

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday March 3, 2025 - Ecclesiastes 5:2

2 Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.

Read Ecclesiastes 5 for meditation and inspiration.



PRIORITIZING FOR LENT

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

As we head into the season of Lent, it is so important to get our priorities straight - to possibly add others to come alongside those already in place or more deeply focus on the ones we have with more energy and commitment.

With this in mind, I love the true story of a mother who took her three young children on a cross-country vacation to visit their grandparents. They flew out over the Rocky Mountains, looked down with amazement at the Grand Canyon, and marveled at the city lights when they landed in Los Angeles. They spent three days at Disneyland and Universal before the last leg of the trip, which took them to Yosemite National Park. There, they saw the largest waterfall in North America, 3,000-year-old Sequoia Trees, and a mother bear and her three cubs crossing a trail.

The vacation provided all sorts of new and exciting experiences for the children. However, when their great adventure ended and they landed back home, the five-year-old son rushed up to his father, who was waiting at the gate, and shouted, "Daddy, guess what? Grandpop can take his teeth out."

Seeing Grandpa was the focus, a relationship with grandpa was the important element of the vacation. You can say that this child had his priorities just right. All else will fall away but relationships in love will last forever.

When babies are born, they are said to be a bundle from heaven. And if this is so, isn't being childlike the nearest any of us ever get to the Creator? As we read in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus reminds us, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Becoming ever more fit for the Kingdom of our God,

Roger