

June 30, 2019

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: Reading Services 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Next Week: Reading Services 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Advance Notices: July 14 9:30 and 2:30 Rev. Adams

August 11 9:30 a.m. Rev. Vogelaar preparatory

August 16 7:00 p.m. Rev. Vergunst preparatory

August 18 9:30 a.m. Rev. Vergunst communion

6:30 p.m. reflection

-All the Lord Willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Theological School 2nd School Fund

We Remember in Prayer:

-Those who have been unable to gather with us for some time, our widows and widowers, our elderly, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those who are under doctor's care, and all those who have hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

From the St. Catherines bulletin:

This past Saturday (*a week ago*) a three-year-old boy was buried in Fort McLeod, having lost his life in a tragic farm accident. Oh, may the Lord be pleased to uphold those mourning parents with their family, and sanctify this sore affliction. Not long ago another three-year-old was buried in Norwich, and those grieving parents with their family need the same mercy. And is there not sorrow when an older one dies? Those, who have suffered such a loss, know it by experience. Congregation, how serious are those callings, which come to all of us. "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth," exhorted Solomon so earnestly, "while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

In a moment's time, or after a lingering illness, our life – and that means our time of grace – shall come to an end. Shall it then be well with our soul? Children, seek the Lord while you are young. Truly, it is the best time to be converted. You shall never be sorry for that. To serve the Lord is the most blessed portion which you can receive in this life, and it shall prove to be an everlasting blessing. This holds true as well for our rising generation, for our young people, and no

less for adults young and old. The LORD says, "Blessed is the man that heareth Me, watching daily at My gates, waiting at the posts of My doors. For whoso findeth Me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD." Yet, He also warns, "But he that sinneth against Me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate Me love death." And remember, "God is not a man that He should lie." Moreover, may earnest prayer for salvation be given and multiplied for the very little ones, who cannot pray themselves, yes, for a generation still unborn. Is not the Lord a God of wonders?

~Rev. Verhoef

"Take thine ease (rest), eat, drink, and be merry" [Luke 12:19].

At this time of year, we often hear that people need a break from their hard work. They need a vacation to rest and relax. Many people seek rest, which is understandable considering the stressful time in which we live. The cares of daily life, [things we are allowed to do or must do] absorb most of our time. Even during the night, some are still "busy" with their work.

In our text, we read of a man who wanted rest. He was blessed with a great harvest and did not know where to store it all. His existing barns were too small to hold everything. He contemplated what to do to remedy the situation and decided on two things. First, he was going to tear down the old barns and build much larger barns. Second, he was going to rest. He had so much that he could sell some each year and live from the income. While taking a long rest he would eat, drink and be merry. He would be relieved from all his stressful worries for many years. It is true that when one must make a very important decision in life, he should not do it rashly. Jesus mentioned in Luke 14: *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" [verse 28].* There is nothing wrong with building a larger warehouse if circumstances require it.

Yet, God called the man in our text a "fool" who thought he would decide when he would rest. God decided when and how long that the man would use the goods given to him from God's hand. In fact, he never got to see any of them. He never even started those barns because, in the next night, God took his soul and he had to cross the river of death all alone. The multitude of his goods could not help him when he had to give an account before God.

By now, many people have already made vacation plans. Like the builder of the tower in Luke 14, they calculated the cost. The vacation would be expensive, but they could just afford it. They planned to go for a week or two of rest with some eating, drinking and having fun. It would not be to excess, but in those weeks they hoped to "recharge their batteries." If the trip is to a place further away where no one

knows them, they can live a little differently from their norm. When they attend God's House, they wear their street clothes. Reading the Bible and morning and evening prayers are much more casual in a different environment. Prayers for meals in restaurants are often hasty or forgotten.

Reader, if you can relate to some of the things listed above, remember that God said to the man in the parable: "*Thou fool.*" This does not mean that you are not allowed to take a vacation to rest. However, even in your vacation you show the world what is most important in your life. There are also parents who are very concerned about vacation times when their teenagers go with a group on vacation because they worry their children want to act like "other" teenagers. Sadly, parents cannot be everywhere, especially in our days. The man in this parable did not seek God when he conceived his plan. "*He thought within himself...*" [verse 17] and the fruit of it was a sudden death.

Dear people, young and old, I sincerely hope you will take the above message to heart. At any moment no matter where we are, we can be summoned before the judgment seat of Christ that we may receive the things done in our body, according to that we have done, whether it be good or bad [2 Corinthians 5:10]. We will carry away nothing good. This is different only if life-renewing grace is glorified in our life. If anyone carries away anything good, it is only because of the work of Zion's King Who came from Heaven for evil ones, wicked ones, harlots and publicans. Jesus paid their debt and satisfied God's justice. Only through Jesus' works and merits is it possible to have any "good work" in man. Jesus initiated this good work and He will also finish it.

Knowledge of this good work, by grace, in our life will give us rest in the vacation weeks, away or at home. Then we do not desire to "*eat, drink and be merry.*" Our desire is for quietness and undisturbed communion with God.
~Rev. F. Mulder

Consistory

Mr. Craig Timmer, President Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer
Mr. Dave Hoogendoorn, Clerk

Contacts

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Sermon recordings : Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:
Sing forth the honour of his name: make
his praise glorious.
Psalm 66:1-2*

Church Times: 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.