



Spot Light on the KNIGHTS

-Romans 13:12

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Lessons from Leprosy

I have used an article on leprosy to open a lesson on genetics. There are two types of leprosy. One is genetic and not treatable, the other is contagious and treatable (this is the type that Jesus confronts). Both kinds have the same manifestation. They both are the loss of nervous sensation for pain. When pain sensation is lost, self-destruction is inevitable. There is no feedback for unhealthy behaviors or actions. In the story I share in class, a 6-month-old child is drawing pictures on her wall with blood from her finger, which she has bitten off the end and the blood makes a good writing "ink." The child cannot feel that anything improper has taken place. No pain is a problem.

People will often use the argument, "Why would a God of love allow suffering and pain?" Without suffering and pain, I will suggest, we will self-destruct. Let me see if I can support my answer. Prior to Noah, people were nearly perfect both physically and mentally, not so much spiritually, hence they were not remotely dependent on God. These people did not see any reason to have God in their lives because on the surface things were going pretty good. The end result was not very friendly. A similar series of circumstances followed the Flood and preceded the Tower of Babel event in Genesis 11. When the pain of communication breakdown happened at the Tower, the necessity to reflect on our need for God and a Savior had to take center stage. Our innate self-bend (god complex) is at its ugly best when things are going great. It is easiest to think that we do not need God when things are going great. But when pain, suffering, and adversity are present it is much easier to see our dependence and need for God. Pain then becomes a good thing.

It is true that free will might neutralize pain's potential. We can always choose something other than Jesus. But pain is one thing that has proven effective causing us to seek God's help in our lives. If we let the leprosy of sin step in the way, we will not see our need for Jesus and we will self-destruct. Paul knew exactly what he was saying in Romans 8:28, "*And we know that [k] God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*" The "things" that Paul is referring to are pain, suffering, and adversity. The "good" he is referring to is our unity in Christ and salvation. When adversity rears its ugly head, we should seek God's grace and mercy and let Him make it good. This is realized in a mature faith. Maturity of faith will also praise God when things are going great. Sin cannot be allowed to dull our pain sensations to the point of self-destruction. Jesus healed "leprosy" then and He can do it today. We hope to build discernment and maturity of faith in our young people in our Lutheran schools, so they can weather "all things" for "good." **Help us make this happen for our kids and their families.**

Come Lord Jesus, Amen!

Paul Steinhaus, Principal

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-John 15:5



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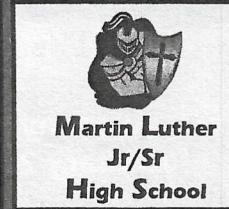
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The MLHS Knights4 Life Group provided personal care kits to The Shepards In. As part of the national Y4 LIFE we are committed to:

Proclaiming with joy- You are made 4 LIFE!

Our God is the **GOD OF LIFE**, and He created humankind in His own image. As handmade, original works of art, our bodies, souls, and lives have inherent and eternal value.

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Y4LIFE seeks to equip high-school- and college-aged youth to be Gospel-motivated voices 4 Life, publicly and privately pronouncing with joy "You are made 4 LIFE!" as well as answering the question: Why should I be 4 Life? Through service, education, worship, and celebration, youth are encouraged to engage in life-affirming activities and become Leaders 4 Life in their schools, communities, nation, and world!



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Sunday, January 21st 1-3 p.m.
\$5 per child or \$15 per family, parents are free

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EVERYONE IS INVITED!

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The American Civil War—A Divided Nation

**Tuesday
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**9:00-11:15 a.m.
Grades 5-8**

**Noon-2:15 p.m.
Grades 9-12**

Free Event

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