

Taking Out the Trash

Max Lucado



How kind are you? What is your kindness quotient? When was the last time you did something kind for someone in your family—e.g., got a blanket, cleaned off the table, prepared the coffee—without being asked?

Think about your school or workplace. Which person is the most overlooked or avoided? A shy student? A grumpy employee? Maybe he doesn't speak the language. Maybe she doesn't fit in.

Are you kind to this person?

Kind hearts are quietly kind. They let the car cut into traffic and the young mom with three kids move up in the checkout line. They pick up the neighbor's trash can that rolled into the street. And they are especially kind at church. They understand that perhaps the neediest person they'll meet all week is the one standing in the foyer or sitting on the row behind them in worship. Paul writes: "*When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers*"

(Galatians 6:10).

And, here is a challenge—what about your enemies? With the boss who fired you or the wife who left you. Suppose you surprised them with kindness? Not easy? No, it's not. But mercy is the deepest gesture of kindness. Paul equates the two. "*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you*" (Eph. 4:32 NKJV).



Responsive Reading: Isaiah 53:3-5. 10

- North: He was despised and rejected by all, a man of suffering and familiar with pain.
- South: Like one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised and held in low esteem.
- North: Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering.
- South: We considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.
- North: He was pierced for our transgressions.
- South: He was crushed for our iniquities.
- ALL: Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and the LORD makes his life an offering for sin.**



Lesson: Romans 4:18-25

Hoping against hope, Abraham believed that he would become "*the father of many nations*," according to what was promised to him: "*So numerous shall your descendants be.*"

Now, he did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "*was reckoned to him as righteousness.*"

Now the words, "*it was reckoned to him,*" were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead – the one who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.



Gospel: Mark 8:31-34

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly.

Then, Peter took him aside and began to argue with him. But, Jesus, turning and looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "*Get behind me, Satan! You are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.*"

After that, he called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "*If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*"

SALEM FAMILY EVENTS



Keep on reaching out to your fellow parishioners, especially those who have little to no contact otherwise!



Next council meeting, 9 March – 6:30pm come in person or call in! ☺

Newsletter

If you didn't get one, for whatever reason, just let us know!! We'll get one to you one way or another!
Btw, there are printed copies in the narthex...☺



Last Week

Family Pathways
Is having their annual
Holiday Food Drive
A person can stop by any of
the food shelves with
donations of foodstuffs or
money

Announcements....

- Please arrange to pick up your donation envelopes for 2021; they are available at the Church's building. Please keep Salem in mind as you can financially; this is one way to show your gratitude to God for the gifts/blessings you have received. Thank you in advance for your generosity.
- More announcements... see insert! ☺



- It's a good thing snakes and dogs don't interbreed. Nobody wants a loyal snake.
- Q: How are a cat and a sentence different? A: A cat has claws at the end of its paws; a sentence has a pause at the end of its clause!
- Q: What do you call a penguin in the desert? A: Lost
- Q: What did the SNAIL say while riding on the turtles back? A: Wheeeeeeeee
- Q: What is the best way to cook a gator? A: In a crock-pot
- Q: What do you call a lazy baby kangaroo? A: A pouch potato.
- Q. What do you get when you cross a snake with a tasty dessert? A. A pie-thon!
- My email password has been hacked. That's the third time I've had to rename the cat.
- Q. What do you get when you cross a centipede with a parrot? A. A walkie-talkie!
- Q: Why do birds fly south in the Fall? A: Because it's too far to walk.
- Q. What did the leopard say after finishing a delicious meal? A. "That hit the spot!"
- Q: Why do cows go to New York? A: To see the moosicals!

