pearl Buchkoski	Jerry & Deane Werling	The Nation of Israel
Marlene Ryan	Kitty Baxter	George Smith	
House of James Ministries	A Youth Pastor	Unsaved Loved Ones	Our Church Leaders
Our military, our leaders & our nation			

Birthdays & Anniversaries

6 – Darla Barber
10 – Ardyth Eldridge
 Becky Garner
14 – Linda Young
 Lee & Jean Monroe
16 – Dorothy Chapman
17 – Paul Bolling
18 – Jerry & Laura Lee
20 – Dave & Sherry Chapman
24 – Richard & Brenda Loubier
 Martha Pickett
25 – Anna Marie Anderson
29 – Helen Beatty

September Happenings

12 – Food Distribution
13 – Church Board Meeting
15 – District Team Day
29 – Open Mic Night
30 – Denise Horton Consulting



We are excited to be partnering with the Harry Chapin Food Bank to help feed the hungry and provide for the needy in North Fort Myers. We need volunteers to help with the distribution on Wednesday, September 12, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, to help with a variety of tasks. Please spread the word to anyone you think could benefit from this special outreach and join us as we partner to help those in need. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in North Fort Myers.



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

Open Mic
Night



September 29 – 6-9 P.M.
Come and enjoy a variety of music,
including groups, soloists, singer/songwriters, etc.
Family Friendly
Anyone (groups or soloists) who wishes to participate must sign
up no later than 5:30 P.M. You will perform in the order in
which you sign up.
Any Questions call Linda Romano @
239 204-7662

SOUTHERN FL DISTRICT TEAM DAY



Saturday, September 15

9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

13545 American Colony Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33912



Two familiar events – **Improve Your Serve** and **SDMI Convention** – are evolving this year into a new District event called **TEAM DAY!** **TEAM DAY** is open to all pastors and any of our church folk who desire training, inspiration and motivation for ministry in Sunday School and discipleship ministries, youth, adult and children, as well as missions. Dr. Jeren Rowell, president of Nazarene Theological Seminary, will be our special guest, and workshops will be offered in the various areas of interest. This is a wonderful opportunity to receive help and training in whatever area of ministry in which you might be currently involved or which you may have considered becoming involved. Resources and training will be available in English, Spanish and French/Creole as well. We would love to take a large group from our church and assist our own team in building their skill sets so we can cultivate and grow our various ministries. Folks, we have too many needs for workers and too few stepping up to fill those roles. PLEASE consider becoming a part of our ministry team at North Fort Myers and join us for this excellent opportunity to grow and develop for the sake of the Kingdom of GOD. The event will have something for everyone and child care will be provided. If you are interested in joining us for this event, please see Pastor Becky.

INSURANCE ASSISTANCE

If you have volunteered for our food distribution outreach, you have most likely seen Denise Horton, smiling, laughing and sitting at a table to the side, offering assistance to people with questions about insurance coverage. Denise is a local Independent Insurance agent from North Fort Myers, and she has become a friend to our church and the folks in our neighborhood. Denise specializes in Medicare Health Plan benefits, and has informed us that it is wise for all Medicare members to review their health plans each year for the coming year, and the best time to do that is during open enrollment. Medicare open enrollment season begins October 15, 2018, and lasts through December 7, 2018. During open enrollment season, eligible Medicare members are permitted to make benefit changes regarding their Medicare health plan benefits.

Because we are aware that this can be a confusing and difficult task, we have invited Denise to come and make herself available to answer any questions and provide professional guidance for anyone who might be facing this daunting process. Denise will be sharing with our folks during our Wednesday night potluck dinners beginning October 17. She will also be scheduling appointments to meet with individuals on Fridays from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the church. Our hope is that this would be a welcome service and an excellent opportunity for anyone who might need the help of an insurance professional. So, make plans to be present during our Wednesday night potlucks and stick around for our wonderful Bible study.



Why worry or fret?

When I was in Jr. High school, we used to sing a song called, “*Why should I Worry or Fret.*” If I remember correctly it went something like this.

I believe

I believe

I believe

so why should I worry or fret.

He holds the future in the Palm of His hand

He has never failed me yet

I Know He is leading and He still has control,

so why should I worry or fret

I know it sounds very simplistic, however it is very true. We all worry from time to time about things we should be able to give to God. So, I guess the question becomes, “How can we put our worries to work for us?”

First, we need to understand there are two kinds of worry.

A negative, harmful, crippling worry.

A positive beneficial concern

Negative worry is an anxiety that focuses our thoughts either on concerns that we can do nothing about or on matters that distract us from resting in God’s ability to meet our needs. Jesus mentioned this kind of worry six times in his Sermon on the Mount. He taught his followers to turn to their Father in Heaven, who wants us to trust him one day at a time, even for the most common cares of life.

Matthew 6:25-34(NASB)

“For this reason, I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing?”

*Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.***

Let me add, however, not all worry is bad. The Bible also speaks of a healthy concern that results in meaningful action and prayer. In 2 Corinthians 11:28, Paul spoke of his “*deep concern for all the churches.*” The word *concern* is the same Greek word he and other New Testament writers used when urging against self-consuming anxiety. (Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 5:7)

Here are four ways we can put our worries to work for us:

*Let your worry turn your attention to God.

He is all powerful

*Let your worry turn you to the words of Jesus.

Trust His wisdom

*Turn your worry into prayers.

God is everywhere call out to Him.

*Turn your worry into practical choices.

He knows everything. Let Him guide you.

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;

courage to change the things I can;

and wisdom to know the difference.

The Serenity Prayer - **Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)**

Do you believe? Then why worry or fret. Put your worries to work for you.

Blessings, Pastor Van

**North Fort Myers Church of the
Nazarene**

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