

2024 Sturgis Devotions

Monday, Aug. 5 ROGER WILSON “FOOD FOR THOUGHT” MATTHEW 7:1

He told about Chuck Swindal and a man who told him that he had really been looking forward to hearing him speak, and that he was planning to eat up Chuck's messages. The first night Chuck saw the man and his wife there right up close. But, that night, and every night that week...the man fell asleep during Chuck's messages. Chuck was rather bothered and upset that he did that. At the end of the week the man's wife came and apologized to Chuck for her husband falling asleep during the messages...She explained that he had cancer and the drugs they had him on made him very sleepy. Chuck said that after the wife left he looked for a "rock to crawl under!" Sometimes we judge quickly, before we know all the facts!

A couple of days ago Roger had a similar experience, where he judged someone before knowing all the facts. A friend of his, Poncho, told him that he had a really good deal for him..."for only \$29.95 I can sell you SALVATION". Roger looked at him with a blank look and thought he had really gone off the deep end! Roger had judged him. Then, Poncho explained...that is what the world thinks! Everyone wants a "special", or a "good deal". But Jesus gives us Salvation Free, at no cost to us! He already paid the price. Poncho told Roger that he said that to a couple of ladies, on the streets of Sturgis. One of the ladies walked away. But, one stayed and Poncho was able to pray with her for Jesus to come into her heart! The devil uses gimmick, and all of his are lies! We use gimmicks too...but, we are sharing the truth with people. Roger read Matt. 7:1... "Do not judge, or you too will be judged."

Roger said that he'd like to walk up to someone at Sturgis and tell them "I'll sell you Salvation for \$29.95" – no judging – Jesus is Free. Do not judge – or you too will be judged! Let's guard ourselves with the Spirit of God within us, and just love on them! Put on the smile of Jesus, and with the love of Jesus be kind to them.

We don't have to sell anything – just love with the Jesus. You come here to serve Him, let them see Jesus through you!

Wednesday, Aug. 7 JAY WILBER SCRIPTURE: PROVERBS 3: 5-6

JAY SAID THAT GOD HAS BEEN WORKING ON HIM WITH TWO THINGS...TRUST AND GRACE. WHEN HE ASKED GOD WHICH ONE HE SHOULD SPEAK ON – GOD SAID "DO YOU TRUST ME? THEN SPEAK ON GRACE." HE TOLD ABOUT WORKING THE RACES YESTERDAY. THE VOLUNTEERS SHOWED HIM MUCH GRACE! BECAUSE IT WAS HOT AND THEY WORKED FOR HOURS. AND SOMETIMES PEOPLE DON'T LIKE WHERE YOU HAVE TO PARK THEM. REMEMBER HOW WE WERE BEFORE GOD EXTENDED HIS GRACE TO US. THANK GOD HE DID! THINK ON THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY. THEY BROUGHT HER TO JESUS – AND HE EXTENDED GRACE TO HER. AND HE CHALLENGED THOSE WHO BROUGHT HER.

THINK ON WHAT WE SEE HERE AND WHAT WE SEE. HOW CAN THEY DO THAT? BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE JESUS. DON'T JUDGE THEM, SHOW THEM GRACE. JESUS TOLD THE WOMAN "YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN – GO AND SIN NO MORE." GRACE!

THE PRODIGAL SON – THE FATHER COULD HAVE CONDEMNED HIM – BUT HE DIDN'T. GOD EXTENDS GRACE TO US. THE FATHER PREPARED TO BRING THE SON BACK AND RESTORE HIM TO HIS PLACE IN THE FAMILY. THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO DO OUT THERE. THESE PEOPLE ARE PRODIGALS. SHARE THIS STORY.

PETER'S RESTORATION – THINK ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU TOLD THEM – "HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU"? AND PETER IN THE BOAT – JESUS ASKED HIM... "PETER DO YOU LOVE ME? THEN, FEED MY SHEEP!"

LAST FALL JAY AND JANE WENT TO GREECE AND WERE AT THE PRISON, THE HILL, THE STREETS THAT PAUL WAS AT. HE THOUGHT ABOUT HOW PAUL, AS SAUL, WAS PERSECUTING GOD'S CHILDREN. GOD ASKED SAUL "WHY ARE YOU PERSECUTING ME?", ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS. THINK ABOUT IT. GOD TAKES US AT OUR LOWEST POINT AND FORGIVES US AND GIVES US GRACE. GOD RESTORES HIS CHILDREN. YOU ARE NEVER TOO BAD TO BE FORGIVEN – NO MATTER WHAT THE DEVIL SAYS.

