

A Great Day in the Kingdom – 2/9/24

There once was a Church way out in the sticks of nowhere. Every 4th of July the Church would host an enormous barbecue. The men's group responsible for cooking the brisket were beginning to age. A plea was sent out into the church for new volunteers to help these men with their labors. The meat was heavy, the seasoning would burn lungs, as it floated into the hot Texas July air. Everything down to the fire had to be arranged in a specific fashion.

As the new volunteers had filled the signature sheet, a meeting was called to discuss their role. The first gentleman got up to speak about the fire. The fire was to be lit by 3am. There was a fire hut, with a 12ft. shovel to be used in transferring the coals to the smoker. No flame would be allowed in any portion of the smoker, at any time. This instructor (farmer, rancher, barbecue artist) was in every way passionate about the temperature regulation and the maintaining of the fire hut.

After 30 minutes of "fire talk," a young man stood up and asked, "Why don't you just add a fire box to the smoker and save yourselves a lot of trouble?" The elderly cook responded with a question, "Son, do you want to cook good brisket or great brisket? We are cooking for the Lord. Good is not good enough!"

Whether we agree with someone's technique or not, there are occasions when we need to stifle our opinions and let someone serve, giving God their best. The man's intent was ultimately glorifying God. He did not claim that the fire technique was the most expedient. He did not even try and justify his actions. He simply gave God his best.

The Mooreville Methodist Barbecue occurs every 4th of July, to this day. The brisket is wonderful! The fellowship is warm and friendly. God's people meet, eat and celebrate their labors. Indirectly, the gentleman in charge of the fire was quoting scripture.

Colossians 3:23-24, Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

A few short months ago the "Little" parking lot was built. I am not speaking of size, but the man who supervised the construction. Don Little, just like the man in charge of the barbecue fire, did not choose the most expedient way. He chose the right way, for the best product. Jimmy Britton would not give up, as various civic red-tape requirements repeated themselves. Robert McGee planned and designed, when he did not have the spare time. Mayo, David Vandercook and others helped put the new floor in the MAC hallway. Terry Reynolds can be

found on a ladder or in the attic, saving us plenty of money on electrical repairs. Cindy Green was high atop of a scaffold painting in the activity room remodel. There are many additional great fire keepers in the Church. Lana Calhoun and Kris Grimland work the food pantry. Sally Bond does snack sacks. Phil and Martha do the children's activity bags. Marilyn Brumley and Beverly Crumbie are giving their God-given artistic ability for our 'Seeing Is Believing' art program. Larry Chapman is always ready to use his heavy equipment for whatever is needed. If I did not mention your name, it is because I am out of time for a newsletter deadline. We have a Church family full of fire keepers! By the way, Mike Mock and Steve Green have fixed up our Church smoker.

Keep working heartily for the Lord. He sees your work!

Love and God Bless You All!!!

Pastor Joel