



JANUARY 2022

THE LAMPLIGHTER

YORK FIRST MORAVIAN



TOO MUCH?

It is late in the evening and you are dead tired after an exhausting day. As you head for the bedroom you are stopped by the yowling of your cat who demands to be fed. And you mutter to yourself - or maybe you say to the cat - TOO MUCH! You want TOO MUCH.

A similar scene plays out in the STORY Jesus tells in Luke 17. A servant has spent all day out in the field plowing. When he comes into the house, his master doesn't say, "Sit down and have something to eat..." Instead, he says, "Come and serve me, and when you are finished you may eat and drink..." Do you wonder if the servant ever said to himself - TOO MUCH! My master wants too much.

Brothers and sisters, have you ever felt that way about some of the teaching of Jesus? Jesus teaches that when we are smacked on one cheek we are to offer the other cheek to be struck...TOO MUCH! Jesus teaches that if someone takes our coat we are to offer them our shirt also.. TOO MUCH Jesus teaches that we are not only called to love our brothers and sisters, which is hard enough, but we are also to love our neighbors and even our enemies. WAY TOO MUCH!

Jesus, this is hard teaching. You want too much! What right do you have to ask for so much? What did we come here to do today? We came to begin the new year with Holy Communion. What will we remember today? We will remember how Jesus gave his body to be broken and his blood to be shed so that you and I may be forgiven and restored to God.

When Count Zinzendorf, the leader of the Moravian Church was a new college graduate he went on a tour of Europe. In an art gallery at Dusseldorf he paused to gaze at a picture of Jesus with a crown of thorns on his head and drops of blood running down the side of his face. Beneath the picture was this caption, "This I have done for you, what have you done for me?" The young Count thought to himself, "I have known him for a long time, but I have never done anything for him..." He resolved then and there that his life would be given in service to the one who had died for him. He was a rich man, but when he died all of his property was mortgaged for hundreds of thousands of dollars. He had given everything he had to support the Moravian missionaries who had traveled all over the world with the good news about Jesus.

Brothers and sisters, we do not have an earthly master. we serve a master who came down from heaven and gave his life for each one of us.... This is what the apostle Paul is trying to say in II CORINTHIANS 5:14-15, "For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: if one died for all, then all died. And he died for all that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and rose again."

Jesus has a right to ask for my life, my love and my service. He has earned that right by giving himself on the cross for me! Years ago I read a true story which illustrates very vividly what Jesus did for us. In the borough of Brooklyn there lived a single mother with a baby daughter. One day she slipped out to go to the corner deli for a few moments. While she was startled by the sound of sirens and flashing lights. In terror she ran out to see the fire engines stop in front of her apartment building. By the time she reached her home the flames had engulfed the building. She ran to the firemen and shouted, "My baby, my baby, my baby in on the third floor!" It is death to enter that building said the fire chief. No one can go in! A young fireman nearby heard the mother's anguished cries. "Let me go chief, he shouted. I have a young daughter and I would want sometime to try and save her." "Go, said the chief, and God be with you" He made his way into the house and through the smoke up two flights of stairs. Locating the crying baby, he carried her to the window and shouted, "Get the net" The waiting firemen saved the crying baby, but the brave fireman went down when the building collapsed. About twenty years later a visitor to Prospect cemetery in Brooklyn saw a young woman standing in front of a stone with a carved image of a fireman. Noticing she was crying, he tried to be helpful by kindly asking, "Was this your father?" "No sobbed the young lady..." "Your brother then?" "No said the young lady. It was the man who died for me..."

I once heard someone say "A Christian is a person who lives under the spell of having been died for" The Christian gospel is not a life of obedience to a set of rules. It is not a code of "do this and do that in order to be saved..." But, the Christian life is a life of love and gratitude for the grace of God given to us freely in the life and death of Jesus Christ! Brothers and sisters, can you ever do too much for someone you love?

Why does Jesus want so much? He does it not for His sake, but for our sake.. How do you teach young runners to race? Thirty years ago I helped to coach the cross country team at Lebanon High School. We ended every practice by running as hard as we could down and back on the soccer field. Two times! We ended practice this way in order to teach our runners that you can always run hard for the last couple hundred yards at the end of a race.

What is true in the physical world is also true in the spiritual world. We grow by stretching! How do you grow a muscle? EXERCISE! How do you grow your faith? EXERCISE!

In my first church there was a man named Al who hesitated to give his life to Christ. He told me, "God expects too much! I cannot bear the problems of the entire world..." He never became a Christian. C.S. Lewis wrote about this when he said, "God is easy to please, but hard to satisfy..." He explained what he meant in these words, "The God who will in the long run be satisfied with nothing less than absolute perfection, will be delighted with the first feeble, stumbling effort you make to do the simplest duty..."

God wants us to keep trying. He doesn't want us to give up! He wants you and me to keep stretching, to keep loving, to keep growing. to keep giving... Why should we keep on stretching and growing? Because Jesus loved us and gave his life for us.

"Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small,
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my ALL."

Rev. Steve Nicholas
January 1, 2023

Trustee & Elders News

The Elders and Trustees will resume meeting in January.

Total Income & Offerings from Sundays 12/4/2022 - 12/31/2022

General	\$5,036.00
Refurbishing	\$337.00
Parking	\$50.00
Flower Fund	\$180.00
Emergency Needs Fund	\$300.00
 TOTAL	 \$5,903.00

Did you know...

We have an online giving portal! If you prefer to catch the service via Zoom you can send your offering online! Just go to

- mmfa.info
- click Giving Portal at the top
- Click 'F' and select First Moravian Church - York, PA

If you prefer to mail your offering you can send it direct to:

Wanda Hendricks
3715 Fox Chase Drive
Dover, PA 17315

January Birthdays

- 1 Jeffrey Rishel
- 2 Chelsea Swartz*
Holly Sterner*
- 4 Sally Senft
- 5 Kayla Berkheimer*
- 7 Mary Jones*
- 8 Terry Zeigler
- 10 Stanley Senft
- 16 Aaren Downs
- 17 Elaine Patrick*
- 25 Jasoni Kotek
- 31 Mona Kotchmar*

January Anniversaries

- 1 Rev. David & Nancy Danneberger



**For pastoral care until
our new Pastor is received,
please feel free to call any of the
3 elders listed below.**

Jeannette Sprenkle 717-225-4304

John Knokey 717-848-9220

Steve Nicholas 717- 755-7412

***Please do not call Steve
on a Monday***

Prayer Concerns

Amy Ardison (Betsy Senft's sister)
Pastor Jeff Coppage
Ann Coppage
Don Eckert
Mary Jones
Kathie Nicholas
Karrie Rishel
Cliff & Elaine Rowell
Ruth & Clair Seiple
Jemon Grant

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2023 Watchword

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7