

Thought for a Wednesday

March 18, 2010

I don't know what you were doing last night at 10:55 p.m., but I was outside staring into the clearest night sky I can remember in a long time. I felt as if I could reach up and touch a star, they seemed so close, so bright last night – It was absolutely amazing! The only sound I heard were the wheels of the garbage can rolling along my drive, you see, I had forgotten to put the trash out after dinner – So, when it dawned on me as I was preparing for bed, I ran out before locking up to take care of my chores. As I got to the end of my driveway, I just uttered the words, “*Father, you are amazing! Your creativity never ceases to amaze me – thank you for allowing me to see this wonderful display tonight!*” As I walked back in the house, it dawned on me that if I had taken care of my chore after dinner, I would have never seen the beautiful night sky! And that, in my opinion, would have been a absolute bummer!

You know what I don't want to miss in the coming days ahead – I don't want to miss the wonder and awe, the mystery and significance of what Christ has done for me, for all of us through His death, burial and resurrection. My hope is that you're already planning on spending some quality time in the Word of God, rereading and meditating on the final week and days of Christ's life. I'd encourage you to pick up a book that might give some deeper insight and meaning. One of my favorites and is now “*dog-eared*” on my bookshelf is a book by Max Lucado, No Wonder They Call Him the Savior: Chronicles of the Cross. It's a great read and written in classic Lucado style. You know what question this book takes a stab at answering, and in my opinion, does a pretty good job of doing – It's the question of what *really* matters? What *really* counts? Skip the periphery, skip the theology and go to the essence – What *really* matters!? The answer: **JESUS!** It doesn't get much simpler than that, yet for many of us; it's the most difficult thing to get our hands around.

I want to remind you we have three great opportunities to get focused, to see the big picture, to stand amazed and in awe of our Savior, Jesus Christ...

- ◆ **Jubilee Celebration, March 26th & 27th** – At time when the New Life family gathers to remember and celebrate that if the Son has set us free, then we are truly free indeed!
- ◆ **Good Friday Silent Communion, April 2nd** – A time when we gather in silent reflection and meditation upon the forgiveness that Christ purchased for us!
- ◆ **Easter Celebration, April 4th** – A time when our New Life family and extended family gathers for the celebration of Christ's victory over sin, death and the grave! And that same victory is ours as well!

And as a kind of P.S. – As you think about our Easter Celebration, it's a great opportunity to invite neighbors, coworkers, friends and family members who normally don't go to church to come with you. You'd be amazed at how many people who don't regularly attend church will in fact come to a worship service if they are invited by someone they know! Easter is major holiday in this country, and that makes it perhaps one of the most opportunistic times to invites someone to check out NLF! Why not pray about bringing someone with you that Sunday. The music will be uplifting, the message will encouraging, and God will use your invitation to perhaps start a conversation that will have eternal consequences.

Looking forward to our worship together this weekend – I love our times together!

Be strong... Be courageous... Be fearless...

Christ is All,
Pastor Mark