

Lemon Meringue Pie

Christ the Redeemer Church
August 2, 2009
9th Sunday after Pentecost/Brown Sunday

John 6:24-35
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In this story that is only 12 verses long, food is mentioned 14 times. Jesus is quoted as saying, "You are not looking for me because I do miracles. You are looking for me because you ate the bread and were satisfied."

Nelwyn Moore likes to tell people about our church and worship service so that they would consider visiting here. When they ask her to describe it all, she says she is at a loss for words because it is not something you can describe or put into words.

It certainly is not great preaching. It certainly is not because any of us are perfect. It certainly is not because we are doing miracles on the streets.

It is because you and I have tasted of this Bread and were satisfied. Speaking of eating and being satisfied, Pam could not wait to come to Vacation Bible School and to be the Storyteller this past Sunday.

Pam has been our Storyteller in Vacation Bible School for each of the five years we have held one. It is a lot of work. Each year she asks if we have a replacement for her and each year we promise this year will be her last.

But Pam had a great night this past Sunday at VBS. Kaycie Clark made Pam a Lemon Meringue Pie and brought it to VBS. Pam was in heaven. I never see her get her dessert before she gets her main course food items. But Sunday night you all never had a chance to get to the Lemon Meringue Pie before Pam got to it. As soon as Amen was said over the meal, she quietly darted to the end of the line and got her a very generous piece of pie.

Kaycie was pleased to see that. Just last week Kaycie baked her first Lemon Meringue Pie...and gave it to Pam for Pam's birthday. Pam likes Kaycie.

Who is Kaycie? Well, she has been visiting this church for a few months after moving to town. She is a college student. This church thing is new to her.

You know, I try to do right in church and in life. Sometimes I do right and sometimes I fail miserably.

Last Tuesday we won a ballgame 10-9 against First Baptist Church in Buda. At least that is what the scoreboard said. It said we won. Steve Pinky pulled a double play in the bottom of the last inning to save the game for us. It was so exciting. The scorekeeper was confused the entire game but I finally just went by the scoreboard and the umpire...win, lose, or draw we went by the scoreboard and umpire.

Then the next day the softball league manager emailed me and told me that the other team had challenged the scorebook and that it was determined that we lost a game we thought we had won. I did not know altering the scorebook after the game was an option in life. Other team and the city now said we lost 11-10.

Wouldn't we all like to alter some innings and games of our lives? That would be nice. I did not know you could protest a game after the other coach had left the park.

I had other things on my mind Wednesday. Carla was having cancer surgery. 18 of us gathered with her parents in the surgery waiting room. When the news came out good that the lymph nodes were cancer-free there was great celebration. Carla's parents attend another church in town and their good minister Mark Newton came to the hospital also. When I said good-bye later that day to Carla's dad Buddy, he had tears in his eyes. He thanked me for meaning so much to Carla. Then he said, "I like my minister. But I like you also." Well, you can have two ministers. I do. He and he shook hands. What a beautiful thing...tears of joy for your daughter.

Back to softball issue Thursday. I did the mature thing...I protested back to the city.

We were scheduled to sit down Friday evening at 5 pm and settle this all. Dispute Resolution over a softball game. The two coaches and a city official...a Softball Peace Summit. I don't recall having been trained in that in seminary. Softball Peace Summit.

Brenda asked me before my Softball Summit meeting if I wanted to know the truth about the game. She is a county judge and tends to be interested in determining the truth as much as humanly possible. I told her I wanted the truth. She told me the real score.

We sat down at the Softball Summit and I knew what I was going to do. The other coach and the city official set out to explain to me via the scorebook how we lost 11-10. I told them the scorebook was wrong and had been altered after the game. We argued over the scorebook for an hour. I was waiting for my moment in the Softball Summit.

The Summit was at a roadblock. After an hour and when I was hungry and ready to eat, I told them the truth. Truth was that the umpiring staff was understaffed and that the scorekeeper was under trained. Truth was that I let the ump do his job and I went by his decision to go by the scoreboard. Truth was that I went home to eat after the game not knowing the score was being protested.

I told them the Real score was 9-8, based on a county judge's ruling. They were stunned. One of them said, "WHO won?"

I told them that First Baptist won. We lost.

Good week. VBS had been a total ministry success. 269 people attended the 3-day event.

We collected literally a truck load of cereal and breakfast foods for the Youth Shelter...so much cereal was collected that they did not have room to store it all.

So now we are in the Loser's Bracket this week with a win being taken from us. One CTRC member said, "Well, just go kick some tail and win the thing by coming up through the Loser's Bracket." We are going to try.

Saturday morning at 8:10 am I was out in my garage and working on this sermon in my mind. The phone rang. It was Sharon calling from out of town. I had forgotten to go open the church for a wedding reception at 8 am. I raced to the church, opened it, and apologized to the folks for being late.

I offered to pay them \$10 for being late. They refused. Then the lady said, "You can go get me some breakfast, though. Some Sausage Biscuits from McDonalds." I thought she was kidding. I had waffles waiting at home. She was not kidding. She smiled and said that was okay if I did not have time to get her breakfast.

I went to McDonalds and got three sausage biscuits for them. They loved it. I gave them a \$5 gift card for more biscuits. They loved that also.

What a week of Ministry. Oh, Kaycie got a job and was saving up for a car. But her first expenditure was on a new Study Bible. Her first Bible in life. Then her grandfather bought her a car for college. And she made Pam two lemon meringue pies. Pam's mom would make her Lemon Meringue pies growing up. Church can be a good Home.

Two years ago the team from Buda protested a player who played on our team and we won the protest and won the game. I should not have had that player in the playoffs but I thought everyone was playing loosely on the rules. The non-roster player almost cost us the game! I was just trying to get him into the game since he showed up. Baseball has a long memory. Now we are even on protest outcomes!

On the other field a team emptied the bench and jumped a player this past Tuesday. After the game that player who got jumped told me he was going to play in the church league next year because it was safer! I told him, "Don't bet on it being safer and more peaceful in the church league!"

Somehow it was all a good week. Some good pies. Some bad calls at the game. Some surprises. But Kaycie is committing her life to this church and that is what is important right now in life. It is important because she is a good cook and the Church can always use another good cook.

I have tasted of the Bread here and found it satisfying. Amen.