



FAITH matters

September 9, 2024

Life is a gift! But isn't it true that we so often miss this gift of life we have been given? We are told that Jesus took his disciples to the mountain, and gathering them around him, he taught them: "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the meek. Blessed are they that mourn. Blessed are the merciful. Blessed are they that thirst for justice. Blessed are you when persecuted. Blessed are you when you suffer. Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in Heaven."

Then Simon Peter said, "Are we supposed to memorize this?" And Andrew said, "Do we have to write this down?" And James said, "Will we have a test on this?" And Phillip said, "I don't have any paper." And Bartholomew said, "Do we have to turn this in?" And John said, "The other disciples didn't have to learn this. Why us?" And Judas said, "What does this have to do with real life?" And Matthew said, "May I go to the little boy's room?"

And we think now these are things our children might say in school. But I think they are things you and I might say, too. God gives us life, but we take the chance of missing it. Yet, we want to live our lives on that uniquely worthy and glorious level that God offers, don't we? Don't we want that larger life, the larger life not defined by narrowness, enslavement or worry? We want to come out of our lesser selves, don't we? How? How do we accept the invitation to the larger life, the invitation to live life to the fullest?

We can, in Edward Paul Cohn's words, "bring love to the moment." To keep faith with our Creator who has brought us to this point in

our lives and whose fondest hope is that we will have the good sense to live the larger life and to escape the narrow, limited view.

A woman, a novelist from West Virginia, who was already blind was told one day that she was also going deaf. And do you know what she said? She said, "Not to worry. If the world be closed without, I'll sail the hidden seas within." Now that's what I'd call receiving what you have and making the best of it. I think that is what God has in mind for each one of us. And I am grateful. Aren't you?

~Written by Rev. Pam Pendexter

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8190 Lincoln Rd. Beulah, MI 49617
231.882.4241
www.benziestandrews.com



Benzie St. Andrews | 8190 Lincoln Rd | Beulah, MI 49617 US

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