

of adultery and the crowd observing Jesus tracing in the dirt is powerful imagery. Perhaps you, like I have heard the words ring in our ears offering hope in hopeless situations, “Neither do I condemn you... don’t do this again.”

Yes, stories are a powerful medium. While the words have power, it is the emotion surrounding the words that preserve the essential elements of the message so that the point is preserved for when we are finally able to hear it.

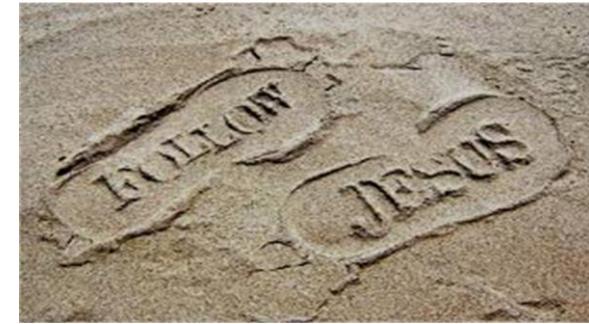
Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. Mark explains, ³³ *With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it.* ³⁴ *He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything. (4:33-34)* Stories allow us to hold on to truths, even when we are not yet able to understand them, remembering enough that the lesson comes home to us at a later date.

John tells us, ¹⁶ *His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. (12:16)* Sometimes things have to percolate in us for a while, before they begin to resonate.

So, when you hear a story don’t rush to “get it all”. It might not be time for that yet. But when words come back to you, when you begin a sentence with, “My mom used to say...” that is when you get the power of the story.

Grace and Peace,

Carl



St John Church of Christ
A Family of God

April 10, 2016

Relationships are where we learn the lessons that truly matter in this world. The more profound the relationship, the more significant the lesson.

I was analyzing my stories the other day. Someone had asked me, “Why do you tell so many stories?” Well, that is an important question. If you tell stories just to pass the time, well that doesn’t matter much. But, if stories are the vessel you use to transport the meaning of life to another person, now they have a value.

Aesop’s fables, Mother Goose, Tales of Texas, or classic children’s bedtime stories are all efforts to communicate values and purpose through a venue that is both pleasurable and memorable. The mental images of the foolish dog dropping his bone into the reflection of the pond taught us very early the importance of being satisfied with what we have.

The life of Jesus is conveyed to us through Scripture in stories. We can learn that God values compassion through a list of do’s and don’ts, but hearing the stories of Jesus stopping a funeral procession and restoring a woman’s son is etched into our memory. That John takes the time to describe the vividness of a woman “taken in the very act”

St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
P. O. Box 241
St John, KS 67576

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
 Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
 Worship Service—10:45 am
 Afternoon Service—1:15 pm

WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
 Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)

ELDERS: Richard Breensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
 Terry Sallee, George Shelton

DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

TREASURER: Richard Breensing

WORSHIP ORDER FOR APRIL 10, 2016

SONG LEADER: Stan Aldrich
 GATHERING SONG: No. 23—Our God, He is Alive (vs 1)
 WELCOME: Tom Turner
 SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 5:3-11 (Orrin Feril)
 SONGS: No. 251—The Lord Thy God
 No. 876—Where He Leads Me I Will Follow
 No. 552—Have Thine Own Way
 No. 553—I'll Live for Him
 No. 800—What a Friend We Have in Jesus (vs 1)
 PRAYER: Garland Mansel
 SONG: No. 315—When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
 COMMUNION: Jerry Kinnamon
 Chris Mansel
 Tom Turner
 Jon Mansel
 MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
 SONG: No. 867—To Canaan's Land I'm On My Way
 (vs 1, 2, & 4)
 LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
 SONG: No. 907—Hark the Gentle Voice (vs 1)
 PRAYER: Richard Breensing

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship and hope that you will come again! Please stay for our potluck lunch today.

BABY SHOWERS

A diaper shower is being planned for **Vanessa Rogers** on Saturday, **April 23rd**, at 3:00 pm here. She and Zach Marks are expecting a girl! See the invitation posted. (Onesies and other small items would also be appreciated!)



Also on Saturday, **April 23rd**, a baby shower is scheduled for **Gage Riggs and Vanessa** at 2:00 pm at the Abundant Harvest Church of the Nazarene in Pratt. See invitation posted.

They are expecting a boy and are registered at Babies-R-Us. RSVPs are appreciated. If you would like to contribute to a group gift, please see Janet.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Jayce Feril - April 13
Clint Kinnamon - April 15
Ned Marks - April 15

NEWS FROM CHIHUAHUA

Ubaldo Cardona sent a newsletter and some pictures this past week, giving an update on the work they are doing in Parral, Chihuahua. The newsletter is posted.

GOSPEL SINGING

An invitation is posted to attend a singing hosted by the Isabel Church of Christ on Sunday, May 1st, at 5pm. A light meal will be provided afterward.

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Gary Hornbaker—in the hospital in Wichita following back surgery for injuries from a motorcycle accident that happened last Thursday
Dan Hampton—scheduled for heart valve surgery at Wesley on April 20
Clint Kinnamon—scheduled for knee surgery in Salina on April 20
Brenda Staub—radiation treatment scheduled to start Monday, April 25, for thyroid cancer; thanks everyone for prayers, phone calls & cards

Beverly Cobb (Manhattan,KS) recovering from surgery
Olen Munz—brain cancer very aggressive
Alex Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - brain tumor
Brent Monroe (Joy Monroe's grandson; Marilyn's great-grandson) recent surgery
Marci Klug (Joe & Lisa's daughter)—high risk pregnancy
Sharon Goode Ames—lung cancer
Ty Hewitt (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - acute leukemia
Clay Rodgers (infant son of friends of Ben & Baylee) rare birth defect
Pati Waters Risley—stroke
Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments
John Laudick (Marla's brother-in-law)
Jonathan Batten – chemotherapy
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])

Myron Breensing (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – Leisure Homestead
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza

(Please give updates to Janet for the Prayer List)