

#9 Thursday Talk Story March 4, 2010

“O give thanks to the Lord, call upon his Name, remember the wonderful works he has done.” Psalm 105: 1, 5

Memory leads to gratitude that gives way to worship. Forgetting blessings leads to ingratitude and disdain. Racecar driver Kyle Busch won a National Series race in June last year. The trophy? A revered Gibson Les Paul Guitar hand painted by NASCAR artist Sam Bass that Busch proceeded to whack on the ground 3 times smashing it to pieces. The treasured symbol of Nashville Speedway was tossed aside. No one criticized Bush in the paper—instead voices said, “You will not see me do that” and “It’s his trophy. He can choose to do with it what he wants. Without that edge he maybe doesn’t win.”(Northwestern June 9, 2009 B-3)

Disrespect. Win at all costs. Survival of the fittest. These are the values of the culture now. God’s Word and way is forgotten and sidelined to an hour or two once a year at Christmas and Easter for many. In fact, on any given Sunday 80% of the population is not attending church. Just the reverse was true in the 40’s and 50’s. We are becoming a non-Christian secular nation like Europe where churches stand empty on Sunday mornings.

But God still rules the creation and God’s laws are still foundational for life. Example? Gravity. God sent the Son Jesus to call and gather those who believe in Him to a different way of life. That way is spelled out in His disciple’s handbook in Matthew 5-7 called the Sermon on the Mount. There His heavenly teaching turns the world’s ways upside down and blesses everyone who dares to try living in His Gospel Way. But His teachings are not for the faint of heart or the weak of will. They can be the way of life only for those who surrender to Christ in faith and are empowered by His Spirit. He came to live in us and through us.

Here’s one idea to try to practice from His guidebook:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21

Lord free us from ingratitude and disdain for Your gift of life.
Transform us by your Word and Spirit to seek You and store up treasure in
heaven by doing Your will and living in Christ's way.