

November 2018



 Omega Baptist Church

A circle of believers with Christ at the center.

BEACON

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Jesus Confronts Our Consumer Mentality

We live in a dangerous place and time. I am not primarily thinking of physical dangers or external forces that threaten us like weather, crime or terrorism. I am not thinking primarily of politics, disease or war. We face an enemy that is much more subtle and is often not even noticed as a danger. I am talking about our consumer mentality.

Our economy is built on consuming. Our society, especially advertising, encourages consuming. Consuming often feels very good, at least in the short term. So what is the problem with consuming? You've got to eat, right?

Of course some consumption is necessary and I would argue is even good. However, when consumption becomes the driving force in a person's life, they suffer consequences. In some of the passages we will consider on the Sunday mornings in November, Jesus confronts our consumer mentality. At a high point of his popularity, he makes some of the strongest statements about the costs and requirements of following him. He confronts some people who love money more than God, although they are very religious. He points out the eternal consequences of greed and ignoring God's Word. And in the midst of all of these stern teachings and warnings, Jesus tells of the Heavenly Father who rejoices when a lost child repents and returns home.

In this section, Jesus peels back the curtain of Heaven and gives us a peek at the rejoicing that goes on there. In this era of history, Jesus says that a huge reason for celebration is when a sinner repents. He says that there is more rejoicing over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people who do not need to repent. He doesn't say there is no rejoicing over the righteous, just that there is much more over the sinner who repents.

So it is true that costs and qualifications for being a follower of Jesus exist AND that he rejoices along with all of Heaven when a sinner repents. If a person is focused on consumption in this life, they are in danger of destitution in the next. Follow Jesus and join the eternal Heavenly celebration.

In His Joy,
Pastor Rodney

NOVEMBER SERMON SCHEDULE

- 4 Luke 14:25-35 "Jesus Demands More than Following on Social Media"
- 11 Luke 15:1-32
"God's Lost and Found"
- 18 Luke 16:1-15
"What Would Jesus Buy?"
- 25 Luke 16:14-31
"Warnings to Heed"





YOUTH-MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

What has been a “win” in your life lately? I was recently asked this question at a youth pastor’s partnership meeting. The actual question was, “What has been an emotional, physical, or spiritual win lately?” This could be in my personal life or in my work life and my actual first thought was, “Nothing, I haven’t won at anything lately.” But as the conversation went around the table, I started thinking a little deeper into what a “win” actually is. We often compare life with sports, so when I think, “WIN,” I think big. Like the feeling you get when your favorite team wins. Or when something really exciting and great happens in your life. I hadn’t really had one of those big moments lately. So I guess no wins. But on my drive home from Marshfield that day I replayed the conversations from the meeting and really digested what the others had said and I started to see the wins in my life. The first one that came to my mind was from a few weekends ago. We went to Houghton, Michigan with all the kids and I prayed really hard for Gage to go to church with us. He didn’t, but his wife did. WIN!! And then there was this text I got from Aidan that started, “So I’ve been praying and I think God is saying...” WIN!! And then I remembered how I completely failed in a lesson for the middle school, but was able to change it up and make it a stronger message for the high school and actually taught myself something about perseverance and failure along the way. WIN!! And then I realized that I ran eight miles the past five days. WIN!!

All of these events in my life were “wins.” And when I was asked this question I couldn’t see any of them. Not until I made myself redefine the word, win. If you Google it, the definition you expect comes up, “to be successful or victorious in (a contest or conflict).” That’s where my thinking was stuck. But if you click “show more” and scroll down, you will see that there are more definitions. One is “manage to succeed or achieve something by effort” and one marked as archaic “manage to reach (a place) by effort.” All of these little pieces of my life were there. I just didn’t see them as a win. I had filed them away as a mundane event, not noteworthy. But now I could look at them and see them as wins!!

It seems so obvious now, while I write this, because I know I’m supposed to be grateful every day and I know that sometimes you have to look for the blessings, especially during difficult times. The old hymn, Count Your Blessings, even came to my mind and it drives me nuts that I have to be reminded. Especially during the “blah” times. When nothing is super hard, but nothing is really super great either. It’s just life. I am thankful that I was reminded that I have a savior that cares about me and all the events of my life. He isn’t just there for me to cling to during the hard days nor is He only there to celebrate the exciting days. He’s there EVERYDAY, even during the mundane, ordinarily, “blah” days. I don’t know where you are right now, or what you are going through, but there’s got to be a win in there. A win that you can shout out loud and rejoice in. A win that you can thank Jesus Christ for.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” - Romans 15:13.
So, in case you haven’t thought about it today, or you’re in a “blah” time and need a reminder like me, what’s your win?

