

E-DEVOTION FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 11

I am enjoying reading a book called Dakota Attitude. It was a gift from fellow North Dakotans, and it is a compilation of many interviews from every town/city in the state of North Dakota. It's amazing how many of the names I recognize! Maybe what they say is true... "If you are from North Dakota, chances are you know someone in almost every town!" Maybe it's because there just weren't that many of us.

In any case, some of the stories are heartwarming and some are heart wrenching. Most tell the tales of growing up on a farm or in a small town and having to work hard to get through life. Most of these folks remained in those towns and were the building blocks of what it took to keep their hometowns alive.

It makes me think of the saying... "Never forget where you came from." In Jesus's day they said it this way... "What good can come out of Nazareth?" So, there he was... a carpenter's son from a not so fancy town. And to this very day, we are walking the way He walked. To the cross.

Jesus had the knack of knowing where He came from. He never forgot that his life was a simple one. I think that's why he identified so well with the common folks. Have you ever met someone extraordinarily strong and powerful? Been amazed at the fact that you could even shake the hand of such a person? I remember one experience I had many years ago. My parents and I went to see a person running for public office. He was very popular, and everyone wanted to shake his hand. I stood back, intimidated for sure. He happened to catch my eye and walked right over to me and introduced himself. We shook hands, and it was a moment I will never forget. That gentleman was soon-to-be President John Kennedy.

To walk the Lenten Walk with Jesus is to be in the presence of the most powerful person ever to land his feet upon our earth. He reaches out to each and every one of us on this walk. He invites us to accompany him. And soon we will reach the foot of the cross and once again, we will be amazed at the sight of this one man... giving up ALL for such simple folks as you and I.

Keep on washing your hands, fold them and look upon your thumbs in the shape of that cross, bow your head and give thanks for remembering from where we have come... and where we are headed. Please share the Lenten Worship Services with Pastor Dennis Nelson as he leads the way.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, I know where I came from... and I know where I am going. Thank you for leading me, directing me, and helping me every step of the way. Help me share this way with those who struggle. Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen."