

Is A Brick Coming Your Way?

(Start with “Brick Story” from Internet)

A young successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead a brick smashed into the Jag’s passenger side door. He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, “What was that all about? Who are you? Just what do you think you are doing? That’s a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost you a lot of money!!! Why did you do it?” The boy was apologetic. “Please mister, please...I’m sorry but I didn’t know what else to do.” He pleaded. “I threw the brick because no one else would stop.” With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around the parked car. “It’s my brother”, he said, “ He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can’t lift him up.” Now sobbing the boy asked the stunned executive. “Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He’s hurt and he’s too heavy for me ...”. Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. “Thank you and may God bless you,“ the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound down the sidewalk

toward their home. It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message, “Don’t go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention. God whispers to our souls, and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don’t have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It’s our choice to listen or not.

As I read this story I thought this would go well with today’s scripture lesson. (Luke 13:10 – 14) In Luke, Jesus is telling us that we need to make sure that we are not so absorbed in ourselves that we miss the voice of God. Specifically, this scripture seems to apply to our attitude towards worship. Can we be so caught up our way of worshipping that it becomes the thing we focus on? Think about that, the leaders of the synagogue were so caught up in their style of worship that there was no room in the worship for God. Imagine being the one to tell that woman that she could not be healed on the Sabbath because that was considered work, not something holy or sanctified...I don’t if it was Jesus or the woman who was throwing the brick, but there was definitely some brick throwing in that synagogue.

We should always strive to keep our hearts and our eyes open to the possibility that God might show up in worship today. God may help us with our singing, our praying, our preaching, our fellowship, and maybe in our love for each other. We should not be too concerned about the way that we worship. We just need to make sure that there is space in our worship for God.