

August 4, 2024

EMPTY AND FULL

It was bedtime, and I began reading a children's book to my son and suddenly was struck with a simple, but profound spiritual truth. It was a book on opposites and started this way: "Big and small, short and tall, high and low, fast and slow" (Sandra Boynton). It made me think of all the opposites to be seen in the Bible, and the one that kept coming to mind was "empty and full."

I am the one who is empty, unable to save myself or bring about any goodness in and of myself. God is the One who is full and who fills all in all (Ephesians 1:23). Empty and full.

The earth started as "formless and void" until God spoke something into nothing. Sarah's womb was empty until God brought forth the promised child. Over five thousand empty bellies were filled by Jesus multiplying bread and fish. All of these were just a shadow of the fullness to come, the salvation brought about by Jesus. Over and over again, we see the truth that there is an innate emptiness in life that can only be filled with the loving and redeeming work of Jesus. Empty and full. Empty and full.

Those who know they are empty long to be filled—those who realize "we are dead in our trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:5). Empty and full. Dead and made alive. Children of wrath and now heirs of the Kingdom. How can this be? It's because Jesus emptied Himself, took our punishment on the cross, won the victory over death, and filled us with His Spirit (Philippians 2:7-11)! He emptied Himself so that we can be filled. Empty and full.

The repetition continues in John 10:10 where Jesus says, "I have come so that you may have life and have it to the full." His purpose for coming to earth was so that our lives would be full. Full of joy. Full of purpose. Full of Him. Empty and full.

Jesus wants to give us a future of fullness, showing us His immeasurable riches in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:8). This fullness is a gift of His grace. Praise God that He does not leave us empty!

Mrs. Rachel Mattson
AFLC Board of Publications and Parish Education
Newfolden, Minnesota

AFLC Promotion for August is Parish Education



Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, August 4th, 2024
Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Prelude

Welcome

Missionaries Jim and Connie Turek

Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name"

Scripture reading: Matthew 16:24-27

Luke 9:23-27

The Nicene Creed

Communion

Praise Team: "Praise"

"Your Name"

"Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

Children's Church dismissed

Sermon: "Following Jesus"

Mark 8:34-38

Benediction

Hymn: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Postlude

Mon 6pm Prayer Walk for Helmarpalooza
7pm Meeting for All Volunteers

Wed. 6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Southern Belle's
7-9pm Youth Group BYBS @ Jared & Kynsey Mathre's

Fri. 5-7pm Food Pantry
All Day Set Up for Helmarpalooza

Sat. 3-10pm Helmarpalooza

Sun: 9:30am Fellowship
10am Worship **in the FLC**
6:30pm GriefShare

Welcome and thank you for attending our church service today. If you are new to Helmar and are interested in finding out more about us, please stop at the Welcome Center and talk with Jeff and Kathy. We have a gift bag for you.

There will be a door offering for Jim and Connie Turek following the worship service.

Sign up sheets for the upcoming Ladies' Bible Studies are available at the Welcome Center.

We are looking for 2 adults to serve in the Wednesday evening children's classes. Please see Kristen Mathre for more information.

Bulletin Art by Allie Pilon



August 4th, 2024
"Following Jesus"
Mark 8:34-38

Dying to gain. Living to lose. What is Jesus talking about in the text before us? Whatever He is teaching us, it is certainly very, very important!

I. The _____ to follow Jesus v. 34a

II. The _____ of self-denial vv. 34b-37

III. The _____ to consider v. 38

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