

19 March 2020

Messiah:

I took my son out for a drive yesterday. Like many of your children and grandchildren, he's stir-crazy. While we talked about virus topics for a few minutes, the bulk of the conversation centered on cars. Fast cars, old cars, muscle cars. My contributions to the conversation consisted of a few memorized factoids about the engine size and horsepower of the 1988 Chevy Caprice Classic (my unofficial first car). With my automotive knowledge exhausted, I spent the rest of the drive listening to my son pontificate about the virtues of high-octane gas and the reasons horsepower is a better indicator of a car's performance than torque. As always, I had no idea what he was talking about, so I did my best to act informed. "Excellent point kid, tell me more."

Normalcy. We all crave a little normalcy in this alternate reality of COVID-19. Spending hours in a virtually empty church is not a normal afternoon in my world. That said, talking pistons and gears with my son and scheduling a Thursday Monopoly game with all three kids (I'll get destroyed) are welcomed slices of normalcy. Sipping my morning joe as I write is comfortable and familiar too. I am grateful for all of the above.

Jesus claimed some normalcy amid all of the shifting demands of ministry. Remember the time he sat on Mary and Martha's couch for conversation before supper? What about all the sidebar conversations with Peter? Or the routine of seeking a quiet place for prayer and meditation? Campfire breakfasts with the students? Normal, refreshing, essential!

The world is shifting beneath our feet, friends, there's no denying it. Now, more than ever, it seems important to claim some normalcy. Brew your coffee. Read the Word and pray. Call the people you love. Set up a board game. Sit on your porch and enjoy Spring's arrival. Meanwhile, I suspect I'll be learning much more about the benefits of a four-barrel carburetor for engine performance. Whatever that means.

Peace,

Pastor Michael

**Reading for Today: John 21:9-14**