

(PP1) Psalm 1:1-6

“Just a Wobble?”

In the Upper Room Daily Devotion for October 16, 2013, Beverly Varnado (pictured on the screen) of Georgia wrote:

As my husband, Jerry, and I headed out on an early-morning bike ride, I noticed a broken spoke in my front wheel. I stopped and snapped it off the rim. “Don’t you think we should get that fixed?” Jerry asked. “One missing spoke won’t make a difference,” I declared.

At first, it didn’t. For some time, the barely-noticeable wobble in the wheel had no effect on how the bicycle performed. After a few days, though, the wobble grew *much worse*. My husband was right in his concern; eventually I had to stop riding the bike because doing so posed a risk to my safety.

And, so it is with our spiritual life. At first, neglecting one of the “spokes” of spiritual discipline in our lives – (PP2) spiritual disciplines such as regular Bible study, or prayer, or worship, or fellowship with other Christians – neglecting any of these disciplines initially may seem to hardly affect us. But over time, our lives may develop a decided “wobble.”

Have any of you ever tried to ride a bicycle with a wheel that was bent or missing a spoke. I have, and it is true that over time, the problem only gets worse! (PP3) If we neglect, or fail to faithfully pursue the things of God, it will eventually have a profound impact on our relationship with God, and others.

The early Christian church knew the value of spiritual disciplines. Acts chapter 2 tells us that “All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to fellowship, to sharing in meals (including the

Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

“All the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day. They met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity, all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.”

And, do you know what happened because the believers did not neglect spiritual discipline in their daily lives? God's Word tells us that “each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.”

When we come together as the family of God to **(PP4)** celebrate Holy Communion with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are practicing a Spiritual Discipline that reminds us who we are, and whose we are.

God's Word tells us that God *loves* (AND, that's love in the present tense!) God loves the world (and that's all people) he has created, so much that he gave his one and only Son, the Lord, Jesus Christ, so that everyone who believes in him (that is - all who trust in Jesus for salvation from sin and death) will not perish, but will have eternal life.

God's Word also tells us that “God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God has reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

In the celebration of Holy Communion, we especially remember God's sacrificial love for each of us. And, as we receive the body and blood of Christ our Lord, represented by the bread and the grape juice, we are proclaiming by faith that sin and death no longer has any power over children of God. It reminds us of what God has done for us because of his great love for us!

In thanksgiving for God's sacrificial love, as shown to us in Christ our Lord, we are commanded by God to "devote ourselves" to the pursuit of holy living. Consider the "wobbly places" in your lives that are perhaps posing a potential risk, if left unattended. (PP5) May God help each of us to attend to the "spokes" in our spiritual lives, and commit ourselves to keeping each of them strong. Amen.

Sermon Notes

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- I noticed a broken spoke in my front bicycle wheel.
- For some time, the barely-noticeable wobble in the wheel had no effect on how the bicycle performed. After a few days, though, the wobble grew *much worse*.
- Neglecting one of the “spokes” of spiritual discipline in our lives – spiritual disciplines such as regular Bible study, prayer, worship, or fellowship with other Christians – neglecting any of these disciplines initially may seem to hardly affect us. But over time, our lives may develop a decided “wobble.”
- If we neglect, or fail to faithfully pursue the things of God, it will eventually have a profound impact on our relationship with God, and others.
- In celebrating Holy Communion with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are practicing a Spiritual Discipline that reminds us who we are, and whose we are.
- Attend to the “spokes” in your spiritual life, and commit yourself to keeping each of them strong.

May God bless you all!