



redeemer

a newsletter for and about the people of
lutheran church of our redeemer

record

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pastor's message

Last month in a sermon I talked about how helpful it is for us to reflect on the way we interact with others. Many of you asked for copies of my message. Here is the text. I titled it "**Hugs Not Hollers**" and I also hope you find it beneficial.

hugs not hollers

In the church we see the season of Lent as a time to seriously think about our behavior. Not only are we asked to question our relationship with God, but also to evaluate our relationships with other people and how we interact with our family members, co-workers, classmates, neighbors, etc. For example, I believe that those of us who are adults are often too quick to open our mouths and give lectures. It is so easy for us to judge and condemn others for stupid mistakes. And what compounds our sin is that we think we are doing the proper and right thing by giving them our good advice. Impulsively we say such things, as:

"You shouldn't have done such a stupid thing."

"You should have known better; what's wrong with you?"

"You know you are getting exactly what you deserve!"

Sometimes we need good teaching. Jesus is often teaching the people – but at the appropriate time and place and in a loving way. Many times, especially after making a stupid mistake, what people need is not a lecture – but a hug.

In our Beta Bible Study group we have been looking at the parables of Jesus. We focused on the Parable of the Good Samaritan and then the very provocative parable of the Prodigal Son. After the younger son disgraced the family by taking his share of the inheritance and wasting it on a licentious lifestyle, he finds himself in such a desperate state that he decides to come back home again to beg his father to give him a job as a hired hand.

When the son returns does the father holler at him or reprimand him or make him feel guilty for his terrible behavior? No. The Father runs up to him and gives him a hug. He then orders his servants to get a robe for him to wear and a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And then he tells his servants to prepare a big celebration.

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