

Reflection: Why Don't They Fast?

by Sarah Dixon Young

Inquiring minds wanted to know: why were the disciples of Jesus not fasting when everyone else was?

This month, my Muslim friends have been fasting for Ramadan, and my Catholic friends are fasting for Lent. Some years, I have fasted from some foods during the Lenten season. This year, I have not. Some years, I have written Lenten reflections. This year, I have not.

Instead, I have been studying the Gospel of Mark, and I found the people's question kind of funny: "Why do John's disciples and the disciples



Young of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Sounds like my kids asking why their brother is getting to eat ice cream.

The people noticed a difference between religious observance and relational disciple-

ship. Jesus described His relationship with His disciples to them this way: "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?" When we are in Christ, we are celebrating with Him no matter what time of year it is or what is happening.

A friend of mine was unjustly arrested this week for reporting drug traffic in his neighborhood. He had to spend 24 hours in a concrete cell, and when he was released, I said, "I'm so glad you're free." He said, "Oh, I was free on the inside because Jesus is with me."

Jesus said that the new covenant He came to

initiate wouldn't just be a patch on an old religious system but would instead set people free to be made into new creations.

"He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised."

We live everyday, fasting or eating, weeping or rejoicing, in prison or free, working or resting, sleeping or awake, dying or living, for Him because He is with us. He dwells with us, and we abide with Him. Nothing separates us from Him. We are the guests at the wedding banquet in every season, and we partake with

thanksgiving because He has invited us to be here.

Isaiah had written long before Jesus came that the fast He would choose would look different than the fasting of the world: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?"

In other words, the fast Jesus chooses for us is to deny ourselves daily, take

up our cross, and follow Him. It doesn't have to do with fish on Fridays or sunrise or sunset because we are guests at His banquet, and the more we pour ourselves out, the more He fills our cup to overflowing.

Sarah Dixon Young uses stories everyday to share the love of Jesus with her family, friends, and neighbors. She lives in Fort Totten, ND with her husband, Paul, and their four children. She is the author of five books, many articles, and more Sunday School lessons than she can count. You can follow her adventures or get in touch at www.SarahDixonYoung.com

Some disturbing thoughts to think about

by Louise O., Director of Life in Ministry and Mission, St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Devils Lake, ND (and editor of the DLJ)

Am I next? Or you?

Sometimes I hesitate to turn on my television because I KNOW there is going to be something disturbing that is reported. However, just because the news is disturbing

is no reason to stick my head in the sand and avoid it altogether either. So I check the news on almost a daily basis giving myself a day or two of peace (and prayer) along the way.

Most of the news I see is troubling.

I try to find varying sources for my news, ones I trust, because no one is 100% right all of

the time, but I want a balanced view of what is going on in the world I live in.

I need that.

Most recently the issue on the minds (and hearts) of the reporters I've been tuning in is the fate of the more than 200 alleged "terrorists" who were rounded up and flown to a horrible prison in a South American country

- far from the prying eyes of American reporters? maybe? - without being identified or charged with any specific crime.

I am all for removing **proven** terrorists from our country.

Nobody in their right mind would want them to remain here.

However, the USA is a nation of laws and there is due process established

for all alleged criminal charges.

If we bypass that due process for some, will we lose it entirely for all of us? Could we?

I'd like to think that all of us - Republican or Democrats - Independents, too, would ALL be given that due process should we ever find ourselves accused of a crime.

Whether we committed

the crime or not.

If it can be done away with suddenly for a few - even if of the over 200 supposed "terrorists" there is ONLY 1 innocent person in their midst - it can be done for me, too, or you, as well. Just think about that for a moment.....

