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**Verse of the day for Monday June 26, 2023 – Joshua 1: 9**

9 **Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”**

**Read Joshua 1 for meditation and inspiration.**

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Dear Lakesiders and friends,

Keeping up church attendance in the summer has often been a real challenge over the years but it is especially true since Covid-19. The pandemic started a new level of reasoning that made not going to church more acceptable and for many a healthy thing to do.

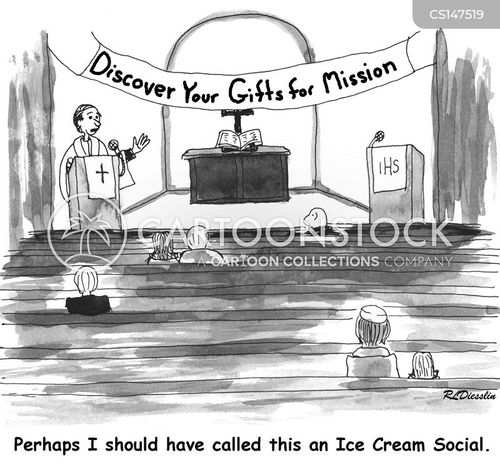
There are many reasons, excuses, distractions offered for not going. Not feeling up to it, got up late, don’t have the needed clothes ready, and it’s easier to stay home and watch on the screen because it just takes too much effort and time to get ready to get there.

Perhaps you've heard the story that I have told before, of the man who went to the pet store seeking something a bit odd and out of the ordinary. After some discussion with the store owner, who claimed that he has just the pet to meet the man’s needs, a centipede who talks. The man said, ‘no way, centipedes don’t talk.’ The owner promised him with a guarantee it was a talking centipede. So, the man finally settled on the talking centipede named Charley. He purchased it and took it home.

Once the man got his unusual pet home, he decided that for their first outing together, he would take Charley to Lakeside Presbyterian Church over in West Palm Beach. When Sunday morning arrived, the man asked his new friend, "Would you like to go to church with me today?" But there was no answer. The silence troubled the man and he began to think that the pet store owner had hoodwinked him. Could it be that Charley really can't talk, he wondered? So, he waited a few minutes and again asked, "How about going to Church with me? It will be a blessing." But still, there was no answer. Three more times, he asked, raising his voice each time louder and louder. The centipede replied, ‘You really do not need to shout, I heard you the first time! I’m just putting my shoes on!’

When you consider the cross upon which the Prince of Glory died, all our excuses seem as silly as a talking centipede. So, “Come and Worship, Come and Worship the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.”

For your worship, see you in Church,

Mercy of God be with you,

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Roger

