

PEACETALK

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Saved by God's grace, we are called to be instruments of God's peace.

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PeaceTalk



From the Pastor...

“I came that they might have life, and have it with abundance!” - John 10:10

One of my summer jobs during college was pumping gas at Butch's Standard in Custer, SD. Most of the employees were young men from the Custer area including a high school student named Pat. Pat came from a family with lots of kids and not a whole lot of extra money and he came to work almost every day with a smile on his face.

One day as he was leaving to take his lunch break he asked if I wanted anything from Dairy Queen. It was nice to be asked but I was saving every dime I could that summer so I said no. He was persistent; “Come on! I know you like ice cream!” So I gave in; “Sure, bring me back a small cone,” thinking of the cheapest item on the menu.

When Pat got back from lunch he was holding a large shake and grinning from ear to ear. I was kind of mad at him for not listening to me, and mentally began calculating what that shake was going to cost me. When he handed it to me I asked, “How much was that?” He said, “Doesn't matter... my treat!”

I was stunned. I had figured I was financially better off than Pat and here he was treating me. And he was enjoying the whole experience as though it was the highlight of his day!

Pat's generosity reminded me of a quote by John D. Rockefeller. “The poorest man in the world is the man who has nothing but money.” I maybe had more money that day, but I was not the richer of the two of us.

Living within your means is important, of course, but there is something about giving to others that makes life feel rich and abundant. If you can give away something, your mindset changes from scarcity where you worry if you will have enough, to abundance where it feels like you have more than enough to share.

That's why “giving” is one of the spiritual disciplines. It is a practice that changes us and changes how we see ourselves in the world. And because God wants the best for us, God wants us to operate out of mindset of abundance.

Jesus said, “I came that they might have life, and have it with abundance!” (John 10:10).

And giving in response to our God who continues to abundantly provide for us is one way to experience abundance!

Later this fall we'll be helping each other think about the discipline of giving as it pertains to our gifts of time, talent, and financial resources offered up to the ministry of Christ through Peace Lutheran. We'll ask each other, “What is God calling you to give?” We will challenge each other to plan our giving and make it proportional to what God has given us.

Is giving something you have to do? No, but neither is eating ice cream or taking hot showers something you have to do either. But those who have tried it never want to go without it because of how it makes the living of life richer!

Give your faith a little exercise, and discover what it means to live life abundantly!
Pastor Paul