

[Story] The old-time pastor was galloping down the road, rushing to get to church on time. Suddenly his horse stumbled and pitched him to the ground. In the dirt with a broken leg, the pastor called out, “All you saints in Heaven, help me get up on my horse!” Then, with superhuman effort, he leaped onto the horse’s back and fell off the other side. Once again on the ground, he called to Heaven, “All right, just half of you this time!”

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Today is All Saints Sunday. On this day, traditionally the Church has remembered those who have gone before us, especially those who have lived the Christian life, loving God and loving neighbor for giving all glory to God. While remembering those who are gone before us, let us think together about how we are to live the life God has given us on earth as the followers of Jesus Christ today.

When bad things happen, like a pandemic these days we are dealing with, many people instinctively wonder if God had anything to do with it. When good things happen, on the other hand, they quickly forget God and take credit for themselves. This is a symptom of a “me-centric” world. Everything revolves around ME... my happiness, my wants, my perspective, and my way is the highway. ME is the center of the world!

Up until about 450 years ago, everyone believed that the universe, and the sun, and the planets revolved around the earth. Then, in 1543, Copernicus told them that the earth was not the center of the universe. 50 years later, Galileo said that the planets revolved around the sun. The people at that time were so opposed to this idea, that they threw him in prison, and kicked him out of the church. The very idea that we were not the center of the universe, was unthinkable at that time!

God has a very important lesson in all of this. The world doesn’t revolve around YOU or ME. God’s top priority is not our comfort, not our happiness, or our pleasure. If God existed to please you & me, then why aren’t we happy all the time? The truth is, it’s not all about you or me. It’s all about God. God’s top priority is that He receive all the honor and glory. If God had a “To-Do” list, it would consist of just one thing—“How can I reveal My glory?” “How can I receive the most glory?” God exists to showcase God.

Why did God create the universe? According to Psalm 19:1, it is for declaring the glory of God. Why did God choose God's people? It is for God's glory according to Isaiah 43:7. Why does God allow troubles in our life? Psalm 50:15 says, we call on God in the day of trouble; God will deliver us, and then we glorify God. Why did God send Jesus to earth? Jesus said in John 17:4, He came to glorify God on earth by finishing the work that God gave Him to do.

God wants the "spot-light" on Him! Everything that God does, is to give Him glory! This doesn't mean that God has an ego problem. If you or I did everything we do for the purpose of receiving honor and glory, we would be considered as arrogant, egotistical, conceited, and pompous. But, God doesn't do everything so His glory will be revealed for His own good. God wants His glory revealed in everything that happens for our good. So, we can witness His glory and be a witness of His glory. God wants us to see His glory, so we can reflect it to the rest of the world. We are to be like the MOON. The moon doesn't have any light of its own. It reflects the light of the sun. We are to be "Son-Reflectors" and reflect the glory of God that He displays for us in everything He does (2 Corinthians 3:18).

God has given us every good and perfect gifts (James 1:17-18). Why? To glorify God. How do we glorify God with the gifts God has given us? Like Daniel in the Bible, we can direct the focus of people to the source of our gifts—God! And help people to declare that surely our God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings (Daniel 2:47). Due to the limited time we have today, I am not able to tell this fascinating story of Daniel now. So, I would like to encourage you to read it for yourself if possible. This story can be found in the Book of Daniel 2:26-49.

Do you know that the similar stories to Daniel's can be found at Kona United Methodist Church? If you are curious about the living stories we have here at Kona, come and see how Godly people at Kona glorify God with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. What you are receiving through Kona United Methodist Church is the outcome of their sacrificial sharing of what they have. Especially during this pandemic, so many of them went extra miles for God at Kona. I am very thankful for all those who faithfully support God's ministry at Kona for God's glory! I am not able to name all of you, but you know who you are. And, also know that I know who you are also. Please accept my sincerer appreciation today for being a great example for many of us how to glorify God with what you have joyfully. Thank you. The Table we are just about to partake now is another example of glorying God. *Consecration of the Lord's Table!*