

2/6/22

WA 25 FB 17

Sermon – The Burden of Knowing

Scripture – James 2: Luke 10

Main Message – Complacency when presented with knowledge is a trap in which we must not fall.

Recently I was in the Syracuse VA hospital as many of you know. This message comes from some knowledge I gained while I was there. I am going to share with you this knowledge because it is a fine example of things that happen that unless you experience it, you just don't know. I had two roommates while there. The first floor I was on was "the least desirable floor" to be at as I learned. Here are some veterans that have been there for close to two years. They are there because the family doesn't want them back home. No nursing home will take them because they are suffering from severe mental trauma and so they languish, forgotten in a hospital without family or loved ones. The family is probably doing OK because the disability check is going to them to pay expenses and to take him back means they would have to take care of them. Speak about my own roommates.

Outside on the sign at the VA it says, "The price of freedom is visible here." Yes that is true but most people only see those with a missing limb, or in a wheel chair or some other physical burden. My experience is that far more suffer from a brokenness that you can only see when you are near them.

Throughout our lives we learn all manner of things. Sometimes we learn new jobs or skills, sometimes we learn about problems and situations, sometimes we learn things we would rather not know. Knowledge has the potential to become overwhelming if your already drained. That is when you must call upon the Lord because your own energy stores are spent and all that is left is God.

There comes a burden with knowing. Ignoring what you know by putting deeds into action is a sin.

Read James 2:14-16 – this is giving lip service to one's faith. It is worthless to that individual.

Read Luke 10:25-37- this is Jesus telling how we must do and act and not avoid.

But human nature is to rationalize away the need. We stagnate in our walk with Christ and growing in the grace and knowledge of him because of our selfish desires that we manufacture in our own hearts. We say, "I don't know how," or "I don't have any time." or, "I don't have any money." The truth is we don't want to because our flesh wants to be at ease and after all, "I deserve some rest." We deserve eternal punishment for our sins. We dare not rest now.

Now this was a terrible lesson for me to learn in the hospital. I had surgery, was in some amount of pain, no sleep and yet the burden to help them could not be ignored. But the flesh just wanted some rest. My mind was exhausted. It was at that point that I needed the Lord instead of my own strength and so I did little, but I did do a bit of some value.

The first guy I told to get in touch with Catholic charities. They could help with living assistance, counseling and companionship which he definitely needed.

The 2nd guy, well I talked to him briefly, but I talked to him like he was a man and had value again and not as a child as most everyone else spoke to him like. He responded to the tone of whoever spoke with him.

I was on two floors. Had two roommates. Learned that this is just a taste of what our veterans and frankly many, many others from all walks of life face day in and day out. When the opportunity to help comes to your door, your response should be more like, God, how can I help?