

affection, knowing deep in his soul that he is a loved child of the Father, who delights in his son.

I believe that's what is still shaping Laurie today, death hasn't robbed or destroyed Laurie. He is still, maybe even more than us, living under the smile of his heavenly Father.

So today I reckon Laurie would seek to bless us that we, with the grace of God, let his light shine in our lives, that all people may see, we're not determined by life's events, but we walk to the beat of a

different drum. I reckon Laurie seeks that we walk in God's blessing and let his smile radiate from our faces; that people catch a glimpse of our heavenly Father and seek to know him too.

So when you remember Laurie's smile, enjoy it, and also remember your heavenly Father's smile that made that joy live in Laurie.

That life that lives in Laurie right now, as he's beaming in the presence of his loving heavenly Father, eagerly looking forward to that great new day were we all once again get to share life together in the radiance of our heavenly Father's presence.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

13 March 2018

Gordian (Laurie) Lawrence Leske

10 July 1928—4 March 2018



"With the grace of God let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

This is the text that was chosen for Laurie's confirmation. The context of this verse is that it is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and it follows straight after Jesus mentioning the things that God blesses, which are referred to as the Beatitudes.

The Beatitudes show what Jesus meant when he talked about 'good works'. And when I read over these statements of the things God blesses I could see Laurie's life reflecting them.

The first blessing; 'Blessed are those who are poor and realise their need for him (God), for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.' (Matt. 5:3)

Laurie struck me as a man who knew his need for God, for the love of his heavenly Father in his life. I'm sure there were many times where that's all he had to rely on. Laurie's life certainly had its highs and some very low, lows. I'm sure at those low times Laurie experienced his heavenly Father carrying him. I'm sure at those times he experienced a love greater than himself, so he wasn't crushed and plunged into total despair.

Laurie experienced the blessing of God, the presence of God in his life. And that

presence shone through Laurie.

'God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted'. (Matt. 5:4) Laurie was able to pour out his heart to God, for they knew each other. They have a relationship of love and trust created through Jesus; his death and resurrection. Laurie was able to mourn; for he had that secure relationship of love and trust. And in those times he was able to experience the comforting presence of the Spirit.

Sometimes I find it hard to mourn because I don't want to appear weak, or I want to do it on my own. I've noticed when I do that I don't find comfort, just hard work, just pain. But in

Jesus we are blessed, for in him we have a safe place to be open and honest and give expression to our greatest needs, our deepest fears, our nagging regrets. And our heavenly Father embraces us; with hope, with love, with resilience beyond ourselves.

Laurie was blessed, for he was able to pour out his heart and soul to his heavenly Father, because he knew his loving presence, he knew and lived under his heavenly Father's smile. Laurie allowed God in, and together they took on life.

'God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.' (Matt. 5:5) When I hear the word humble I think of a person who is secure in their identity and has nothing to prove. Laurie struck me as a man who was secure in his identity in

Jesus. Laurie I believe sought to live out the truth that he is one of our heavenly Father's loved children, in whom he delights.

So I noticed Laurie didn't brag about what he'd done, but he was able to enjoy his life's work. He was able to enjoy the

Laurie experienced the blessing of God...

people in his life. None of this determined Laurie. If that were the case there would have been so many strings attached. No, I think Laurie grew to discover the joy of living loved, because in Jesus he is loved. Love by his heavenly Father, who delighted in loving his son, Laurie. What a blessed way to live.

Notice I didn't say Laurie was perfect. I'll let you in on a secret; God isn't after

perfection. God just wants you to let him love you, so that you might live loved, no strings attached.

'God blesses those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be satisfied.' (Matt. 5:6) I like that word 'satisfied'. It is a great feeling when you can feel satisfied.

After working hard, it's good to finish the job feeling satisfied.

I reckon Laurie had many days of feeling satisfied, he'd worked hard, he'd been honest, he'd done his best. And God blessed him with a sense of feeling satisfied.

Laurie struck me as a man who sought to do what was right, because it was who he was; a child of the heavenly Father. So I think that would have helped him when he had to part with his farm; he'd given it his all, he'd done what's

right, but his farm didn't determine Laurie. It was in that environment he got to live out his true identity, but it didn't determine him; his right relationship with his heavenly Father did and still does.

I'm sure Laurie feels more satisfied now that he ever has. I don't think Laurie lived struggling to prove himself, nor was he desperately trying to manipulate some outcome so that he could get what he wanted, when he wanted. Selfishness never produces satisfaction, and Laurie never struck me that way.

Laurie lived trusting God.

Trusting that God knows what is right and then stepping out and doing what he believed God called him to do; for Laurie that was love his wife, invest himself in his family and friends

and be a farmer. Taking Jesus at his word, trusting him, then stepping out and doing it; what amazing satisfaction our heavenly Father desires us to experience, to live in. Amazingly our heavenly Father's wants to bless us with the satisfaction of a shared life

Laurie lived trusting his heavenly Father.

together with him; in all the ups and downs of life.

I believe Laurie's life did shine out that he lived in that wonderfully, natural, supernatural relationship of love, trust and affection that our heavenly Father desires for his precious children.

Laurie's life shines bright, not because nothing went wrong, or he was free of suffering. No Laurie's life shines bright,

even now, because he was able to walk through all those times and instead of them shaping him, the relationship he had with his heavenly Father, through Jesus, was lived out. And that relationship shaped Laurie and all he did.

If Laurie's life has been shaped by his hurts and pains, what sort of a man would he have become? The Laurie I knew, though not perfect, certainly knew he was loved, knew the loving embrace of his heavenly Father. The Laurie I knew lived with a smile on his face for he wasn't shaped by the loses, the deep pain, nor his successes.

I believe Laurie lived with a smile on his face because he knew, because he saw, because he experienced his heavenly Father's smile. He lived under that smile of