

Nevertheless

by Max Lucado

And the king and his men... spoke to David, saying, *"You shall not come in here; but the blind and the lame will repel you,"* ...Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David).- 2 Samuel 5:6-9

Did you see it? Most hurry past it. Let's not. Pull out a pen and underline this twelve-letter masterpiece.

Nevertheless.

"Nevertheless David took the stronghold..."

Wouldn't you love God to write a *nevertheless* in your biography? Born to alcoholics, *nevertheless* she led a sober life. Never went to college..... *nevertheless* he mastered a trade. Didn't read the Bible until retirement age, *nevertheless* he came to a deep and abiding faith.

We all need a "nevertheless". And God has plenty to go around. Strongholds mean nothing to him. Remember Paul's words? *"We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil's strongholds"* (2 Cor. 10:4 NLT).

You and I fight with toothpicks; God comes with battering rams and cannons. What he did for David, he can do for us. The question is, will we do what David did? The king models much here.

Two types of thoughts continually vie for your attention. One proclaims God's strengths, the other lists your failures. One longs to build you up; the other seeks to tear you down. And here is the great news: you select the voice you hear. Why listen to the mockers? Why heed their voices? Why give ear to pea-brains and scoffers when you can, with the same ear, listen to the voice of God?

Do what David did. Turn a deaf ear to the old voices. Open a wide eye to the new choices.

Who knows, you may be a prayer away from a "nevertheless". God loves to give them. Peter stuck his foot in his mouth. Joseph was imprisoned in Egypt. The Samaritan woman had been married five times. Jesus was dead in the grave ...

Nevertheless, Peter preached, Joseph ruled, the woman shared, Jesus rose — and you?

You fill in the blank. Your *nevertheless* awaits you

Psalm: Psalm 89: 15-18

Happy are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your countenance; they exult in your name all day long and extol your righteousness.

You are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted. Our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

Lesson: Romans 6: 13-19

No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

Jesus said, *"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple -- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."*



SALEM FAMILY EVENTS



The building maybe....**NOT** the church!!!!

At the recent parish council meeting, we discussed the topic of gathering in-person again. We are hoping to do so starting on July 5th. We would meet outdoors, on the south (cemetery) side of the Church's building, as we do with the picnic. Now, this would require you to bring your own lawn chairs, wear masks, practice social distancing, and use all other anti-virus precautions. We will have recorded music (no congregational singing, but you can hum or sing quietly to yourself). The council felt that reconnecting with our brothers and sisters is long past due, would be a fine "attitude adjustment", and is the best we can do in light of present circumstances. Please note: virtual church services will continue simultaneously for those who are not able/comfortable gathering with others yet.

Another announcement... If you haven't seen the prayer requests come out via the "Email Blasts", check your SPAM folder in your email. It should be recognizable by the from "Salem Mail" tag. And, as a second announcement, watch for a new newsletter in the next week or two! :)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Food Shelf - they are in desperate need at local food shelves...if anyone can donate to Family Pathways at this time, please do so! You can donate either (or both) foodstuffs or dollars. For food, simply drop off at Family Pathways' building across from the North Branch movie theater.

For dollars, simply mail a check to: **Family Pathways,**
6413 Oak St.

North Branch, MN 55056



Prayer List – Updates – please send name to either Pr. Rob
robkrajewski72@gmail.com or, Jerry Youngquist

jerry.youngquist@gmail.com



Please send your offering to the parish's street address –

Salem Lutheran Church of Oxford
26950 Furman St. NE
North Branch, MN 55056



GRINABLES

- I bought one of those tapes to teach you Spanish in your sleep. During the night, the tape skipped. Now I can only stutter in Spanish.
- I'm writing my book in fifth person, so every sentence starts out with: "I heard from this guy who told somebody ..." *Demetri Martin*
- You'll never be as lazy as whoever named the fireplace.
- A Canadian psychologist is selling a video that teaches you how to test your dog's IQ. Here's how it works: If you spend \$12.99 for the video, your dog is smarter than you. *Jay Leno*
- We've begun to long for the pitter-patter of little feet, so we bought a dog. It's cheaper, and you get more feet. *Rita Rudner*
- Nature abhors a vacuum, but not as much as a cat does. *Anonymous*
- Whoever named it *necking* is a poor judge of anatomy. *Groucho Marx*