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Greetings,

I hope you find this devotional helpful in your daily journey.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

## Reflection: Love

Greetings:

In this past Sunday's reading there was a narrative between Jesus and Peter *after the resurrection* (John 21:15-18). Jesus asks Peter, three times, if he loves him. Not exactly what you would expect from a builder and fisherman (their former occupations). In addition, Jesus does it three times in a row... what is going on? If a friend did that to me, I might wonder if they had just slipped a mental cog. Again the unfortunate difficulty of translation causes the meaning to be missed. Jesus is asking Peter if he loves him in a way that reflects Jesus' laying down his life. In other words, would Peter take a bullet for him? Peter's response is not in sync with the question. It would be like saying to someone that you *love* them, and they respond back that they *like* you. Jesus gives Peter three opportunities to match his level of commitment. He doesn't. Eventually,

Jesus meets him where he is, but anticipates more from him in the future.

Similarly, I believe God meets us in our circumstances yet desires us to be drawn closer to Himself. For instance, someone has hurt you earlier in your life and you are still holding onto the pain. Forgiving them alludes you, yet you know that is what is needed. So where do you start? Perhaps a prayer that begins with, "Lord, help me to be willing, to be *willing* to forgive." It is the first step. God meets you where you are, ultimately, bringing healing to your life and, by extension, the world.

May your love of Jesus grow deep.

Grace and peace, Pastor Dan

# Upcoming Dates

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Monday: Bounty Food Bank: 9 am to Noon, Volunteers welcome.

Friday: *Bounty Food Bank* needs Volunteers every Friday for food pickup and storage help. Call 253-335-7860.

Next Sunday: Worship Service 11:00

Monthly

1st Saturday: Bethany Garden Club - 11:30 a.m.

2nd Thursday: Finance/Trustees - 6 p.m./7 p.m.

2nd Saturday: Food Bank Board Meeting - 10:30 a.m.

Food Bank Open - 1:00 p.m. ~ 3:00p.m.

**May**

18th - Ad Council 11 a.m.

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## Bounty Food Bank

Consider adding an item to your food bank donation. Also - We are always needing plastic bags - So, if you shop where they still give out plastic bags, the food bank would love to take them off your hands.

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Please keep in your prayers...

Marjorie Leppard

Rev. Barbara Brown

Elaine & Jerry Ramsey

Liz Best

Bill Rocheleau

Mary Egeland

James & Jenifer Angus

Laura Tippie

Danielle - and family

Anderson-Gammel family

Judy Egan & her family

Tonya Dean

Please continue to keep our United. Methodist church in your prayers, as well as the upcoming Annual Conference starting June 6th.