...until next time,

Rebecca Anderson



REVIVE WORSHIP NIGHT

Saturday, November 10, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

All ages are welcome to join us for an evening of contemporary worship and prayer as we seek to revive our hearts in the presence of the Lord.

Preview songs at bit.ly/obcrevive.

Fundraiser for Jerry Blomberg

November 3, 11 a.m.—3 p.m.



Soups & Breads
Silent Auction
Live Entertainment



Jerry was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on August 22.
Please join us as we support him.

Ogema Baptist Church Quarterly Business Meeting
Sunday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.

**THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SHIELD;
MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM, AND HE HELPS ME.
MY HEART LEAPS FOR JOY,
AND WITH MY SONG I PRAISE HIM.**
PSALM 28:7



"Sweet Land of Liberty"
Community Ecumenical Choir Concert
Sunday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.

I will give thanks to You, LORD,
with all my heart;
I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds.
Psalm 9:1

Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 21, 7:00 p.m.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever."
1 Chronicles 16:34

All ages are welcome to join us as we give thanks through song and testimony!
There are no other programs at church this evening.

November Birthdays

- 1 Stef Jones, Michelle Mariette-Ulrich
- 3 Craig Scheithauer
- 4 Heather Reissner
- 6 Bonnie Blomberg, Michaela Blomberg, James Rhody
- 8 Skip Ploof
- 9 Taylor Meier
- 10 Sharon Scott
- 11 Nathan Belan, Brian Johnson, Elsie Hawkins, Sam Cattanach
- 12 Harmoni Jesunas, Stasia Isaacson
- 13 Stan Carlson
- 15 Michael Mattson
- 16 Tim Zook
- 17 Julie Gedde, George Gedde
- 18 Jerold Nelson
- 19 Mark Belan
- 22 Christine Wentzel
- 23 Jon Blomberg, Jon Carlson
- 24 Mallory Nelson
- 25 Riley Blomberg
- 26 Dawn Erickson, Zach Ulrich, Brett Blomberg, Finnley Blomberg
- 28 Cindy Erickson, Nataya Nussberger
- 29 Jordan Blomberg, Amy Deshotels, Kolson Wear, Brett Hueckman, Ed Ulrich, Tessa Ulrich
- 30 Connie Kraegenbrink, Mallory Hueckman, Justine Jast, Eddie Recob

Enter His gates with thanksgiving
and His courts with praise;
give thanks to Him and praise His name.
Psalm 100:4

Let them give thanks to the LORD
for His unfailing love
and His wonderful deeds for mankind,
for He satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.
Psalm 107:8-9

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly
as you teach and admonish one another
with all wisdom through psalms, hymns,
and songs from the Spirit,
singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.
And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
Colossians 3:16-17

Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.

And the peace of God,
which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7

Happy Birthday!

Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family has an address change
- You no longer want to be on our Beacon mailing list
- You would rather receive your Beacon by email
Email: info@ogemabaptistchurch.org

OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Whatever your age or stage in life,
YOU are WELCOME here!

*Shout with joy to God, all the earth!
Sing the glory of His name;
make His praise glorious!
Say to God,
"How awesome are Your deeds!"*
Psalm 66:1-3a

Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am
Sunday Worship - 10:15 am
Wednesday Student & Ladies' Ministries - 6:30 pm
Wednesday Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00 pm



Missionary Spotlight Dave and Rebecca Hopkins

Carter, Moriah, John Henry, Nellie
Forest Springs Camp & Conference Center
Westboro, WI



Dave and Rebecca Hopkins have been serving the Lord at Forest Springs for the past 16 years, where Dave is the guest services director. God continues to bless the ministry of Forest Springs. The theme of summer camp was "the Search for Hidden Treasure," focusing on the eternal treasure found in a personal relationship with Jesus. They had over 3,000 campers (youth and family campers), with 72 salvation decisions during the youth camps!

"When summer ends the busyness does not! This fall we have served over 1700 people since Labor Day weekend. From camp-run programs to hosting church retreats God has been working this fall at camp. Rebecca and I continue to thank God for allowing us to serve in a ministry where we continue to see people's lives changed and the opportunity to invest in the lives of young people occur every day."

Prayer Requests: the many people we have yet to serve this fall, our student programs - LTD and Trailhead, God to fill the positions of Retreat Coordinator and Food Service Director, our Maintenance Director who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, our staff who continue to be faithful to the calling of serving people each day, direction for John Henry as he looks to his future after high school graduation, safety for Carter as he serves in the Marine Corps, Moriah in her college studies, each of our kids that as they move out on their own that they would continue to search and struggle in their faith and develop their own personal relationship with God, and for Rebecca and I that God would continue to give us wisdom in parenting, in our community interactions and in our work at camp.

Information taken from a recent ministry newsletter. Learn more about Forest Springs at www.forestsprings.us or email Dave Hopkins, dhopkins@forestsprings.us.