

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

### "Taking Risk"

By Rev. Larry Danforth, United Methodist Church-Almena/Clayton/Norcatour

Read  
Mark 8:31 - 37

Jesus' disciples didn't know what to believe at his statement. But here we discover one of the hard facts about Christ and his ministry to God's creation. Jesus was on a journey and so are we.

The journey through life is not an easy one. Now this is not the part where I tell you, "God will not give us more than we can handle." This statement has never comforted me. What has comforted me is that the Lord has an intimate knowledge of suffering. One thing that we do have in common with Christ is that our journey will take us through the wilderness of death.

The truth is that we cannot make the journey of life on our own. We often make the mistake in thinking that the absence of self help simply means that we are worth nothing. Our lives are worth something, in fact more than we recognize. When we were created, the Lord declared us "good". And rather than see us die, the Lord wants God's creation to live and live fully. It is through Christ that we are given the hope of resurrection and the assurance of eternal life. However, we will have to give up control of our journey and make ourselves vulnerable to the Lord's direction. This is what is meant in self sacrifice.



At times, we all feel Alone. Perhaps we experience the loss of a close friend or relative; or we feel like nobody understands us. A serious illness or difficult life circumstances can isolate us from our healthy, "normal" peers.

There is, however, a fortress of support that can surround our soul. That support comes from our Heavenly Father, who is always with us and can give us a sense of companionship even in our loneliest times.

Don't you want to possess the peace and love that comes from faith in God? 1 Corinthians 14:33 assures us, "For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace." Won't you seek His companionship at your house of worship this week? The protection of His peace and love will surround you.

<b>Sunday</b> Numbers 14.1-25	<b>Monday</b> 1 Samuel 2.1-11	<b>Tuesday</b> 2 Samuel 22.1-25	<b>Wednesday</b> 2 Samuel 22.26-51	<b>Thursday</b> 1 Kings 3.1-15	<b>Friday</b> 1 Kings 8.1-21	<b>Saturday</b> 1 Kings 8.22-53
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Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society  
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