

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY'S WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
April 4 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #735

Imagine That...

Daughter Jes, grandsons Jericho (age 8) & Jaxsen (3 mo.) and I went to see the new movie, "***I Can Only Imagine***" on Monday evening. If you aren't familiar with this film, it is the true story of Bart Millard, lead singer for the Christian Group, "Mercy Me," and his song, "***I Can Only Imagine***." You probably are well familiar with the song. It became popular on Christian, country western and pop record charts. Bart was abandoned by his mother to be raised by an abusive father. When he began his music career it really was to escape his Dad. But his father came to know Christ and after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer was reconciled to Bart. Millard wrote the song at the time after his father's death. Inspired by his grandmother's words at the funeral, "*Oh Bart, imagine what he is seeing today.*" I highly recommend the movie to you! This is a great film that is honest about the brokenness of life. It is about faith, struggle, relationships, forgiveness & the life changing power of Christ. And don't just wait for the DVD. Go see it now! Vote with your dollars that we want more of this type of movies made.

So on Monday night I mentioned to Jes about going to see the film and the following dialog unfolded between Jericho & his mother & I.

Jes – *Jericho, come inside now, it's time to get cleaned up and get your shoes on; we're going to the movies with Pap.*

Jericho – *What are we going to see?*

Jes – *I can only imagine.*

Jericho – *O, I think I'd rather just stay home.*

Jes – *No, Pap's taking us to the movies.*

Jericho – *But what movie are we going to see?*

Jes – *I can only imagine.*

(Pap enters the house) *Hi everyone, are you guys ready to go?*

Jes – *Just about, Jericho ... get your shoes on!*

Jericho – *What movie are we going to see Pap?*

Pap – *I can only imagine.*

I was surprised at a reluctant ... kind of grumpy Jericho as we got into the car. I chalked it up to being eight!

Jericho was intrigued by the movie. He giggled when Bart at a young age is kissed by his future wife at Summer Camp. He paid strict attention to the family violence. He loved the music. When the movie was over the first thing he asked was, *"Will that come out on DVD?"* When we responded that it surely would, he said, *"We have to get it for Meema ... she'd love that movie!"* Indeed!

Later on the ride home he explained some of his earlier behavior in a way that made Jes and I look at each other and smile. *"I kept asking everyone what movie we were going to see and everyone kept saying, 'I can only imagine.' I thought Mom was saying that she couldn't imagine what kind of movie Pap was taking us to. ... I didn't understand until the movie began that that was the name of the movie!"*

I guess we could have been more clear! And that makes me wonder? Am I clear in my day-to-day living with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, people I come into contact with ... that I am a Christ follower? Am I clear that my opinions ... my feelings ... my convictions ... are not just the random thoughts of my own heart & mind ... but are shaped, molded & guided by the Bible ... God's infallible Word? If I state in a conversation that I believe something is wrong ... I'm not being bigoted or narrow minded ... I'm trying ... imperfectly to be sure ... but I'm trying to live by God's Word & way. And if I do disagree with someone on a subject, can I express that disagreement firmly, but without coming across as arrogant, mean spirited or rude? Does Jesus guide my day-to-day living? How I interact with my family? How I relate to those who serve me in the marketplace? How I handle my finances? The kind of friend ... or husband ... or neighbor ... or boss ... or employee that I am? And are those around me crystal clear that I am who I am and am acting the way I act and believing the way I believe ... because of my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and my utter dependence on the Bible?

Imagine ... if every person who claims to be a follower of Christ would live fully, clearly, consistently by following Christ's example and the Bible's pattern! Imagine if I would! Imagine if you would!

"So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know Him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:16, 17 NLT

"Its news I'm most proud to proclaim, this extraordinary Message of God's powerful plan to rescue everyone who trusts Him, starting with Jews and then right on to everyone else! God's way of putting people right shows up in the acts of faith, confirming what Scripture has said all along: 'The person in right standing before God by trusting Him really lives.'" Romans 1:16 Message

Imagine that! Living clearly, unashamedly, consistently for Christ!
Pastor Larry <><