

July 16, 2017

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today:** We hope to have a morning catechism service and a **2:30 p.m.** service with Rev. Vergunst. We will have confession of faith this afternoon. He is in Sioux Center at 7:00 p.m.
- Next Week:** Student Witvoet hopes to be in our midst for both services.
- This Week Wednesday** Rev. Adams hopes to be in Rock Valley at 7:30 p.m for a midweek service

**Advance Notice: July 30** Rev. Hofman hopes to be in our midst 9:30 and 2:30 for Lord's Supper and reflection.

**August 20** Student de Leeuw at 2:30 p.m.

**Offerings** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund    Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
2<sup>nd</sup> School Fund                          2<sup>nd</sup> Theological Fund

**Ladies:** This week **Wednesday**, July 19, 7:30 p.m. Bridal and baby shower for Cole and Kianna Thompson.

**August 16** Baby shower for Tyler and Krista Johnson  
-All the Lord willing-

**Treasured Meditations** are in the rack. Feel free to take some for friends or family.

### **We Remember in Prayer:**

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

## MEDITATIONS

Ah, were their souls fully assured that God had loved them freely, and received them graciously, and justified them perfectly, and pardoned them absolutely, and would glorify them everlastingly, they could not but love where God loves, and own where God owns, and embrace where God embraces, and be one with every one that is one with Jesus.                          ~Thomas Brooks

***Jesus said, what manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk and are sad. (Luke 24:17)***

Time is the best physic for most diseases, whether of body or mind. A present hour may cause sadness, the next may bring joy. This is a living comfort in saddest season. Christ knows both our sorrows and the cause of them. He is always near to us, though we see Him not. His sympathizing spirit manifests itself in this question.

Observe, first, here were two disciples communing together and reasoning with one another. This is right. It is pleasing to our Lord to see His dear members converse with and strive to edify each other in the faith of Him, and that they may bear each other's burdens.

Second, Jesus joined company with them. Disciple, how often have you found it so? Christ delights in the fellowship of His saints. "How can one be warm alone?" (Ecclesiastes 4:11)

Third, Christ enquires of their conversation and the cause of their sadness. Disciples of Christ have their sad seasons. It is good that they should converse freely with one another about them. But whence do they spring? Chiefly from unbelief. These poor souls were sad: why? They did not believe their Lord was risen. But, ah, there was another reason for sadness. They had basely forsaken and cowardly deserted Him. This also arose from the same cause, unbelief. Well, notwithstanding all this, oh, the free grace of Christ!

Fourth, He follows them, though they forsook Him; He owns them, though they denied Him. He cares for them, though they showed no care for Him; He comes to comfort them, though they had grieved Him. Says the Prince of Peace, "Why are ye sad?" Then they opened their minds to Him. They told Him of the ray of hope and the gleam of confidence that they possessed. "We trusted, etc." But delays begot doubt. "This is the third day" (verse 21).

What was the consequence? Christ chides them for their unbelief. He expounds the Scriptures to them and causes their hearts to burn within them. Oh, Christians, though you are perplexed in your mind, walk and are sad, yet forsake not the assembling of yourselves together. Expect and pray for your Lord's presence. This, like the rising sun, will scatter the clouds of doubt, fear, and sadness which hang over your minds. Remember with the confidence of faith and the joy of hope, your Lord's precious promise: "Where two or three are met together in My name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matt. 18:20)

~ W. Mason

*Notes*

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*As newborn babes, desire the sincere  
milk of the word, that ye may grow  
thereby:"*

*1 Peter 2:2*

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