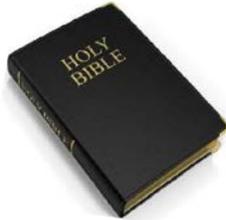


Linway Church In Touch

Staying In Touch Without Touch

June 17, 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! This Sunday is the day of the greatest length of daylight in the northern hemisphere. It is called the *Summer Solstice*. This Sunday also just so happens to be *Father's Day* in our country. *Father's Day* will look a little different for many families this year. With the Corona Virus still popping up, people are more cautious than in years gone by. It is true that some things are edging back toward what we used to call normal, but caution is still the order of the day.



*We're Gonna Have
Church!*



Your Session has met and considered what is needed to take place in order to resume public, corporate worship.

It was decided that Sunday worship in the Linway Sanctuary will resume on June 28th at 9:15 a.m.

Each Sunday there will only be the one service at 9:15 a.m. If we were to have two services, we would have to sanitize the Sanctuary between services. The Session felt that was not an acceptable alternative. The early time should be cooler than later in the morning. You will remember how warm some of the later services were in

the heat of the summer. Next week a full listing of requirements and expectations will be sent to you for your information. Cooperation will make it possible to be together again during this summer, even if it feels a bit awkward. Your Session has promised to continue to review the ongoing situation, and to make adjustments in the future, as needed. We do so with the intent not to endanger anyone or enflame the transmission of the Corona Virus. No one wants that.

In an effort to assist you with your own devotional time, let me share with you the Scripture readings designated for this coming Sunday, June 21st:

- [Genesis 21:8-21](#)
- [Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17](#)
- [Romans 6:1b-11](#)
- Gospel: [Matthew 10:24-39](#)

As before, I encourage you to read one or all of the Scripture texts. I would like to focus on the message in Matthew 10:24-39. Beginning at verse 34, we read Jesus saying something we find very hard to understand: *I have not come to bring peace, but a sword*. Here we have the Prince of Peace talking about a sword. We all know that a sword is a weapon and has been used as such for many years. I don't actually think

Jesus is talking about a real sword, but something that can cause hurt, pain, and the death of a relationship just as much as any wielded sword.

Words can hurt. Words can cut figuratively to the heart. Relationships can be torn apart. Nothing is more hurtful than a damaged family relationship. Nowhere in Scripture does Jesus actually support the use of a sword. So what is Jesus really saying here? I think this passage is really about discipleship. If you seek to be a follower of Jesus, his disciple, you will encounter those who do not see things as you do. It can be, unfortunately, in the context of a family relationship. Jesus is saying that this can happen. The reality of this is that it does sometimes happen. We live in a broken world. Earlier in the passage, Jesus is reminding his disciples that they can expect opposition, as he has confronted opposition. This opposition can be at a distance, or it can be close to home. The opposition can result in a broken relationship. While this is most unfortunate, Jesus reminds those who follow him that the rewards of remaining faithful are beyond compare.

Consider this:

- Across the storms of the sea, Jesus comes to say: *Take heart, it is I. Be not afraid.*
- To those who fret away the present in worry over the future, Jesus said: *Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself.*
- When discouragement comes to those who try to follow Him, the promise is: *Fear not, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.*
- In the face of what seems to be a disaster, Jesus said: *Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*
- And after every event which would plunge us into disillusionment and doubt, He still says: *Be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.*

I will be writing to you again next week. I will also give a message from the Linway Sanctuary that will be available on the Linway Facebook page and on the Linway website for this coming Sunday, June 21st. For those able to access this technology, I hope you find it meaningful. I sincerely look forward to welcoming you for worship at our Lord's Linway Church soon! In the meantime, keep the faith and stay safe.

God Bless You,
Eric E. Dennis, Pastor



*"I am not alone, because my
Father is with Me."*

-John 16: 32

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