

Consider-ables w/Max Lucado

God Listens

by Max Lucado

You can talk to God because God listens. Your voice matters in heaven. He takes you very seriously. When you enter his presence, the attendants turn to you to hear your voice. No need to fear that you will be ignored.

Even if you stammer or stumble, even if what you have to say impresses no one, it impresses God—and he listens.

He listens to the painful plea of the elderly in the rest home. He listens to the gruff confession of the death-row inmate. When the alcoholic begs for mercy,

when the spouse seeks guidance, when the businessman steps off the street into the chapel, God listens. Intently. Carefully. The prayers are honored as precious jewels. Purified and empowered, the words rise in a delightful fragrance to our Lord. *“The smoke from the incense went up from the angel’s hand to God.”* Incredible. Your words do not stop until they reach the very throne of God.

Then, the angel *“filled the incense pan with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth”* (Rev. 8:5). One call and Heaven’s fleet appears. Your prayer on earth activates God’s power in heaven, and *“God’s will is done on earth as it is in heaven.”*

You are the someone of God’s kingdom. You have access to God’s furnace. Your prayers move God to change the world. You may not understand the mystery of prayer. You don’t need to. But this much is clear: Actions in heaven begin when someone prays on earth. What an amazing thought!

When you speak, Jesus hears.

And when Jesus hears, thunder falls.

And when thunder falls, the world is changed.

All because someone prayed.

From *Lucado Inspirational Reader*

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Responsive Reading: Psalm 37:3-6

ALL: Trust in the LORD, and do good...

Jan-Apr: ...you will live in the land and enjoy security.

ALL: Take delight in the LORD...

May-Aug: ...you will be given the desires of your heart.

ALL: Commit your way to the LORD...

Sep-Dec: ...he will act on your behalf.

ALL: The Lord takes care of his own.



Lesson: I Corinthians 15:42-50

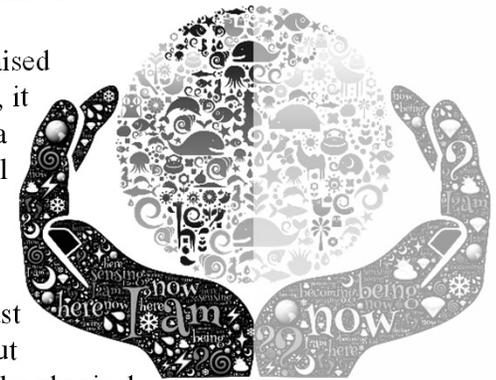
[This is how it] is with the resurrection of the dead [body]. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.

It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

Thus it is written, *“The first man, Adam, became a living being”*; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.

As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.



Gospel: Luke 6:27-35a/b

[Jesus continued teaching...] *"But I say to you that listen:*

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again."

"Do to others as you would have them do to you."

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High."



Council Activity & Changes --

The council met this past Tuesday evening. This was, primarily, the meeting held annually in which council officers were elected or reelected. The results are:

- Council President** – Kevin Almendinger (reelected)
- Council Vice President** – Joan Butler (reelected)
- Council Secretary** – Deb Stenberg (newly elected)
- Council Treasurer** – Diane Youngquist (reelected)
- Other members elected or reelected at annual meeting:
- Lee Debele – (reelected)
- Pam Olson – (reelected)
- Shirley Gillard – (elected)
- Vicki Bengtson – (elected)
- Jerry Youngquist – (reelected)

Men’s Bible Study – The next meeting is March 9 @ 8:30 AM

Women’s Pregnancy Support – We will once again support pregnant women through the Baby Bottle Campaign. Proceeds raised from now through the end of February will go to Options For Women (a pregnancy resource center in North Branch). Please consider putting a donation (loose change, bills, checks) into the large baby bottles on the table in the entryway.



Lutheran-ables...From “The Lutheran Handbook II”

Telling the difference between “Vocation” & “Vacation

Martin Luther’s doctrine of vocation is radical because Luther says that a holy “calling” (which is what the word vocation means) is not limited to people who are pastors or missionaries. Rather, any job or career is holy when a Christian performs it as part of her or his baptismal call from God to serve others.

- V. Measure the level of challenge you experience during the activity.** If challenged at multiple levels—intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual—by what you do each day, you may be living a vocation, rather than being on vacation. While hiking or surfing may be challenging in a physical way, hiking and surfing are probably not vocation for most people.
- VI. Differentiate between your level of fulfillment and your level of relaxation.** If you find fulfillment in what you do beyond mere relaxation and enjoyment, you may be living a vocation, rather than being on vacation. *___(cont’d next week)*

Grin-able(s)...

Puns & Corn time...

- Corny jokes are a-maize-ing...
- “I quit my job at the helium factory...I refuse to be spoken to in that tone of voice...”
- Why are teddy bears never hungry? Because they’re stuffed...
- What did one toilet say to the other toilet? You look flushed.
- What’s the best time to go to the dentist? Tooth hurty...
- Where do beef-burgers go to dance? The Meatball...
- Which side of a duck has the most feathers? The outside...
- Don’t interrupt someone working intently on a puzzle... chances are you’ll hear some crosswords...
- I’m a big fan of whiteboards. I find them quite remarkable...
- What do you get when you cross a joke with a rhetorical question?

