

First United Methodist Church

310 North Rowley, Mitchell, SD 57301

Rev. Keith Nelson, Lead Pastor

keith@mitchellfumc.org

605.630.6586

There is a lot of boasting that seems to take place in our world today. From professional sports stars proclaiming how great they are, to big name musicians or movie stars exclaiming their incredible talent, to high powered business leaders telling of their prowess with the business “deal,” to big name politicians boasting of what they’ve accomplished for their constituents. I’ve even heard of a few big-name pastors or religious leaders who have emphasized how “effective” their prayers are. And this is just the short list of the “boasting” I’ve heard in our day

So, contrast this with what I read in my quiet time with God the other morning. I came across this passage in the Old Testament; **Jeremiah 9:23-24**. “Thus says the LORD: Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom, do not let the mighty boast in their might, do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth; ²⁴ but let those who boast in this, that they understand and know me, that I am the LORD; I act with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the LORD.”

The setting is that God has called Jeremiah to speak a message to the people on behalf of God. The trouble was the people weren’t particularly interested in the things of God at that time. The people Jeremiah lived in community with felt they knew what was better. Their wisdom was better than God’s way and they had actually started worshiping idols or other “gods” of their own creation.

It’s into this setting that Jeremiah tells the people, on behalf of God, to not boast in their own wisdom, power, or wealth. If they are going to boast, he says, their boasting should be that they know God and that God acts with love, justice, and righteousness. And what God really desires and delights in his people acting with love, justice, and righteousness.

What I find so interesting in life is that as much as things change...**some things never change**. The words recorded in Jeremiah 9:23-24 are just as fitting for us today as they were for the people in Jeremiah’s day several thousand years ago. With all the possibilities and advances at our disposal it can be pretty tempting to boast in our abilities, our technology, and the gods that we have created. Yet, God’s message is still the same. It’s knowing God that we can boast in today...and the fact that we know (and try to live) in a way that delights and honors God – displaying love, justice, and righteousness in our lives.

This is a great passage to memorize...and certainly to live by. God, help me live this out more and more, especially when I’m tempted to boast in the things of my life, things I’ve created, or things of this world.

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

Be sure to join us for worship this Sunday. Pastor Jerry will bring the message. This Sunday is the third Sunday of the month, so the **Noisy Bucket offering** goes to a special Children’s Project. This month’s project is the “Kids Count Miracle Offering” for Annual Conference. The money raised for this Miracle Offering will be used to help support Church & School Partnerships across the Dakotas, as well as to help send children and youth to camp from some of the new church starts in the Dakotas. There will be an insert in the bulletin that will give more details. We’re located at 310 N. Rowley in Downtown Mitchell. Worship on Sunday is at 8:30, 9:50, and 11:00. Hope you can make it!!