

Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

September 29, 2019

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Good morning, friends! Some of us have habits, the way that we do things. One of my habits is the way that I make my peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. First, I take out two slices of bread. I put the peanut butter on one slice...just a little because I don't like them gloopy...and then I put the jelly on the other slice of bread, making sure it's all smooth. And then, I put the peanut butter side on top of the jelly side and I smoosh it all together! I wonder what would happen if I put the jelly side face up or the peanut butter side face up? What do you think?

When I get dressed in the morning, I always put on my socks first and then my shoes. What would happen if I put on my shoes AND THEN my socks? Would it work very well?

Maybe there's a reason for our habits, for doing things in the right order. Did you know that the Bible talks about that too? Jesus reminds us a lot that it's important to put God first in our hearts. Sometimes we get confused, and we try to rearrange that order. Maybe we put money first, and think we can buy our way into Heaven.

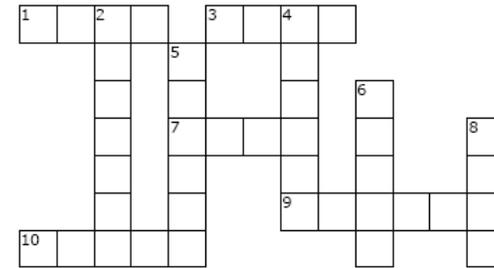
The rich man in the Gospel story from Luke this morning seemed to think that way, didn't he? He was so greedy that he wouldn't even give Lazarus the crumbs from his bread! Lazarus was sick and hungry and the rich man never even paid attention to him. Sometimes, we get so distracted and busy that we forget to make God our number one focus. Maybe we even put ourselves in the place of main importance. Is that what Jesus calls us to do? No! The Bible reminds us again and again that our lives now are not about our things or ourselves. Sure, we want to live and love well with each day we are given. But we know there is a greater and better life waiting for us, if we have trusted and loved God. God has given us great grace and allows us to be called beloved children. Because of that, we should be thankful!

What might it look like to put God first? Maybe it means praying before we do things. Maybe it's letting someone else go first in line or get a bigger cookie. Maybe it's reminding ourselves of life's bigger picture. That sure can be hard sometimes! The good thing is, Jesus lived that out, and he is here to help us do it, too! When God is first and the other things come after, they will fall into place.

Dear God, Thank you for all our blessings. Help us to remember to put you first in our lives and not to let anything get in the way of following your son, our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

adapted from Ministry to Children

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- Having a lot of money or valuable possessions
- To tell someone of possible danger or harm
- An opening in a wall or fence for entrance or exit
- The fleshy part in the mouth that is used in tasting
- A clear, colorless, odorless, and tasteless liquid essential for most plant and animal life

DOWN

- To soothe someone in a time of pain or suffering
- To change your behavior because you are sorry for what you have done
- A poor person who lives by asking others for money or food
- Extreme physical or mental pain or suffering
- Stopped living

warn	died	comfort	water	gate
agony	rich	tongue	beggar	repent

Activity: It's important to remember that all we have comes from God's blessings. This week start a gratitude chart. At the top of a colorful sheet of paper write "Today, I Am Thankful For....." During dinner, have each family member say what they were thankful for during the day and then write it down. Keep that list going!

Discussion Question: There are many things that can distract us from focusing on God. What are some of those things that stop you from keeping God at the center of your life?

Family Table Prayer for September:

For back to school
New friends to meet
For books and teachers, too
For family time and meals together Lord, we thank YOU!

September Memory Verse: Isaiah 30:21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Coloring Page



The Rich Man and Lazarus