



February 12, 2012

A publication for the families and friends of Asbury United Methodist Church

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK: SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK: John 15: 5-8 (NIV) "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

A funny story on prayer with a little bit of truth.

Jake, the rancher, went one day To fix a distant fence. The wind was cold and gusty And the clouds rolled gray and dense.

As he pounded the last staples in And gathered tools to go, The temperature had fallen, The wind and snow began to blow.

When he finally reached his pickup, He felt a heavy heart. From the sound of that ignition He knew it wouldn't start.

So Jake did what most of us Would do if we had been there. He humbly bowed his balding head And sent aloft a prayer.

As he turned the key for the last time, He softly said, no luck They found him three days later, Frozen stiff in that old truck.

Now Jake had been around in life And done his share of roaming. But when he saw Heaven, he was shocked it looked just like Wyoming !

Of all the saints in Heaven, his favorite was St. Pete. So they sat and talked a minute or two, Or maybe it was three. Nobody was keeping' score – In Heaven, time is free.

'I've always heard,' Jake said to Pete , 'that God will answer prayer, But one time I asked for help, Well, he just plain wasn't there.' 'Does God answer prayers of some, And ignore the prayers of others? That don't seem exactly square – I know all men are brothers.'

'Or does he randomly reply, Without good rhyme or reason? Maybe, it's the time of day, The weather or the season.' 'Now I ain't trying to act smart, It's just the way I feel. And I was wondering', could you tell me – What the heck's the deal?!

Peter listened very patiently And when Jake was done, There were smiles of recognition, And he said, 'So, you're the one!!'

That day your truck, it wouldn't start, And you sent your prayer a flying, You gave us all a real bad time, With hundreds of us trying.' 'A thousand angels rushed, To check the status of your file, But you know, Jake , we hadn't heard From you in quite a long while.'

'And though all prayers are answered, And God does not have a quota, He didn't recognize your voice, And started a truck in Minnesota .'

BETTER KEEP IN TOUCH

The story above is only a story but there is a nugget of truth to it. Many of us only call upon our God when we are in trouble or there is a crisis in our lives. We then have the nerve to question God because he does not move when we cry out. Jesus tells us in John -15 that we must stay attached to the Him (talk to him daily). Jesus wants to have a daily relationship with us not once in awhile one. How would we feel if the only time we heard from our children or a so called friends is when they are in trouble and need something from us. That is how many of us treat Jesus. We spend no time in the word of God, we only show up on Sunday for Church and we spend little or no time in prayer and less time listening to his Holy Spirit.. But when we are sick or have a crisis in our life we call out to Jesus just like we are the best of friends. Have you ever wondered that maybe the reason our prayers seem to not to be answered maybe God does not recognize our voices its been along time between calls . **2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV) *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*** God is waiting for his people to humble themselves and seek his face and not his hand. We have lost our fear of God that we ignore him until we have a need. If we truly feared God we would spend more time with Him. God deserves our praise, worship and a healthy amount of fear (respect). God also expects us to turn from our wicked ways. Prayers will not be answered if there is sin in our lives. God will only answer the prayer of a righteous man or woman. **Psalm 66:18 (NIV) *If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;*** Righteousness come from the blood of Jesus we only need to believe on him. The Key is for us to repent of our wicked ways and become righteous before Him. God is waiting to forgive us we only need to humble ourselves before Him.