

June 2006

Remember to Laugh and Play this Summer

Dear Theophilus,

Last Sunday the title of my sermon, Luke 25 Verse 1, never worked its way into my words on laughter and play. I had a hard enough time trying to find anything on my theme! Jesus' laughter never made it into any of the gospels but surely he must have laughed. Being full of life I cannot help but think, and smile when I do so, that he often had a smile on his face and shared many joyous, laughing moments.

So I finally chose the last three verses of Luke, in chapter 24, when Jesus had left his disciples with a blessing and they returned to Jerusalem with joy. We are to live the next chapter of Luke, I surmised in my sermon preparation, the one not written but left for us to carry out, the joy and laughter that is part of the Christian life.

But I forgot.

How often we forget that which is life-giving and that which gives back to life? Summer is such a time to remember. Enjoy the warmth and the sun, the extra time and the slower pace. I hope you will take a holiday instead of a vacation. Do you know the difference? A vacation is vacating something while a holiday becomes a holy day or many holy days.

So I keep this letter short. Read my daughter Gwen's story on PeaceJam. Read the rest of the newsletter. Don't vacate your faith, but make every day a holy day. Worship, pray, serve, play, laugh. Live joyously in this Luke chapter 25 world.

Grace and peace,

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