



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This past week I read about a mid-50's Parker Brothers board game called "Going to Jerusalem." In this board game your game piece was a little plastic disciple with a robe, beard, sandals, and a staff. In order to move around the board, you had to look up answers in a little black New Testament provided with the game.

In this game you always started in Bethlehem and you made stops at the Mount of Olives, Bethsaida, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, and Bethany. It was possible with two rolls of the dice to go directly to the Triumphal Entry. But the game never got to the Crucifixion or the Resurrection. There were no demons or angry Pharisees. In this board game you made your way through the nice stories and the adventure was always safe and suited for a nice Christian family to play on a Sunday afternoon walk with Jesus.

Unfortunately, traveling with Jesus isn't about being little plastic disciples who only go through the nice stories and never have to get to the crucifixion. If that is our understanding of following Christ, we need to take a good long look at our expectations, especially as we continue our journey in the Season of Lent. In board games and in real life, followers of Christ seem to bring along certain expectations when they decide to follow Christ.

Followers of Christ may bring along their own expectations. ***Then Jesus began to tell them that he, the Son of Man, would suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the religious leaders. He would be killed and three days later he would rise again. As he talked about this openly with his disciples Peter took him aside and told him he shouldn't say things like that. Mark 8:31-32***

The key to their expectations is found in the discussion that immediately preceded this story. In Mark 8:27-30 Jesus had asked his followers what people were saying about him and specifically, ***"Who do people say that I am?"*** Their reply was some say John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the other prophets.

The Jews had always believed they were the Children of God and they looked back at the reign of King David as the height of Israel's glory. Their dream was that one day another king of David's stature would rise to restore the glory of their people. They believed the day would come when all of their enemies would be broken, and their Messiah would lead them in power and a peace that would last forever.

Jesus Christ was their hope. And now their hope was talking about suffering, being rejected, and killed... (No one wants to hear that kind of negative talk.)

So the mood was, "Come on Jesus, give us some good news. We don't want to hear doom and gloom. We want to hear that our leader has a plan to reverse our miserable circumstances and reclaim our rightful place as the blessed people of God. We need a good bailout plan and a stimulus package."

(continued)

In 1919 several members of the Chicago White Sox conspired to throw the World Series out of bitterness toward their team owner Charles Comiskey, who was notorious for underpaying his players. So in exchange for a bribe that exceeded what they should have been paid, they agreed to throw the series. After the trial, where the famous Shoeless Joe Jackson was suspended from playing baseball, a Chicago Herald Examiner reporter wrote, "As Jackson departed from the Grand Jury room, a small boy clutched at his sleeve and tagged along after him. "Say it ain't so, Joe," he pleaded. "Say it ain't so." "Yes kid, I'm afraid it is," Jackson replied. "Well, I never would've thought it," the boy said. (<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/blacksox/blacksox.html>)

It was as if Peter and the other disciples were tugging at Jesus' sleeve and saying, **"Say it isn't so. Say it isn't so, Jesus."** Jesus was not meeting their expectations. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples and then he said to Peter very sternly, **"Get away from me, Satan! You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."** Mark 8:33

I want to explore two things in verse 33:

The Second Look - when Jesus turned to look at this disciple - What was that glance over his shoulder about? Jesus no doubt saw approval in the eyes of the other disciples. They were likely affirming what Peter said. Was the second glance about temptation? Was Jesus tempted to go another way? After all, Jesus had begun to attract considerable attention. His star was rising. Maybe the cross was not the best way to go...

Occasionally Annie and I eat at a nice restaurant where upon completion of our meal we lean back in our chairs feeling very satisfied - with our next meal securely tucked away in a take-home "doggie-bag." Then the server magically appears and with a flourish, swooshes a dessert tray before us. We say, "No thanks, we are finished..." And then we take a second look. at Fudge Cake with layers and layers of cake with fudge frosting; Carrot Cake with cream cheese icing; Black-Out-Cake; Lemon Cello Cream Torte; Warm Apple Crisp; and Tiramisu with Italian custard cake made with mascarpone whipped cream, lady fingers, marsala and coffee liqueur, and topped with whipped cream and ground chocolate. That is the second look that says, "Well, maybe there is another way to go here."

Was the second glance about disappointment? Not long before, he had heard his disciples acknowledge him as "the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One, the Son of God." And now they were trying to sabotage the plan that was before him. I think it was the second... I think he was feeling betrayed by the people he had hoped would be his greatest supporters.

Some say that the severity and sternness of Jesus' reaction to Peter illustrates just how deeply he was offended. It can be said that this was an angry outburst and the scale of anger Jesus expressed is either a measure of the degree to which Jesus was tempted or angered by Peter's attempt to dissuade him from what he knew he should do. And then Jesus seized the occasion as a teaching moment about what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Being a follower of Christ is a radical decision.

Jesus said, **"If anyone wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me."** ("If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake... you will find it.") Mark 8:34-35

How about us? Are we willing to shoulder our Cross and follow after Jesus? As we go through this season of Lent, let us all take on the cross and follow Him.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor Don

## Bacon Potato Corn Chowder

### Ingredients:

- 1/2-pound bacon strips, chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped onion.
- 1-1/2 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes (about 5 medium) peeled and cubed.
- 1 can (14-3/4 ounces) cream-style corn
- 1 can (12 ounces) evaporated milk.
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

You can add some other favorite spices to taste, I like to use some dill weed, garlic, and parsley.

