

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
February 3, 2021

"NO CLUE!"

For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Luke 14:11

The TV was on this morning at home, and I happened to take notice of, very briefly, one off the hosts of a New York based talk show telling of her experience getting an injection in her teeth to make them whiter. I thought to myself, "how is that possible?" Not in terms of how do you get a needle through the rock hard exterior of a tooth, but rather, how is it that one could be so vain as to think that they needed to do that in the first place? Then I remembered, this is life in New York City...life in the BIG northeastern cities that dominate the news and entertainment media. To this "BIG TIME" network TV host this is just a part of normal life. To us, who live our lives in less populated and humbler places within this great nation, the reaction to what we are daily bombarded with often makes us think, "Huh? Are you serious?" At least it does for me. A couple of weeks ago I read a news article from a Washington DC journalist, a "Beltway" insider, who had the courage to travel to Wyoming to get a picture of what life was like there and test the political winds that were blowing on the high plains and Rocky Mountain area based on recent political events. The reporter was shocked that the locals thought and acted entirely different than what she and all her DC cronies believed is mainstream for all real Americans. What they believed important, and what they valued was a complete contradiction of her world, which was appalling to her. Such is the divided nature of our nation and our world. It's not that it's necessarily wrong for the inhabitants of the Megalopolis to live their lives as they see is right and proper for them, but for them to assume, and even demand, that the rest of the nation must fall-in behind them and live according to their ideals and rules is the height of arrogance and elitism. As with just about everything else, this is nothing new. We see the same things happening in the time of Jesus, among the remnant of Israel as the religious elite in Jerusalem attempted to keep the humble masses in line and under control as they increased their wealth and power base. In Luke chapter 14 Jesus is invited to dinner at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees. The other invitees wrestled to get the best, most honored, seats around the table. Our Lord took notice and advised them all to seek out the most humble places, which will allow for the host to honor them by inviting them to move up to a more esteemed place. He finishes by saying, *For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."* (verse 11) In James 4:6, the brother of Jesus writes, *God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.* These words are based in the Old Testament (Psalms and Proverbs) where God tells us that He will bring low the proud and lift up the humble. As we look at life in the world around us it seems as if God has been remiss in coming through on these promises. That perspective is rooted in our problem of impatience rather than any unfaithfulness on the part of our God. In His perfect timing pride, arrogance, greed and corruption are and will continue to be brought into the light, revealed for all to see. He will judge it according to His righteous and just standards and all will be called to account. It wasn't that long ago that we celebrated Christmas, Jesus most humble entrance into this world's humanity. Not that long from now our focus will be on Passion Week and Good Friday, as Jesus suffers and endures the most heinous and humiliating abuse and death imaginable. Then in Easter we see His exaltation again, a glorious resurrection and homegoing (ascension) to rule and reign over all things from the right hand of God the Father. We look forward to His glorious return and sharing forever in our Savior's glory and exaltation. But, for now, we humbly wait. We wait in humble faith and certain expectation of future glory. Yes, we wonder, "How long O Lord?" as in Psalm 13. It's a very short Psalm, just 6 verses, and King David (its author) concludes it with, *"But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me."* (Psalm 13:5-6)