

MONDAY, November 30, 2009:

*“Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,
And back of the flour the mill,
And back of the mill is the wheat and the
shower
And the sun and the Father’s will.”*
_F. E. Marsh

It has often been said when trying to get to the bottom of something, that you should follow the money trail. But today I want to remind you of a better way. Instead of following the “money trail,” follow the “faith trail.”

What I mean by that is that no matter what you are facing, if you follow the trail back far enough you will find the loving hand of God at work in your circumstances.

There may not be a money trail for you to follow right now – you may be flat broke! But, if you have faith enough to believe that God is your provider, you will discover riches that money cannot buy. You will have the riches of knowing that beyond your resources or lack of resources is a loving Father God who cares for you. You will enjoy the riches of peace that comes from knowing that at the end of the day it is not going to be your strength, cleverness or abilities that will have to win the day, but His.

So today, as you head out for another week, remember, whether you earn your daily bread or it is charitably given to you, whether you buy your daily bread or have to beg for it...behind it all is the merciful hand of God holding you and caring for you.

So don't worry so much about the money trail; instead, stay focused on the faith trail.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:11, 26

TUESDAY, December 1, 2009:

Recently, I spoke at the Wednesday night Student ministries worship service. It is hard to believe, but that was the first time I had spoken at a Wednesday worship service in over 14 years of pastoring at the FMCOG. Be assured that this is a reflection of the high quality of the Student Pastors that we have had over the years and especially the dedicated ministry of our current Student pastor: Glenn Walters.

Preaching at the Student service caused me to think about teenagers. It is common for adults, when talking about teenagers, to focus on teenagers' problems, on their possible or actual bad attitudes, rebellion, offensive music, materialism, drinking, smoking, drugs, violence, school shootings, suicide, and more. The media always headline crimes committed by teens. Bookstore shelves are lined with myriad advice books telling parents not how to enjoy, but how to survive the teenage years. One can readily get the impression from all of this not only that adolescents sometimes have problems, but also that teenagers are a problem, that adolescence itself is a social problem.

But wait a minute; let's give a kid a break today. I don't mean turning the other way when they do wrong, but I do mean loving them anyway. When we have the heart of God, people are never a problem. They may have problems but that's why we're here, to love them and help them in the name of Jesus.

And that goes for teenagers... especially teenagers.

SCRIPTURE: I Timothy 4:12

WEDNESDAY, December 2, 2009:

Exodus 34:24 *“Neither will any man covet your land when you go up to appear before the Lord your God three times in the year.”*

Back in the day, (as I hear people say a lot now), when people went to church, it was a major ordeal. There was only one “church” back then – the Temple in Jerusalem. So “going to church” involved many days of travel as well as attending the actual worship service.

The result was that the people would be away from their homes and businesses for days on end.

However, God made a promise. He promised: If you will do right by me, I will make sure that it does not cost you.

Being a faithful Christ-follower is not always easy. Maybe today you are wrestling with an issue that has you torn as to what to do. My dear friend, do the right thing for God and He promises that in the end you will always come out better.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 5:11

“I'm not saying that it's easy to give. I'm saying – and there are thousands who will agree – that it's much easier to live on 90 percent or 50 percent or 10 percent of your income inside the will of God than it is to live on 100 percent outside it.” _Randy Alcorn, The Treasure Principle p. 66

THURSDAY, December 3, 2009:

Exodus 34:26 *“You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.”*

Ever heard of “The Ten Commandments”? I know you have, but I suspect you may have never heard of the above commandment, or if you have, it is not one that has had a major impact on your life.

However, if you read the chapter in the Bible where the Ten Commandments are recorded you will also find this little command tucked away as well.

I won't begin to try to understand why God included this command today, but I would like to leave two observations with you.

- First: God cares about the little details as well as the big ones.
- Second: Sometimes we have to trust God when it comes to obeying him.

Now there's some food for thought.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 30:3

“I've come to see that leadership does not mean domination. Rather, it means accepting responsibility for whatever we believe to be the call and the expectation of God upon our lives together.”
_Gordon MacDonald, When Men Think Private Thoughts