



# 'Till We Meet Again!

Week of January 23 and 24, 2020



## REFLECTION FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020

<sup>45</sup>“Teacher,” said an expert in religious law, “you have insulted us, too, in what you just said.” <sup>46</sup>“Yes,” said Jesus, “what sorrow also awaits you experts in religious law! For you crush people with unbearable religious demands, and you never lift a finger to ease the burden.” <sup>47</sup>What sorrow awaits you! For you build monuments for the prophets your own ancestors killed long ago. <sup>48</sup>But in fact, you stand as witnesses who agree with what your ancestors did. They killed the prophets, and you join in their crime by building the monuments! <sup>49</sup>This is what God in his wisdom said about you: ‘I will send prophets and apostles to them, but they will kill some and persecute the others.’

**Luke 11: 45-49 (NLT)**

Greetings and peace my friends!

I have been astonished recently by the number of “experts” in the world. After the tragic violence that occurred in Washington DC last week, there are many constitutional “experts” that have appeared on the horizon. News media folks, people who use social media, friends in conversations, all seem to have

“expert” knowledge of the meaning and how to use the 25th amendment of our country’s constitution.

Of course, there are not just “experts” on the constitution that are appearing before us, we also have many and varied “experts” in politics, both locally and on a larger scale. These “experts” know exactly what to do to bring the world back into harmony and provide a sense of security.

In recent conversations with colleagues there are many “experts” in how to fix all that ails our local congregations. “Experts” in increasing effectiveness of ministry. “Experts” in the path forward from where we are. “Experts” in understanding God’s Will.

Whether or not people declare themselves outrightly to be “experts”, they speak with such passion and authority that their “expertise” in a specific subject matter is on display for all the world to see. Often these “experts” have so much passion for their momentary area of “expertise” that they are not interested in hearing any opinions or thoughts that might “stretch” their own understanding on a topic, after all they are “experts.”

Today my friends I humbly declare to you that I am NOT an “expert” at anything! Yes, I have education and a personal understanding of how I envision God working in the world. Yes, I have a clue as far as sharing a message about faith with those who have open and willing ears to listen. Yes, I have a vision that has been implanted deep into my being and shared with the leaders and all who desire to listen regarding how I see our community of faith moving forward, but trust me... I am NOT an expert.

I often find wisdom and knowledge in speaking with teenagers among us ways in which they view the world. These sisters and brothers teach me about how technology and social media can be used to proclaim the gospel more powerfully. I find incredible insight in our preschool sisters and brothers in Christ regarding ways in which we are called to share with one another and offer forgiveness to one another. I find youthful joys in the thoughts and words of some of my elderly sisters and brothers in Christ who wonderfully share ideas on ways in which joy can be found in some of the simpler moments of lives.

I suppose “experts” do not desire or need the wisdom, counsel, and advice of others, rather they only desire to proclaim and reenforce their expertise in the world in which they inhabit.

Today, I humbly come before you and ask.... “Are you an expert or a disciple?”

Until next time,

Keep trusting God, keep washing those hands, and keep learning from one another.

PJ

## REFLECTION FOR TUESDAY JANUARY 19, 2021 WHAT WILL YOU CHOOSE?

**Luke 10: 25-37**

<sup>25</sup>*Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.*

*“Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”* <sup>26</sup>*He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?”* <sup>27</sup>*He*

*answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”* <sup>28</sup>*And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”*