WHEN YOU GO OUT ON THESE STREETS – THINK ABOUT WHAT JESUS WOULD DO – HE WOULD LOVE THEM AND FORGIVE THEM. ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS ASK. LET'S LOVE'EM AND LET'S EXTEND THEM GRACE.

Thursday, Aug. 8

CURTIS CLEMENTS

MATT. 9:37; JOHN 4:35

CURTIS TOLD ABOUT WHEN JOHN CALLED AND ASKED HIM TO COME HELP AT CMA NATIONAL FOR 6 MONTHS. HE WAS THERE 7 YEARS. CURTIS HASN'T BEEN HERE, AT STURGIS, FOR 18 YEARS. HE IS GLAD TO BE HERE. SOME THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED. SOME HAVE. BUT, THE NEED DOWNTOWN HASN'T.

HE DID A SHORT DEVOTION THIS MORNING. SOMETIMES AT RALLIES YOU WILL BEGIN TO WONDER WHY WE'RE HERE. THAT IS satan BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT YOU HERE.

MATTHEW 9:37 – THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL. GOD EXPECTS US TO PRAY "FOR THE WORKERS".

JOHN 4:35 – LOOK AT THE FIELDS, THEY ARE RIPE FOR THE HARVEST. SOMETIMES WE FORGET TO SEE PEOPLE FROM THE EYES OF CHRIST, WITH THE MIND OF CHRIST. SEE THEM AS A LOST PERSON. WITHOUT CHRIST WE ARE CAPABLE OF THE SAME THING. THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE LOST HOPE AND SOMETIMES JUST A SMILE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE. KEEP THE MAIN THING, THE MAIN THING – THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES.

IN DAYTONA, YEARS AGO, IT WAS HOT AND HE DIDN'T BRING ANYONE TO THE LORD. CURTIS SAID TO ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR DIVINE APPOINTMENTS AND THE WORDS TO SAY, AND TO SPEAK THROUGH YOU.

AT ONE PIONT CURTIS WAS PROUD OF HOW FAST HE COULD GET THERE, TO THE RALLIES. BUT, GOD TOLD HIM ONE DAY – MAYBE SOMEONE AT ONE OF THOSE GAS STATIONS NEEDED TO HEAR ABOUT GOD. GOD WILL USE THINGS WE SAY SOMETIMES, AND THEY MIGHT NOT EVEN BE SPIRITUAL. YEARS AGO, AT A TEXAS RALLY (HE LATER FOUND OUT) THAT THE ONE PERCENTERS WERE GETTING READY TO SHOOT UP. CURTIS JUST TOUCHED "GOOSE" SHOULDER AND SAID – "GOOSE, ONE DAY GOD IS GOING TO DO GREAT THINGS THROUGH YOU!" TWO YEARS LATER CURTIS WAS AT A CMA RALLY AND GOOSE WAS THERE! GOOSE TOLD CURTIS THAT THE WORDS HE HAD SAID TO HIM "BURNED IN HIS HEART" AND HE GAVE HIS LIFE TO THE LORD, JOINED CMA, AND WAS WORKING WITH KIDS!

ONE YEAR WALKING AT A RALLY – A GUY, WHO LOOKED LIKE HE COULD CUT HIS THROAT, YELLED AT HIM "HEY CHRISTIAN!" CURTIS WENT BACK AND ASKED HIM WHY HE SAID THAT – HE SAID BECAUSE YOU CAME BACK! BE THOSE THAT COME BACK, LET THEM SEE JESUS' LOVE – LOOK AT THEM WITH JESUS' LOVE. BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, OBEY THE HOLY SPIRIT. REMEMBER THAT EVERYTHING WE DO OUGHT TO REPRESENT JESUS. "I'VE BEEN AT RALLIES AND HAD TO CORRECT CMA'ERS FOR DOING SOMETHING THEY SHOULDN'T. THEY'RE BEING WATCHED! WE ARE BEING WATCHED! BE EVERYTHING WE CAN BE FOR CHRIST!

THEN CURTIS PRAYED OVER US!

Friday, Aug. 9 DOUG JOHNSON “FELLOWSHIP IN SERVICE”

SCRIPTURE: PHIL. 4:4, 6-7, 2:14-15; DUET. 31:6; ROM. 8:38; I THES. 5:16-18; JAMES 1:2,12

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS! EVERYDAY, IN EVERY SITUATION.

HE AND TERRI RETIRED IN 2019. EASY TO REJOICE THEN. A FEW YEARS LATER – SHE GOT A DIAGNOSIS OF LUKEMIA. THAT WAS 2 YEARS AGO. THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, AFTER THE DIAGNOSIS, THE PASTOR PREACHED ON PHIL. 4:4. THEN, A YEAR LATER, DOUG GOT PROSTATE CANCER. AND AGAIN HE THOUGHT – “WOW LORD, HOW DO I REJOICE IN THIS?” BUT, WE CAN ALWAYS FIND REASONS TO REJOICE – EVEN IN THE HARD TIMES. REMEMBER – GOD IS IN CONTROL. DOUG, AS FAR AS HE KNOWS, IS CANCER FREE. TERRI WILL DEAL WITH IT FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.

