



*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*  
- Gal. 3:28

Dear Friends of Jesus,

Yesterday was Juneteenth. I had never even heard of Juneteenth, until a few years ago. But now I realize it's truly significant: Even though the war technically ended with the surrender at Appomattox Court House in April, 1865, the *final* call to the end of slavery occurred in Texas, June 19th, 1865. Black slaves were finally elevated from their legal standing as  $\frac{3}{5}$  a human being to full equal status with all other American citizens. Needless to say, there was high celebration that day.

As we give thanks for the freedom from oppression represented on July 4, I believe we are challenged as followers of Jesus to look inside our own hearts to see if there is *anyone* who we see as less loved by God than we are. That "equality" is absolutely clear in the New Testament, as God's love is like the sun which shines on all without discrimination (Mt. 5: 45).

As we are able to enter into that "oneness" with all people (even enemies), we'll find that the one who is truly liberated is me!

Have a happy and safe Fourth,  
*Scott*



## KEEPING YOU INFORMED:

- **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in our **BAKED GOODS BINGO** June 14th. We netted \$1172 and blessed a bunch of folks.
- **POTLUCK/BBQ! Sunday, July 16**, after worship (around 11:45). Church provides burgers, brats, dogs, tableware, and drinks. You bring a side dish or dessert, as well as a friend to share all the fun!
- **Community Choir** performs one night only: July 25, 6:30 pm, Performing Arts Center in Detour. Don't miss out!

- Discussion around the popular series "**The Chosen**" continues through the summer on **Thursdays @ 6:30 pm**. We'll watch one episode and discuss insights (There may be snacks!). No obligation. Just drop in and prepare to be inspired & encouraged! Invite a friend!

Our **second quarter mission's giving** goes to [Bay Cliff Health Camp](#) and [Care Net Pregnancy Center of the EUP](#). Both are about supporting kids and this

A Helping Hand



has been the most popular missions' outreach. Aimee Ogston, Dir. of Care Net, visited us on Sunday, May 21, sharing news of the ministry and delivering an inspiring message on being "Rooted in Christ".

You can watch that on our Facebook page.

Sunday, **June 25**, we will be blessed by Claire Lutgen, Executive Director of Bay Cliff Health Camp for special needs kids. That will also be our **Missions Sunday Collection** for both organizations. Please be generous!

## Equality in the Eyes of God

*Jesus told his disciples this parable: "A man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away."*  
Matthew 25:14-15

This passage begins the Parable of the Talents. In the end, two of the servants worked hard using what they had received to produce more. One of the servants did nothing and received condemnation. There are many lessons we can take from this parable. Let's look at a lesson about equality.

How would you feel if you were the one who received only one talent in this story after watching two others receive five and two talents? Would you feel cheated? Would you complain? Perhaps.

Though the heart of the message in this parable is more about what one does with that which is  
(Over)



received, it's interesting to note that God does appear to give different portions to different people. To some He gives what appears to be an abundance of blessings and responsibility. To others He appears to give very little that is considered of value in this world.

God does not lack justice in any way. Therefore, this parable should help us to accept the fact that life may not always "appear" to be fair and equal. But this is a worldly perspective, not a divine one. From the mind of God, those who have been given very little in the view of the world have as much potential to produce an abundance of good fruit as those who have been entrusted with much. Think, for example, about the difference between a billionaire and a beggar. Or about the difference between a bishop and an ordinary layman. It's easy to compare ourselves to others, but the fact of the matter is that the only thing that matters is what we do with that which we have received. If you are a poor beggar who has been dealt a very difficult situation in life, you have just as much potential to glorify God and produce an abundance of good fruit as anyone else.

Reflect, today, upon all that God has given you. What are your "talents?" What have you been given to work with in life? This would include material blessings, circumstances, natural talents and extraordinary graces. How well do you use what you have been given? Do not compare yourself to others. Instead, use what you have been given for the glory of God and you will be rewarded for all eternity.

*Lord, I give to You all that I am and thank You for all that You have given to me. May I use all that I have been blessed with for Your glory and for the upbuilding of Your Kingdom. May I never compare myself to others, looking only to the fulfillment of Your holy will in my life. Jesus, I trust in You.*

(Excepted from: <https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/2020/11/14/equality-in-the-eyes-of-god/>)

## July Birthdays

1. Colleen Barko
10. Sophie Larson
10. Dot Stacy
11. Chuck Barko

15. Vivienne Seaman.
17. Linda Van Rhee
18. Rod Buxton

## July Anniversaries

27. Rod & Connie Buxton
31. Len & Carol Webber

(If we don't have your birthday or anniversary, let us know!)

### **Pearls Of Wisdom "Who I Am In Christ"**

*I am more than a conqueror. - Romans 8: 37*  
- Ruth Wise



*If you'd like to be a part of the **Prayer Team**, contact Sue Tyler, 906-493-6283*

**ARTICLES FOR THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MONDAY, July 24 (Email, if possible.)**



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