

Coop's Scoops # 78, July 9, 2020

Another sunny, hot day. Hope you have places to be on the cooler side. Some lower temps are on the way! Meanwhile, we have lakes! If we can get to them.



I chose this picture as it is definitely in a “cooler” place. It’s at Camp Gitchigomee near Thunder Bay...an Anglican camp providing fun and faith to children for over 75 years. I’m baptising a 10 year old girl who made her own baptismal promises her parents and little brother are on the right, and my friend Rose, a Lay Reader at Gathering Table Anglican Church in Thunder Bay is on the left. Little brother was also baptised that day! Did you know that immersion baptism is still done in the Anglican church? In fact, it remains the “preferred” rite although it seldom happens in our time. These two children remain in the faith of Jesus! It was a wonderful, hot, hot summer day, and we shared communion on the dock right after the baptisms, so all in all we were refreshed in body, in soul and in spirit. Awesome! If anyone wishes to be baptised in the church, or in the lake, just let me know! - Judie+

If you have a “milestone” picture you’d like to share with the congregation, text or email me.

Some Fun for Today: Quotable Quotes

Will Rogers: “We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress!”

Billy Crystal: The cardiologist’s diet: “If it tastes good, spit it out!”

Winston Churchill: “Don’t worry about avoiding temptation....as you grow older, it will avoid you”.

Groucho Marx: “I was married by a judge...I should have asked for a jury”.

Spike Milligan: “ Money can’t buy you happiness..but it does bring yu a more pleasant form of misery”.



What did the seal say to the **walrus** after dating him for three months? I think we should sea otter people.

And finally... to share with grandchildren, or the very young at heart:

“What’s the best thing to put in a pie?” You’re TEETH!

“What kind of nuts always seem to have a cold?” Cashews!

“What do you call a cow caught in a tornado?” A milkshake!

(GROANGROANGROANGROANGROANGROANGROAN AND GROAN)

SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY:

Proverbs 17:22 tells us, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." (kjv) AND " A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-tired." (The Message)

Reflection: "Oh, no.,.,.,.not another "don't worry, be happy" or "cheer up, cheer up" message!" If that's your covid reaction to this Scripture, well, that's not what I'm intending at all. Scripture never tells us to be inauthentic, or to live in a dreamscape ignoring life around us. Scripture never tells us to ignore our doctors or abandon our medications because we can cure everything with personal happiness. This Scripture is not a PRESCRIPTION....,do this and you'll be happy ; it is a DESCRIPTION... if you look at healthy people, you'll find that many have a cheerful, hopeful attitude toward life. At least most of the time.

My daughter Kelly, when in grade four, wrote a speech for a school public speaking competition that WON at the district level and placed her third in the Northwestern Ontario regional championships. It was based on the Scripture we are considering today. As part of her speech, she had tape-recorded her best nine-year old friend laughing...and laughing and laughing. It was hilarious. And when she gave the speech everyone present could not help bursting into laughter as well. Took a while to quiet the crowd, and giggles broke out as she continued. She quoted the Scripture (she's always been a brave girl). She then asked them to think about how they had been feeling BEFORE she gave her speech, and how they were feeling right then... she asked for a show of hands, and almost everyone put up their hands for "BETTER"! Participating in laughter had set them free, even for a short bit, from the concerns they had brought along with them that day. Two competitors told her later it took all their "nerves" away and helped them to do a better job with their own speeches.

Some folks will tell you that it's all about endorphins released by laughter...that's okay.. they're probably right, but that doesn't take away from the truth of the proverb at all. We need to use every tool we can to thrive in hard times and difficult situations. Tears are also good! Tears with laughter are even

better. That's why I try to put humour into every Scoops! God is with us in all of our emotional states. We should be "with " others in theirs as well.

That's the message of the other Scripture in this vein: **Romans 12: 15** - Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep (NRSV) and Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. (The Message) .

Bottom Line: When we bottle up our sadness, we "deprive' someone else from weeping with us. It would have been good for us, and good for them as well,. And if we "bury" our happiest achievements or great joys (because we think people may think we're bragging) we deprive them of being happy, have some rejoicing, with us. That also would be good for them, and good for us. It's all part of the "Love one another....." commandment.

Weeping or rejoicing ALL ALONE is sometimes sadly necessary. The Scripture is telling us that sharing such things, when it IS possible, will move us toward health, will not leave our "bones" dried up.

The final point is that if someone DOES ask you to weep or rejoice with them, take it as a treasured gift and do not "pass it on"... it is their story, which they have shared with you, and they are ones to determine how and where and to whom they wish to share it further. Prayer lines can become gossip lines all too easily. And that can, indeed, cause grief to the heart and to the bones. If you've ever "been " there, you will know what I mean.

It is my prayer for you today that something or someone will give you a belly laugh that buckles your knees. We'll all be better with that! -
Judie+

Prayer for the Day:

Holy Spirit, we welcome you to our "real" world today. We invite you to be our light in the midst of darkness. We ask that you fill our mouths with laughter, and put songs of joy on our tongues.

We pray for ourselves and for all in suffering, that we will weep together just as we rejoice together. We pray for your Word and your Presence to balance our

hopes, needs, regrets and fears that we may walk in Your peace all the days of our lives. Together, through Christ our Lord, Amen. (**see Psalm 126:2 “Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.”**)

Blessing:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you this day and always.
Amen.