

Sermon: October 4, 2020

"The drone"

I love the words in today's lesson ---- Isaiah 40:
*The Lord strengthens those who are weak and tired.
Even those who are young grow weak.
But those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed.
They will rise up on wings like eagles ... they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not grow weak.
Teach me, Lord ... teach me, Lord ... to wait.*

These words are in our spirit book ----- #90. I promise ---- I won't break out into song!!

I'm ... like you ... am tired of waiting. 7 months ---- and our world is still upside down and sideways!!

What have I learned about myself in the last 7 months? ... how about you??
I've certainly learned I am not as "in control" of my life as I thought. The only "control" we have is how we respond to what's going on around us.
I've learned that the "blame game" is very destructive to the human spirit. Yes ... there is a lot of "blame" going on. My brother Jim has a way of putting life in perspective. He often sends me bits of far-eastern wisdom. One goes something like this ----
*When you blame others ... you've gotten nowhere.
When you blame yourself ... you are half-way there.
When you don't have to blame anyone ---- you have arrived.*

Maybe most important ... I have discovered (or re-discovered) the power of guts and kindness.

I realize anew how "REAL" Jesus is.

When we begin to trust what Jesus stands for ... our STRENGTH IS RENEWED.

And we can rise up on wings like eagles. We may be weary ... but we don't have to give in.

Jesus teaches us ----- there is strength in our weakness.

He walks with us ... beside us ... and in us.

Blame ... and anger ... and prejudice ----- they bring us down. They cut at the very heart of our humanity.

And kindness? ----- it is the soil from which we can discover the very essence of who we are.

"Kindness" is not wimpy. It gives us the guts and courage to face each day.

At the very heart-and-soul of what I believe is ----- that the spirit of this gentle carpenter comes alive in "ordinary people" like you and me ... if we allow it!!

To believe in Jesus ... to believe in God (this gentle "higher power") ----- is to walk-and-live in his spirit.

Today we remember a lady who exuded God's grace and goodness.

Lori Gloodt entered eternal life late last night ... at the age of 60.

It's easy to "idolize" someone who has left us ... and Lori would never want that.

I didn't realize when I married her and Scott 30 years ago ... that she had already been living with cancer for two years. Amazing elementary school teacher ... principal ... Sunday School teacher ... and leader of our teaching team. Humble. Kind. Generous beyond measure.
Most important ----- wife and mom and sister and grandma.

I will never forget what she said to me ...
She was here one day ... and I could tell she was struggling ... as she planned for Sunday,
and decorated the bulletin boards .

“Lori ----- how do you do it??”

She smiles:

“Don, you have to have “purpose” in your life ----- you know that.
Cancer doesn’t define me ... having purpose does. Coming here to church gives me purpose.
I know in what direction my life is going. My goal is to get there as slowly as possible!!”

Lori and Scott and family ----- thank-you so much for the way you have embraced our son Quinton.
Every person with autism is unique. And Q???? ----- he has trouble expressing his feelings ... especially when
it comes to dealing with death. When Peggy told Quinton that Lori had died ----- he got quiet and said:

“Please say HI to Mr. Gloodt for me.”

Later Quinton comes down into the kitchen.

“Dad ... you need to call the police tomorrow. You know ---- there will be lots of people at the funeral ...
Mrs. Gloodt is pretty famous ... they will have to direct traffic.”

OK --- I’ll check on that.

“And, dad and Peggy ---- I am going to film ... with my drone camera ... when they carry Mrs. Gloodt
out of the church. I want to do that for her family.”

NICE ---- Q ... will you do that for me when I die?

“Oh, no, dad ----- Mrs. Gloodt is a lot more famous than you.”

I smile. A good dose of humility from my son!!

Each of us ... in our own circle ... is famous.

Lori certainly is.

Most important ----- Lori lived in the spirit of a humble carpenter.
She allowed kindness to have its own power.

I just hope each of us has the “guts” to do the same.

Don Borling

All Saints Lutheran Church

13350 S. LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL

October 4, 2020

www.allsaintsjoy.com allsaintsjoy@sbcglobal.net 708-448-2939