ANYONE STRUGGLE WITH WORRY? PHIL. 4:6-7 GOD’S PEACE. EVEN IN ADVERSITY WE CAN CHOOSE TO REJOICE. PAUL, IN PRISON, LEARNED TO BE CONTENT IN ALL SITUATIONS. I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH CHRIST. BE JOYFUL IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. DON’T GRUMBLE.

WE RODE INTO STURGIS – 106 DEGREES – THERE WAS A LOT OF GRUMBLING AND WHINING. BUT, WE ARE BEING WATCHED. PEOPLE ARE WATCHING US. SO, DON’T GRUMBLE – LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE! WHEN OUR FAITH IS TESTED, YOUR ENDURANCE WILL GROW. EVERYTHING WE GO THROUGH IS BUILDING US INTO WHO CHRIST WANTS US TO BE.

DOUG SAID THAT HE HOPES THIS WAS ENCOURAGING TO YOU. THEN, HE PRAYED OVER US!

Saturday, Aug. 10

LYLE HERMAN

JAMES 1:12; GAL. 6:9; EPH 4:14; LUKE 19:10; II TIM. 4:7-8

PEGGY SAID “HEY”

LYLE THANKED ALL THOSE WHO CAME AND SERVED. WE ALL HAVE MEMORIES OF STURGIS AND IT’S BEEN FUN HERING ABOUT THEM. BUT, SOMETIMES THE GOOD OL DAYS WEREN’T SO GOOD. IT USED TO BE A MORE NEGATIVE ATMOSPHERE HERE. GOD HAS OPENED IT UP. HERB SHREVE PUT OUT A PAMPHLET ABOUT HIS FIRST TIME WITH SHIRLEY AT STURGIS. HE WROTE IT TO EARN MONEY TO BUY SHIRLEY A BIRTHDAY GIFT. BUT ... HERB CAME BACK TO STURGIS – WHAT IF HE HADN’T?!

JAMES 1:12 THOSE WHO PERSEVERE!

LYLE TOLD ABOUT DAVE. DAVE ORDERED A FRAP A CHINO. “ESPRESSO DAVE” BECAME HIS NEW NICK NAME. LYLE WITNESSED THIS AND SAW THAT OUR EXPERIENCES SOMETIMES GIVE US NEW NAMES.

LYLE WAS RAISED IN A CHRISTIAN HOME. HE WENT TO AN ABATE RALLY AND HEARD THE LANGUAGE AND SUCH. HE TOLD GOD THAT HE DIDN’T WANT TO BE THERE – WOULD RATHER GO FISHING. GOD SAID... “HOW LONG WOULD YOU ENJOY THAT?” LYLE WORKED SECURITY AT THAT RALLY. A GUY CAME IN TELLING CRUDE JOKES. LYLE WANTED TO “LAY HANDS ON HIM”. THIS “JERK” LATER CAME TO LYLE, LOOKED AT HIS PATCH, AND SAID “HE WANTED TO SPEAK WITH HIM”? HE TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS FROM MANITOBA, THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE HIS LAST RALLY – HE’D HAD A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT AND THE PASSENGER WAS KILLED. HE FIGURED HE WAS GOING TO PRISON. LYLE WAS ABLE TO PRAY WITH HIM AND GAVE HIM A BIBLE AND SET HIM UP TO RECEIVE JESUS. WHAT IF LYLE HAD GONE HOME?!

LYLE SAID IT HASN’T ALWAYS BEEN EASY TO COME TO STURGIS. BUT, GOD USES US. GAL. 6:9 HE SAID THAT THEY WENT TO GO GET A HOG PIN – ENDED UP GIVING OUT ANGELS AND GOT 6 HOG PINS. AT THE HARLEY DEALER – A GIRL DREW HIM WITH HIS RED HAT. HE WENT BACK AND GAVE HER AN ANGEL AND SHE ASKED IF SHE COULD HAVE ANOTHER. THEY

WENT BACK AND SHE SAID SHE COULD USE PRAYER FOR A NEW JOB. SO, HE PRAYED WITH HER. SHE TOLD THEM THEY WERE THE HIGHLIGHT OF HER WEEK. THEY PLAN TO GO BACK TODAY AND SEE WHERE SHE IS WITH THE LORD.

LYLE TOLD US TO KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, PERSEVERE, COME BACK AGAIN NEXT YEAR.