

Evidence of Grace

Nauset Baptist Church

Volume 2

March 29, 2014

The Second Command is Like it...

I would like to share one fruitful meditation that has grown out of our study in the book of Leviticus.

Leviticus 19 get's to the heart of what it means to be God's holy people. The chapter calls Israel to remember that the LORD is their God and they should behave in a manner that reflects his character.

Verse 18 is the hinge verse:

*"You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.**"* (bold mine)

Take some time to read the rest of the chapter; you will notice that most of the rules are negative, in summary, "do no harm to your

neighbor". Verse 18 in contrast is positive, not only, "do no harm to your neighbor, but take time and trouble for your neighbor working for their good.

Now all this is helpful enough, teaching us to stop harming one another and to become like our creator and work for one another's good. But there is more...

When you look back at chapter 18 and then look forward to chapter 20 you discover that they are very similar in their treatment of sexual immorality and spiritual adultery. The structure here seems to beg for further meditation.

Consider the question, "What is the connection between false worship, sexual immorality and doing harm to our neighbor?"

We tend to think of these things in isolation from one another, as distinct ways to sin, but let me leave you with this thought:

If you want to rebel and attack God, how would you do it? Since you cannot get to Him directly, wouldn't you assault those creatures that bear His image? Isn't the harm we do to one another and even to our own bodies (sexual sins) about rebellion... to attack God?

Perhaps rebellion against God is the very thing that makes sexual temptation so appealing to us.

Good food for thought.

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Marylou

Evidence of Grace

Periodically, I venture off Cape to visit the Hopkinton area; a few appointments, a little shopping, see old friends. As I prefer clear skies and smooth travel, those occasional stormy, rainy days cause me some angst. Driving on Rte 495 with "Nascar wannabees" all around me in the rain is

not my cup of tea.

This particular trip merged onto a rainy highway about half way to my destination. Surely the storm would be over by the time I would be on my return route. Not so. I began my trip home in a pitch black down-pour and a continual conversation of

prayer asking for God's protection and guidance and spirit of calm and anything else I knew I needed. After about 15 minutes of crying out and managing my vehicle, I heard that great calming voice, the one in my ear that says;

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Evidence of Grace



“He answers my prayers, He guides my steps, He shows Himself to me.”

“Marylou, you asked. I heard you. I have already taken care of it.” (He says this often to me.) I saw in front of me the sign that says “Cape Cod 20 miles”. Whew, getting closer to home.

The most beautiful stunning thing happened. The sun pushed its way through the cloud bank to my right. The blackness remained to my left; I, in the middle with a rainbow directly in front of me; just a piece of a rainbow hanging right there in front of me. Does anyone else see this? On the straight-away, the rainbow stayed in place. On the bends and curves, it peeked through the tree tops. It never lost lus-

ter or purpose. I never lost sight of it. My thoughts were, “God you are so very good. You are guiding me home aren’t you?” Wow! As I drove over the bridge, the rainbow went before me. As I drove down Rte 6, it maintained its pace. As I turned into the more wooded area toward home, I thought perhaps it had run its course. Then I turned into my driveway and looked up. That rainbow hung right over my house. Then and only then did it disappear. It actually disappeared as my husband came out to greet me. Cannot make this up.

reflection of God’s love for me. I believe in every minute of that day. The experience also serves as a metaphor of my life...He answers my prayers, He guides my steps, He shows Himself to me. He takes the darkness and the light, mixes them together, puts me in the middle and makes a rainbow. Who could love His child *that* much! Only a great God.

I ponder the message of that day often and remember I am always in His hand, right where I want to be!

Marylou Mansfield

This was a striking visual



*Congratulations Barb & Bob
Married March 9, 2014*



*Congratulations Charley & Wendy
50th Wedding Anniversary
March 15, 2014*

Consider it Pure Joy.....



*Nauset Baptist
Church*

We are blessed to be the stewards of our own property and building in which to meet. We have been doing our best to manage and maintain this blessing as a congregation.

However, our local membership is small and we are dependent on the support of

our seasonal visitors, friends and regulars to make ends meet.

We have three projects that need immediate attention and financial support: plumbing, storm runoff control and door replacements (see p. 3).

Michael Lopardo is graciously serving us as a consultant on these projects. If you would like to contribute some on-site time and energy to any of these projects, please contact him at

508-237-3271.

Plumbing/Leaks

Over the years we have tackled numerous maintenance projects and as our facility ages, more repairs and up-keep are needed.

Currently we have three major maintenance projects requiring immediate attention and funding.

Over the past few years we have been experiencing a number of leaks in our water piping. We are using preventive measures to help control and mitigate damage for the time being. We have replaced a great deal of the

inferior piping but still have a few areas that need to be addressed:

Piping in the walls of the two bathrooms in the sanctuary.

Piping in the ceilings and walls of the basement bathrooms.

Recently, we repaired two leaks in a two day period and are concerned with the frequency of leaks.

The estimated cost for these repairs is **\$7,300**



No, this is not water from our leaky pipes, this is water that collects at the low end of our property from a single rain storm.

Storm Water Runoff Control

No, this is not water from our leaky pipes, this is water that collects at the low end of our property from a single rain storm (approx. 11,000 gallons), and on at least one occasion last year water has come into the building. While this area was original-

ly constructed to handle the roof run off, over the years it has become silted and unable to handle the load. With the help of church members and engineers experienced in this area, we have designed a series of three large drywells that will be con-

structed around our building to handle our roof run off and protect our facility.

The estimated cost of construction is **\$16,500**



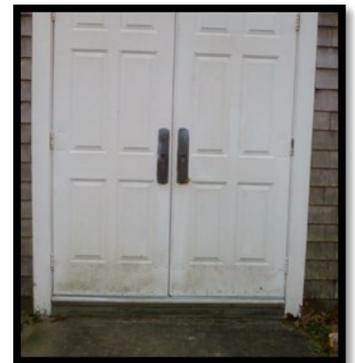
Door Replacement

Pictured here are two of the six doors that need replacing. Efforts to repair and patch have been exhausted as deterioration has begun and replacement is forthcoming. In addition, the RIM devices (panic bars) need replacing or repairing on almost every door; all the door trim will also be replaced and all new doors

and trim will need to be painted. This has been a priority project for some time.

The estimated cost of this project is **\$22,250**

The estimated total of these three projects is **\$46,050**



Efforts to repair and patch have been exhausted.



Pastor
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The heavens declare the glory of God

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Featured Artist

Judy Sendak has been going to Nauset Baptist Church for 20 years. Clearly, God has given her the gift of service. From setting up Luncheons to turning up the heat for special events to providing rides, she is about "doing good works which God prepared in advance for us to do." She goes about these things with an attitude of humility and

grace. We are thankful for Judy and her faithfulness to continue to serve.

She also serves the people in her neighborhood with an attitude of love and caring.

By God's grace, she makes serving an art ~ a beautiful tapestry to behold and appreciate.



Judy taking a break.....