

Friday, May 29, 2020

Dear Members, Friends, and Guests of Desert Hills Lutheran Church,

Yesterday I had just begun to record my sermon for this weekend. I was halfway through the sermon and had just mentioned the rush of the mighty wind of Pentecost when our landscaper fired up his industrial leaf blower on the other side of the door. Perfect timing.

Wednesday, Julie and I picked up a small patio table and two chairs at Walmart. It was a very large box. As we were slowly pushing it down to the Jeep, I chuckled and said, "Wouldn't it be funny if the box didn't fit into the Jeep?" It didn't fit and it wasn't that funny, but we opened the box and pulled the parts out and those did fit into the car. Perfect reorganizing.

I started to think about perfect. Jesus says in Matthew 5:48 "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." It is difficult to be perfect; I've only succeeded maybe a month out of every year. How about, no perfection? That is better. Some say that to be perfect is to be whole. It isn't about never making mistakes for we are always a mixed bag of good and bad. Humor and rolling with life are at least part of what perfect timing and perfect reorganizing are about.

In the Message, the translation of Matthew 5:48 reads as follows: **48** "In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you." The only thing I would add is to try to find humor wherever you can.

The world is beginning to open up. Keep reading all you can. As Pastor Ken mentioned yesterday, there is a huge amount of misinformation and some outright lies out there. We will all just keep being perfect, living the way God lives towards us. This week we celebrate Pentecost. Do it perfectly.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin

