

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

JULY 2025

Upon my (first) retirement in 2017, I realized I was burned out and I never wanted to serve without a burning passion for what I was doing. In the first week of my retirement, I picked up a copy of a book that had been popular for 10 years, *Jesus Calling*, by Sarah Young. It is written in a daily devotion format so I began to read it each day. I quickly discovered the cause of my burnout. The book was all about trusting God and nurturing that trust in all circumstances throughout the day. Though I spent time each day in prayer and meditation, I was failing to face each daily situation with the confidence I had reflected upon each morning. I believe that Ms. Young was inspired to deal with an issue sadly lacking in most Christians especially here in America, a daily living confidence in our loving Lord. When there is a lack of trust in our Lord, the soul becomes a playground for evil primarily filling it with anxieties and fears which paralyzes people from living productive joyful lives. Here is a sample of Ms. Young's writing on June 17th; she writes in the first person as if it is our Lord speaking directly to us.

Learn to laugh at yourself more freely. Don't take yourself or your circumstances so seriously. Relax and know that I am God with you. When you desire My will above all else, life becomes much less threatening. Stop trying to monitor My responsibilities - things that are beyond your control. Find freedom by accepting the boundaries of your domain.

Laughter lightens your load and lifts your heart into heavenly places. Your laughter rises to heaven and blends with angelic melodies of praise. Just as parents delight in the laughter of their children, so I delight in hearing My children laugh. I rejoice when you trust Me enough to enjoy your life lightheartedly.

Do not miss the Joy of My Presence by carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders. Rather take My yoke upon you and learn from Me. My yoke is comfortable and pleasant; My burden is light and easily borne.

© *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young, Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2004

As the more relaxed time of year is upon us, I would encourage you to consider purchasing a copy of the book and use it for daily reflection. The daily devotions can also be found online on YouTube and many other websites. I have used this website and have provided many writings for the blog:

<https://bibletags.blogspot.com/2019/06/jesus-calling-366-days.html>

(Warning, as is true of any blog, the entries are a plethora of thoughts sometimes totaling over 200. If you would be interested in my thoughts, just scroll until my name pops up; I use my actual name and not a monicker as everyone else does.)

If you should desire to discuss any aspect of spiritual direction this book brings up, I would be delighted to talk with you about it. Simply call the Church and let Mary Jean know when you want to stop by, and I will be available for you.

With love,