

Friday, February 26

Readings: Psalm 27; Genesis 14:17-24; Philippians 3:17-20

9

Live genuinely

means putting your faith into action. This is the tangible demonstration of what is sincerely on our hearts and where our treasure is, not simply a verbal expression. The Macadonians set an example that Paul called to the attention of the Corinthians.

**“I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others.”
2 Corinthians 8:8**

Prayer: *O Lord, giver of every good gift, help us take to heart Jesus’ words when he commanded the leaders of the synagogue: “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” (Matthew 22:21) Make us mindful that all that we are and all we have, we place at your disposal. May these gifts be gifts that scatter the good news like seed into the world. Make us those who plant the seeds of joy and mercy in all the places we go and bless our gifts that this might be so. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen*¹⁹

Focal Verse: “Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.” Philippians 3:17

Reflection: All believers are called to be, to be holy (1 Peter 1:15). And they are called to do, to do God’s will (1 Thessalonians 2:12). All God’s people are given the honor of participating in God’s work.

God’s call comes to each person within the context of his or her unique setting. Living a life of service to God does not require a change of outward circumstances, of social or occupational status.

Martin Luther’s bold claim was that all the tasks of one’s life, any Christian’s life, no matter how menial or mundane the tasks performed, provide an opportunity to express one’s faith. For Luther, vocation was ... a calling to and within the place where one carries out one’s everyday labors.

The teaching on vocation grew out of Martin Luther’s understanding of the justification of the Christian by grace through faith. Believers can approach their daily tasks as opportunities to respond to God in faith and thanksgiving. They do this, in particular, by serving God’s children, their fellow human beings. At the heart of a person’s response to God should be an overwhelming desire to love and serve his or her neighbors.

Ordinary daily work is holy because it is anchored in faith in Christ ... [it] flows from the new life God in Christ has already given her or him. The Large Catechism’s explanation of the first commandment contains the same thought: “Creatures are only the hands, channels, and means through which God bestows all blessings.”^{20, 21}

What do you hear?
How does it make you feel?
Toward what are you being drawn?
What do you sense you should do?

¹⁹ Mosser, David, Stewardship Services, ©2007 Abingdon Press, p. 6.

²⁰ *The Book of Concord: The Confession of the Lutheran Church*, eds. Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert, (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2000), p. 389.

²¹ *Listen God is Calling: Luther Speaks of Vocation, Faith, and Work*, D. Michael Bennethum, Augsburg-Fortress, 2003, p. 43, 45, 47, 48, 51.