Yes, I work. in the

See THOUGHTS | 5A

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| ASSEMBLY OF GOD River of Life 1903 Hwy 20 Devils Lake 701-662-4582 www.riverlife.us Sunday: 10 a.m. worship | CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS 20th St. & Lincoln Ave. Devils Lake Sunday: 10 a.m. Sacrament at 11 a.m. | LIGHTHOUSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD Fort Totten, N.D. 701-766-4826 Sunday 10:30 a.m. | ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 515 Fourth St. Devils Lake 662-7558 Monday -Friday at 12:00pm Tuesday at 10:00am at Odd Fellows Wednesday at 10:00am at Eventide Friday at 9:30am at St. Joseph School Saturday at 8:30am & 5:00pm Sunday at 7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am | ST. WILLIAMS CATHOLIC CHURCH Maddock, N.D. 438-2668 Wednesday: 7 p.m. Mass. Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass. Mass at 5 p.m. on the first Friday of the month. |
| ASSUMPTION OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH Starkweather, N.D. 292-4301 Sunday: Mass: Rotating 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. with St. Mary's, Munich Call 682-5178 (Munich). | DAKOTA BAPTIST CHURCH West Highway 57 Fort Totten Church - 766-4516 Sunday: 11 a.m. worship. | MORNING STAR PARISH 701-262-4714 www.morningstarparish.com Worship services at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. rotating: American, Pekin, Warwick, Sigdal and Sheyenne Lutheran | ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH St. Michael, ND 58370 766-4151 Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. | SEVEN DOLORS CATHOLIC CHURCH Fort Totten 766-4314 Sunday: 11 a.m. Mass. Daily Mass: 7 a.m. |
| BDECAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Tokio, N.D. (2 miles south of Tokio, near Woodlake) 294-2283 www.bdecanpresbyterian-church.org Worship: at 11 a.m., Sunday school kids K - 5 grade during worship, potluck meal after | EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT Sixth Street and Fifth Avenue Devils Lake 11 a.m. Morning prayer 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays Holy Eucharist- 4th Sunday | NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP North Junction of Hwy. 15 & 20 Rural Hamar 262-4470 Sunday: 10:30 a.m. worship service | ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA 601 6th St. NE Devils Lake, ND 662-4911 9:30 a.m. Worship (September - May) Summer: 8:30 a.m. at Retreat Center 11 a.m. at St. Olaf (June - August) | TRINITY-BERGEN AFLC LUTHERAN CHURCH PO Box 46 Starkweather Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion every Sunday |
| BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 1312 East Walnut St. Devils Lake 662-3758 www.bethelfree.com Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m. | FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 601 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship | OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA 612 14th Ave. NE Devils Lake, N.D. 662-5112 Sunday: 10 a.m. Service Wednesday: 6 p.m. Service | ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 7th St. & 7th Ave. 662-2245 Devils Lake Missouri Synod Worship: 11 a.m. Dial-a-Devotion: 662-3158. | WEBSTER CHAPEL Webster, N.D. Worship is at 9 a.m. the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays. |
| CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH Tokio Saturday: 7 p.m. Mass all year round. | GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 311 5th Ave. NE Devils Lake 701-230-1332 Sunday: 10:30am and 6 p.m. | PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (NALC) 1700 Fifth Ave. NE PO Box 1041 Devils Lake, N.D. 662-3565 Worship Sunday 9:30 a.m. | ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH Esmond, N.D. 249-8360 Tuesday-Saturday: Weekday Mass at 9 a.m. Saturday: 5 p.m. Mass. Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass. | WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 501 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake, 662-3584 Sunday worship 11:00 a.m. |
| CHURCH OF GOD (SEVENTH DAY) 607 Fifth St. S.E. Devils Lake Saturday: 2 p.m. | GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Lakota Missouri Synod Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m. | ST. JEROME'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Crow Hill District Hwy. #57, One mile N. Saturday: Mass 5 p.m. | ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH Fort Totten, N.D. 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays, 4th Sunday - Morning Prayer | ZOAR FREE LUTHERAN Hampden, North Dakota Pastor Craig Wentzel May through August Worship Sundays 9 a.m. |
| If you would like to make changes or corrections to this ad, please contact Louise at loleson@cmpapers.com | | | | |

This week's listing brought to you by the following local businesses:

-Devils Lake Journal & the Country Peddler
516 4th St., 662-2127

-Jerome W wholesale
1115 2nd Ave. NE, 662-5366

-Nordic Fiberglass & All Employees

-Glibertson Funeral Home
Hwy2West

-Altru Health System
1001 7th St NE, 662-2158

-Eventide Senior Living Communittes

-Leevers Foods
323 5th St. NE, 662-4945

-Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 756
314 3rd Ave NE, 662-4117

-First United Bank
323 5th St NE, 662-4024