

WEEKLY DEVOTION – Tuesday, August 11, 2020
Pastor Bruce Kischnick, Grace Lutheran Church, New Albany, IN

“Bubble, Bubble, Toil and Trouble!”

READING: John 16:29-33 – Then Jesus’ disciples said, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.” “You believe at last!” Jesus answered. “But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Have you ever had a week in which it seems every single thing you were involved in went south? A week where it seemed that no matter what you tried your hand at, it didn’t go as planned? A week when junk mail, solicitors on the phone, and even companies you trusted told you half truths or outright lies? Well, I had one like that last week, and am I glad that week is history and in the rearview mirror! I wouldn’t live it over even if the Lord offered me 3 bonus weeks of life for doing so! Let me tell you about it!

So, the Robinson family was suddenly bereaved the week before last, and they called me Monday to ask if I would conduct their father’s funeral on Saturday. Certainly, I said, and we began to make plans. But he died in a helicopter crash in Nevada, and Nevada is one of the few states that requires the coroner to complete and sign a death certificate before a body can be shipped out of state. The coroner sent it, but it was incorrectly completed and had to be redone. Then the funeral home taking care of arrangements had four employees go out on quarantine because one of them contracted COVID-19! It took until Friday to get all the kinks worked out of the situation, so the funeral is taking place today.

Then, Thursday we had a Red Cross blood drive at the church. So, since I was there and have been a long-time donor, I went through all the hoops and barrels you have to jump through in order to give a unit of A-. When I laid myself down on the table and met my blood tech, I could tell he was rather new at all of it. He was slow and apologetic, but very nice and talkative. Then, when all the prep work was done, he had trouble spotting a vein. He asked another tech for assistance, and she pointed one out to him. Then he came at me with the needle, tentative and obviously unsure. In went the needle, and immediately he was asking another tech to come because he wasn’t getting much blood. The long and the short of it, he went through my vein, and I developed a rather large hematoma which has now become a big bruise, and because he had collected a little blood in my bag, they couldn’t try the other arm. No nice, fresh A- from Pastor for someone who’s going to need it this week!

Then, Friday morning I had a plumber come to the house to replace the flush valve in the second-floor bathroom. He put in a brand-new valve I had purchased at Ace Hardware that week. It only took him a few minutes and he had it mounted. Then he went down into the

basement to check on something else. Uriah, my youngest grandson, and I were playing wiffleball in the living room when I noticed the kitchen table was all wet. I wondered about that until I noticed a steady stream of water running off the light fixture above that table! The brand-new valve was stuck in the open position and had run over the tank, flooded the floor, and drained through the ceiling.

Add to that the notice from The Smithsonian Magazine telling me my subscription would soon be running out when I have only received the first two editions so far. Or, the “Special Offer” from Whirlpool telling me my water filter in the refrigerator is near the end of its life span and offering me new ones for much money when in fact we just bought that refrigerator in April! And, there’s dozens more irritations and troubles that come along on an all-too-regular basis.

But then, I’m not telling you anything you haven’t already experienced yourselves! Some things are small potatoes and hardly worth griping about. Other things are life-changing or even life-threatening. This world is full of trials and troubles, and sometimes we just want to pull out our hair and howl at the moon...and then Jesus speaks to us! “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Oh, how we need his comfort, his strength, his promises, his counsel. How much we need his reassurance that he has overcome every manner of evil, grief, loss, shame, sorrow, and aggravation! How good to know that after this sinful, broken world has served up its share of heartache, there stands Jesus, victorious, risen, and bringing us peace!

It ain’t always gonna be like this! Jesus, our Savior and Lord, has overcome the world! And, he is already preparing a place for us that we may someday be where he is. Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.

PRAYER:

ANNOUNCEMENT(S):