

## Conley's Car Wash

Christ the Redeemer Church  
October 25, 2009  
21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Green

Mark 10:46-52  
Rev Gary L. Smith  
[www.christredeemerchurch.com](http://www.christredeemerchurch.com)

The blind man was asked by Jesus what he wanted. He said, "I want to see."

Not much happened this week here in San Marcos, as far as I could see.

It is almost November 1<sup>st</sup> and I don't even have our Christmas cards and family letter done yet. I am behind this year. I told our neighbor Amy yesterday that we needed to get our outdoor Christmas lights up soon or it would be too late. Her 83-year old mother Bess replied, "Gary, we don't even have our Halloween pumpkin out yet."

Our fall softball league has had so many games rained out this fall that we are going to be playing our league championship games during Advent this year. I am very excited about that. Playing softball during Advent. Heavenly. Our two-year drought is about over.

Well, actually a few things did happen this week. Greg Timmons last Sunday publicly told this church he would serve God and this community. That was a huge decision for him. He walked up front of this church and walked into the Kingdom, wanting to serve. He has volunteered to maintain our new church flower bed around the new sign.

Some things happened Tuesday night. Conley's Car Wash softball team played the 9 pm game right before ours this past Tuesday night. They got run-ruled...which means they got mercy ruled...which means the other team was beating them by so many runs by the 4<sup>th</sup> inning that the umpires declared the game over after four innings out of Mercy.

Don't you wish there was a Run Rule or Mercy Rule in life some days? Some days go so badly for you that some Ump just declares the day over and you go back home? A Mercy rule in marriage where you just call off the day and get ready for tomorrow? A Mercy rule in parenting where you just call the game before it gets any uglier?

Conley's Car Wash had not won a game this year. And we played them after they were Mercy Ruled. Run Ruled. We, the reigning champions, played a winless team.

They played our church team at the 10 o'clock game. Church teams are supposed to be weaker opponents against non-church teams. But we were soon ahead by a score of 11-2.

We showed mercy. We brought in our closer pitcher to mop things up and wrap this game up quickly so we could go home. I am our "closer pitcher."

I lost the game for our team 13-12. Conley's Car Wash team was thrilled with their first victory of the season. I know many of the players from Daniel's days of working there

when he was in high school. He loved working there. The workplace there is a class act work place. People are treated with respect. Rules are clear. Product is good. Employees are expected to dress properly, treat customers and others with respect, work hard, show up on time, and turn dirty cars into clean cars day in and day out.

Daniel learned how to work hard and he learned how good bosses lead and manage.

One of our prayers when we moved to San Marcos was that Daniel would be able to learn about life while working for a good boss in a company with clear rules and ethics. Conley's and Mark Ray were the answer to those prayers. Daniel learned from the best.

Daniel now works for Sharon here at Hill Country Event Center. We had an event here Friday night that did not leave the building until 3 am and the staff had to turn the event around for 8 am Saturday morning wedding reception decorating activity.

The phone rang yesterday morning at 8 a.m. I assumed it was Amity calling from New Orleans where she was attending the Auburn/LSU game. It was Sharon instead, calling from church. 8 am calls from Sharon are not good news calls.

The toilet was plugged and no plumber could be found in town to respond. I tried for two hours to find a plumber. Some were all out of state on vacation. By noon I was ready for the Mercy Rule to be called on this day already.

I rented a "snake" from a local hardware store. Decided to teach Daniel how to clear out a clogged toilet. Daniel said, "That means I am about to do some work for dad."

Daniel asked me what I was holding. "A toilet snake. A closet auger. Used to clean out a plugged toilet. You will have your own house someday. Time for you to learn how to clean out a clogged toilet." He grinned. He was game.

Then he asked, "Where did you get this snake?" I told him I rented it. He said, "You can rent something that you stick down a toilet?" He was getting an education.

I told him this was similar to fishing. Water and a fishing pole. Put the pole in the water and try to feel the line. I gave him gloves and told him what to do. Soon he yelled out, "I got a big one" as his snake hit something solid plugging the line. He cleared out the plugged toilet. Father and son bonding by the water hole. I did not see the positive at 8 am. By noon he had learned how to snake a toilet. Some good father and son time. He was grinning as the toilet worked well. He had done it.

You laughed at me because I mentioned Christmas while it is still October. But Conley's is already preparing to help kids in December who will not have a good Christmas. They are having fundraisers already to help raise funds to donate to the Youth Shelter.

Conley's Car Wash team joined us for prayer on the pitcher's mound after they won their

first game of the year. Will Conley, Rebecca Conley, and Mark Ray will be raising money in November to donate to the San Marcos Youth Shelter in December to help support the youth who are in the Shelter and not having good Christmases this year. The need is high. Conley's is helping out. Christmas really is not that far away when there are kids that need some help this year.

I have always wanted to see. I have always wanted to see the good things going on around me in life. It is easy to see the bad things. But I work hard to see the good things. Do you work hard to see the good things in your life? In your spouse? In your kids? In your job? In your church? In your country? In your world? And there are so many good things going on all around us each day.

I want to see. That is what I want from you, God. I want to see. To see the humor and the opportunity to bond and learn through cleaning a clogged toilet. To see the joy of watching Conley's win their first game...at my expense. To see what I can do for the Youth Shelter party that our church is hosting in December. I just want to see. Amen.