

Mysterious Ways (Guideposts March 2010)

One thing troubled me about my husband: He didn't believe in God. "Believe what you like," he said, "but there isn't someone up there making miracles happen." I prayed hard for him to come around. That would definitely take a miracle.

One winter we took a vacation in the Montana mountains. His brother owned a cabin there and lent us his Jeep – "You'll need the four-wheel drive," he said. He handed us a large key ring, indicating the key for the Jeep and the one for the cabin. We arrived late in the afternoon. I was awed by the isolation, the delicate, powdery snow frosting everything in sight and the utter silence. We dropped our bags, took off our coats and my husband tossed the keys on the kitchen table. They landed with a metallic clank. I needed a drink but there was no running water. "Let's grab a bucket; we'll get some water from the creek," my husband said. We left the door open to clear the musty air while we were out.

We weren't far when a strong gust of wind blew. There was a loud bang. The cabin door! We stopped and stared at each other, thinking the same thing, *I hope that door didn't just lock...* we ran back through the snow. The door was locked tight. "The keys are on the kitchen table!" my husband groaned.

He rammed a shoulder against the door. It didn't budge. "See if there's a wire or something in the Jeep." He told me. "Maybe we can pick the lock."

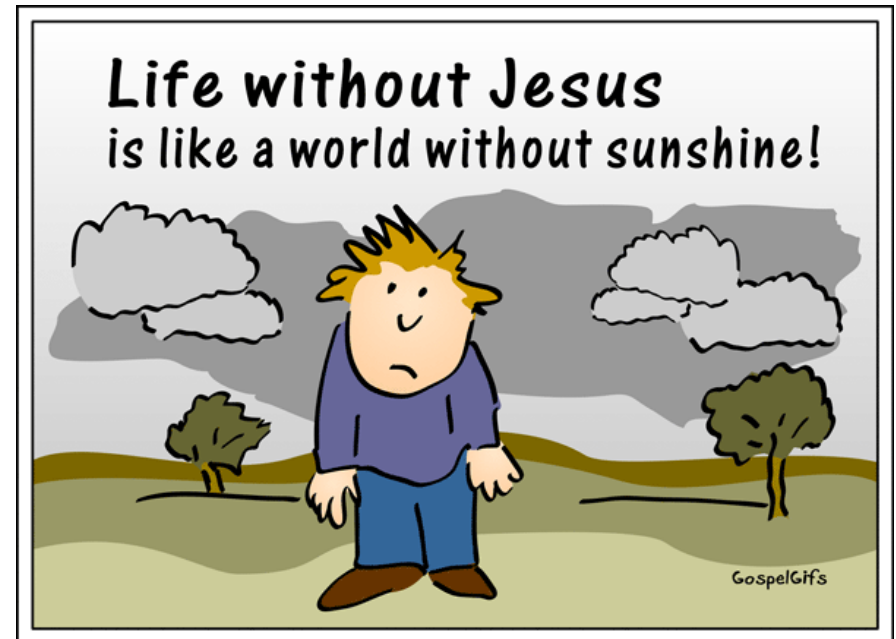
"I'll say a prayer too." I told him. Nothing of help was in the glove compartment or seat pockets. I searched and prayed. Under the driver's seat I felt something and fished it out. A ring of keys! Just like the set my brother-in-law gave us. I rushed back to the cabin. Sure enough, one of the keys opened the door, Saved!

My husband looked at the table. The keys he'd tossed on it were gone! We looked for that ring of keys, but never found another set.

Later, my brother-in-law insisted the key ring he handed us was the only one he had. "I just don't get it," my husband said, confused. But I did. I got the miracle I'd asked for.

The cabin door wasn't the only thing opened up that day. My husband's eyes finally started to open as well.

A Christian should be a striking likeness of Jesus Christ. You have read lives of Christ, beautifully and eloquently written, but the best life of Christ is his living biography, written out in the words and actions of his people. -C. H. Spurgeon



LINDEN LODGE WORSHIP SERVICE

March 7, 2010
9:50 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

"To understand is to pardon"

Linden Lodge Worship Service

March 7, 2010

Thought for the Week:

A bad attitude is like a flat tire. If you don't change it you'll never go anywhere. (Buz Moxon)

Key Verse: By faith Moses kept the Passover
Hebrews 11:28a

Opening and Prayer:

Songs: Love Lifted Me 303

The Lord's my Shepherd 101

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 12:1-14

Hebrews 11:23-29

Special music: Strings

Message : Moses, A Life of Faith

Closing Hymn:

Precious Promise God has Given 381

Benediction:

Postlude: Jean Thiessen

God's Covenant (Henri Nouwen)

God made a covenant with us. The word *covenant* means "coming together." God wants to come together with us. In many of the stories in the Hebrew Bible, we see that God appears as a God who defends us against our enemies, protects us against dangers, and guides us to freedom. God is **God-for-us**. When Jesus comes a new dimension of the covenant is revealed. In Jesus, God is born, grows to maturity, lives, suffers, and dies as we do. God is **God-with-us**. Finally, when Jesus leaves he promises the Holy Spirit. In the Holy Spirit, God reveals the full depth of the covenant. God wants to be as close to us as our breath. God wants to breathe in us, so that all we say, think and do is completely inspired by God. God is **God-within-us**. Thus God's covenant reveals to us how much God loves us.

Five things to take up rather than give up this Lent **Spend time with others**

I'm sure to find God in others, specifically those who are – or should be – the recipients of my generosity and compassion. The needy themselves, according to Jesus, can be God to me.

Pray for the little things

This may include lost hearing aids, unfriendly people, or poor appetites. Certainly we should put God's will before ours but aren't we also meant to be childlike in our faith.

Appreciate God's little miracles

It may be a miracle of joy, of courage or of a dessert that I had hoped for.

Get outside

After a long winter of snow I must look for the first geese returning, the first green grass, or even the first dandelion.

Turn worry into prayer.

If during Lent I want to give up something let me give up worrying. As I give up worrying I take on prayer and prayer draws me closer to God, and that is what Lent is all about – finding greater opportunities to bring the Divine into our daily lives.

(Adapted from an article by Patty Kirk)

Short humor.

Did you hear about the guy that lost his left arm and leg in a car crash?

He's all right now.

How does a spoiled rich girl change a light bulb?

She says, "Daddy, I want a new apartment."

What do prisoners use to call each other?

Cell phones.

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work?

A stick.

What do you get from a pampered cow?

Spoiled milk.

What has four legs, is big, green, fuzzy, and if it fell out of a tree would kill you?

A pool table.

Why are there so many Toews' in the phone book?

They all have phones.