

LEANNA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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May 23, 2010

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES SUNDAY: CLASSES: 9 AM WORSHIP: 10 AM & 6PM; WED. 7 PM

FEEDING THE BEAR

How do you recognize sin? I know that may sound like a dumb question, but the truth is that a lot of people in our country, in our world, really don't know. Not only can't people recognize it, in general we don't know how to act around it.

King Duncan tells this true story that illustrates how we act around sin. "In 1939, a coast guard vessel was cruising the Canadian Arctic when the men spotted a polar bear stranded on an ice floe. It was quite a novelty for the seamen, who threw the bear salami, peanut butter, and chocolate bars. Then they ran out of the food. Unfortunately, the polar bear hadn't run out of appetite, so he proceeded to board their vessel. The men on ship were terrified and opened the fire hoses on the bear. The polar bear loved it and raised his paws in the air to get the water under his armpits. We don't know how they did it, but eventually they forced the polar bear to return to his ice pad, but not before teaching these seamen a horrifying lesson about feeding polar bears.

Some people make the same mistake with sin that these sailors nearly made with the polar bear. They begin feeding it a little at a time without thinking through the consequences. 'It says something about our times,' writes Willard D. Ferrell, 'that we rarely use the word SINFUL except to describe a really good dessert.'

Do you remember the story of Joseph in Potiphar's house from Genesis chapter 39? Joseph, though made a slave, is trying to live righteously. Potiphar's wife tries for years to seduce Joseph and he makes a practice of avoiding her and never being alone with her. One day she is alone in the house and he walks in. She immediately tries to seduce him again and when he recognized what was going on he ran as fast as he could out of the house. She grabs his outer robe and tears it off of him as he runs from the room and later uses it as evidence, claiming he had tried to rape her.

Joseph knew both how to recognize sin and how to react to it, do we? How many movies and television shows have you watched because you made a decision not to get up and leave or turn the channel? You stayed, even though you questioned whether it was the right thing to do. Did you recognize sin? How did you react? The same goes for books, magazines, friends involved in sin and other things like this. Did you feed the bear or did you get out of the situation as quickly as you could?

The apostle Paul put it this way in Galatians 5:19-21, "When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, AND OTHER SINS LIKE THESE. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God." (NLT)

The apostle James had this to say about this problem, "Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it." (James 4:17, NLT) What about you, are you more interested in the entertainment value of feeding the bear or of living right before God?

Dick Royse

"Imitating Him in 2010"

*"Therefore be imitators of God as dear children."
Ephesians 5:1*

This Week's Schedule/Activities

A. M. Sermon: Christlike? Danny Thomason

5:15 p.m. Ladies' Prayer Time

6:00 p.m. Chronological Bible Discussion
Pages 1091 – 1126

Wed: 7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Adult Class: Mike Baumgardner with Disaster Assistance

Reception Honoring Our High School Graduates

*Jake Brink, Jordan Camp, Cheyenne Jones, Latoya Spinks and Darren Tate
Tonight following p.m. worship – Bring finger foods*

Congratulations to Another of Our College Graduates

*Nashville State Community College
Suzanne Sullivan*