### Directions:

1. In a large skillet, cook bacon over medium heat until crisp, stirring occasionally. Remove with a slotted spoon; drain on paper towels. Discard drippings, reserving 1-1/2 teaspoons in pan. Add onion to drippings; cook and stir over medium-high heat until tender.
2. Meanwhile, place potatoes in a large saucepan; add water to cover. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium; cook, uncovered, 10-15 minutes or until tender. Drain, reserving 1 cup potato water.

Add corn, milk, salt, pepper, potatoes and reserved potato water to saucepan; heat through. Stir in bacon and onion.



Cooking with  
Pastor Don



### ~ **Order Easter Flowers** ~

*It's time to order your Easter flowers. The Easter lilies are \$14. Yellow, purple, or pink Tulips will be \$9. Please place your order in the vestibules and place your payment envelope in the offering plate. **Deadline To Order Is Sun., March 19.***



### **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes:**

The Witness Commission is trying something different this year. We hope to make it a little easier for everyone at the end of the year when we are all busy with the holidays. We are planning on providing 150 boxes for the children. **For March, please bring hairbrushes or hair ties.** As always, we appreciate all your donations. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, there are envelopes marked "Operation Christmas Child" in the vestibules and we will be glad to do the shopping for you.



### **Worthington Area 2023 Lenten Series**

**March 5,** Pastor Stephen Rigatti: Worthington Presby. Church

**March 12,** Pastor Victor Sansing: Franklin Union Baptist Church

**March 19,** Ron Shafer: Center Hill (Pie Social to follow)

**March 26,** Pastor Luke Speck: Location to be determined

**April 2,** Palm Sunday: Walkchalk Salem Baptist Church  
(Reenactment of last week of Christ's life)

**April 7,** Good Friday, Cross Walk

Starting at 12 Noon at the Worthington Lutheran Church and ending at the Worthington Presbyterian Church.

### **Boxed Occasion Cards:**

There is an ongoing fundraiser set up in the side vestibule of a variety of beautiful, boxed greeting cards, they are \$8 per box. Envelopes are provided for your payment which can be put in the offering plate. **Please make checks payable to Mardell Blose.** ALL proceeds will go to benefit the children at the Honduras Orphanage.

~~Thank you!



# I Will Lift Up Mine



*"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."* Psalm 121:1



Growing up in the hills of West Virginia was an exciting time in my life. You see, for my early life, I thought that everyone lived in the comfort of surrounding hills. These hills provided so much for us including spring water for our homes, a protection from the wind, wood for building homes and barns, and mountain meadows for grazing cattle and sheep. The hills defined us and gave us boundaries.

This was all I knew until my parents took the family on a vacation to the mid-west. At first, I did not like the flat land at all. I missed the hills of home. After some time, I grew to find beauty in this new environment, but I still missed the security of the mountains.

As I grew in stature and understanding, my focus on the hills changed. Like the psalmist, who pointed out where our true source of help comes from, I changed my thinking and focused on the Creator rather than the creation. ***"My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth".*** (Psalm 121:2)

The hills of West Virginia are still very much a part of my life, but now my focus and help in life comes from the Lord. Sometimes we have a tendency to try to make it through the troubles of life by relying on ourselves and human wisdom. We need to remember in our trying times that man's wisdom is not our greatest strength. We need to turn to the Lord and trust Him with all our heart.

Enjoy the hills or whatever surroundings you grew to love, but remember your true help in times of trouble comes from the Lord of all creation. The remaining verses of this beautiful Psalm have so much promise for us. ***"He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."***

Let us always remember where our strength and protection come from!!!

**Grover Duling, CBC Executive Board**



## YOUTH GROUP ANTICS



The Youth and their leaders had a fun time at Pittsburgh Mills playing nerf wars at Nerf Attack.

Ready , Set, Shoot!!



On February 3, the Youth held a movie night for everyone. They provided snacks during the movie complete with a candy bar. After the movie the Youth played games and had a fun time.



The Youth had a jamming good time at the Winter Jam concert at State College. Winter Jam is a Christian concert that is attended by people of all ages.







**All You Can Eat Breakfast**  
**Saturday,**  
**March 18, 2023**  
**7 - 11 AM**



**APRIL 9, 2023**  
**Easter Sunrise Breakfast 6 AM**  
**Easter Worship 11 AM**



Church Council meeting  
 will take place on Monday,



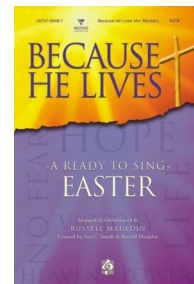
**Love Feast, Feet washing**  
**& Holy Communion**  
**Thursday, April 6, 7 PM**



**Children's Easter Program**  
**Sunday, April 2 at 11 AM**



**Easter Choir Cantata**  
**"Because He Lives"**  
**Sunday, March 26 @**  
**11 AM**



**Water Baptism Or Transfer Of Letter:**

In the near future, if anyone is interested in being water baptized or wants to transfer their church membership letter, please inform Pastor Don.



There will be a pie social at the Fellowship Hall after the Lenten Service on March 19 at 7 PM. Our speaker for the Lenten service will be Ron Shafer.



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