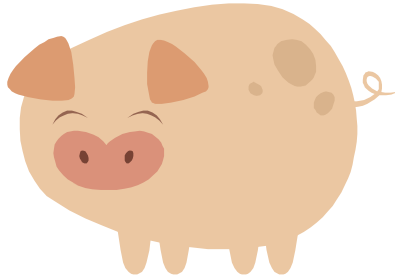


Miner Musings: Mercy

In Jesus' world, mercy trumps justice. As simple as this sounds, it was a God given insight that reached deeply into me.



The Word came out of yet another reading of the Prodigal Son [Luke 15: 11 – 32]. The older brother who was left out in the fields to toil while the younger brother was brought into the party is rightly hurt. No one thought to invite the older brother in. When he arrives, he sees the extra that has been done for the one who already spent all of his inheritance. Anything more the father chooses to give the younger son means less for the older son. It is unjust to give the younger brother more than his share.

The parable leaves us with the vision of the father facing the older son's rage.

When you make the choice to be merciful, like the father in the parable, you make those for whom justice is their law, angry.

Justice is the law of our land. Mercy is the law of Jesus.

I was watching a television series where a man is a type of superhero who helps people out of trouble, defeating evil. In one episode, his associates argued that he needs to accept money for his service because then people will not feel beholden to him. They will have paid for what they have received. The exchange will be just, and both parties can walk away from one another, free from any bond. This is the way of justice, pay the fair price, and move on.

In contrast, mercy doesn't allow us an easy escape. We get attached. Jesus wants us to receive his mercy and so find love in him. Jesus wants us to give mercy and so come to love our neighbor. Mercy is easy to speak about, much harder to live out...just ask the older brother.

In Christ,

Heather

*****REMINDER: SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE STARTS ON JULY 6TH*****
One service, 9:00 a.m.



This Sunday, June, 29th, after 10:00 worship is the
Barbeque and Hula Hoop Bingo!
Plan to stay and join in the fun.

Summer Touch Points:

Foundational Drawing (open to junior and senior high and adults) – taught by Claudia Picarelli and assisted by Mary Anderson, this course will teach the fundamentals of drawing. The course will include 10 classes over a 5 week period from 9 – 11 a.m. on Mondays and Thursdays in Mertz Hall as well as on location (June 30, July 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 30).

Outdoor Movie Night for Youth and their friends is July 2nd.

Connect with Respect: Compassionate Communication Practice Group continues to meet and is open to those who couldn't make it the first night. ***Come this Wednesday, June 25th, 7 – 8:30.*** Class will continue on July 2, 16, 30, and August 6. Great for couples and singles and all who want to learn to communicate better! Pastor Heather highly recommends this class Terry LePage leads.