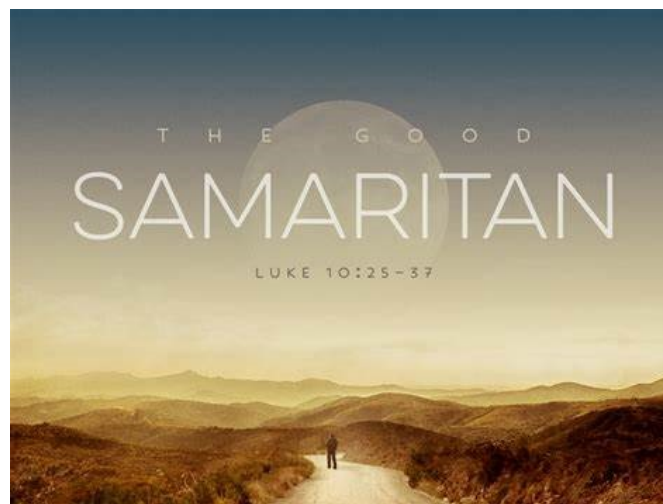
<sup>29</sup>*But wanting to justify*

*himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”* <sup>30</sup>*Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.”* <sup>31</sup>*Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.* <sup>32</sup>*So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.* <sup>33</sup>*But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.* <sup>34</sup>*He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.* <sup>35</sup>*The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’* <sup>36</sup>*Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”* <sup>37</sup>*He said, “The one who showed him mercy.”* **Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”**

On Saturday there was a very informative article in the Morning Call on the heroin epidemic being overshadowed by COVID-19 which was written by Marion Callahan and taken from the Bucks County Courier Times. The article starts out recounting the story of Megan Cohen who was on the streets addicted to heroin and in her own words, “wasn’t looking to be saved.”

Megan was so broken, walking down the street in the pouring rain, when an uber driver

coming off his shift decided to pick her up. Of course, Megan was skeptical about his intentions and asked why he would let her in his car, and Joshua Santiago replied, “You are still a person.” What a beautiful and perfect reason to help another person. Amid all the chaos



around us, we are still people. What would happen if we looked around and saw that we are surrounded by people? Broken to be sure, different color skin, different languages, different religions, different sizes, but at the very core, each a person.

If you go on to read the article you find that others helped Megan too. A hot meal, a place to shower, some water, and encouraging words. Two years after that chance encounter Megan is in recovery and she is working to help others. She formed the Grace Project and she regularly goes back to the streets of Kensington in Philadelphia where the heroin crisis thrives. She provides clothes and food and encouragement. She is now a Grace Dealer.

Can we be Grace Dealers too? Can we recognize that among that brokenness everyone is still a person? Can we share a word of grace and encouragement with those who are hurting? Can we speak out for those who have no voice in our society? Can we recognize the humanity within every person we meet? Can we recognize that everyone is a beloved child of God?

Or course we can! We are loved by God, given forgiveness by God, no questions asked. The real question is, Will we choose to do it?

Have a day that matters,  
Pastor Suzanne



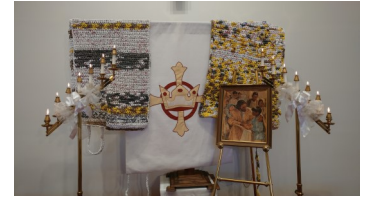
### **FAMILY/YOUTH WALK**

Thirty-one people ages six through adult participated in our Family/Youth Walk on January, 17, 2021 at the Bethlehem Township Municipal Park. We stayed warm in the fellowship and community fostered while walking, playing and

sharing stories with one another. We enjoyed hot chocolate and graham crackers following the activities. We hope you can join us in our next outdoor activity.

### **MAT MINISTRY**

We are no longer collecting plastic bags to make mats. We are pretty close to reaching our goal of 50



mats and there is a plethora of plarn balls AND plastic bags at Light of Christ. Thank you to everyone who has donated!

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### **THIS WEEK IN THE UPG JANUARY 23—JANUARY 31**

#### **Saturday January 23**

4:45 PM      Worship  
("LiveStream" Facebook from St. JW)

#### **Sunday January 24**

Worship available on YouTube  
10:30 AM      46ers Zoom

#### **Monday January 25**

7:00 PM      Coffee & Conversation (Zoom)

#### **Tuesday January 26**

#### **Wednesday January 27**

7:00 AM      Fellowship Meeting

#### **Thursday January 28**

6:30 PM      Bible Study (Zoom)

#### **Friday January 29**

#### **Saturday January 30**

4:45 PM      Worship  
("Livestream" Facebook from St. P)

#### **Sunday January 31**

Worship available on YouTube  
10:30 AM      46ers Zoom