

Order of Service

Westminster United Church

Shoal Lake. July 22/56

✓ Call to Worship.

Holy, Holy, Holy.

✓ Invocation Prayer.

✓ Hymn - 20

✓ Responsive Reading - 704

✓ Scripture Reading - Mark 10-17-22 - 1 Corint. 1-17-28

Hymn - ~~472~~ 500

Prayers - Hymn 536 in Unison & leaders prayer.

Announcements.

Offering and offering response.

Hymn - 490.

Sermon-meditation

Hymn 501.

Benediction

Posthum
278
Lent
214

✓ Sheer Folly: 1 Cor. 1-17 - 28 See Moffatt's Trans.
1. Cor. 17 21

It occurred to me ^{today} that we might think about some of the obstacles that are put in the way of our Christian ministry. Not so very long ago a young man gave up a promising business and turned to the ministry. When some of his friends heard it they did not wait to see him to tell him what they thought, they called him on the phone and prefaced their remarks with "Are you crazy? You ought to have your head examined! What hit you and so forth!" Despite this whole hearted encouragement this young man is still plugging for the ministry. No doubt but that some of his well meaning friends are members of some Christian denomination. But when we measure our allegiance by a piece of paper $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 6 inches we are apt to make those sort of remarks.

The sheer folly of giving up a lucrative business to join the ministry of Christ. - well we can go back 1900 years and ~~have~~ the identical words said about Simon Peter and Andrew, James, John, Matthew and the other disciples. We can imagine the remarks!

God, resolved to save believers by the sheer folly of the Christian message.

At that time! The men of that day gave up their all at Jesus' command and followed him. If it is deemed utterly folly today what must Peter's contemporaries said of him. With 1900 years of achievement East, West, North and South the Christian facing the decision to enter the Master's discipleship should have more human encouragement from laymen than he receives. He should have more encouragement from church members, or are we only nominally Christian? and exclaim "What folly is this?"

NOMINAL
CHRISTIANS

How thoughtless we are with the use of our words. How many of us in our secret hearts have not longed for some glimpse of the eternal, some sign of the promised land. How many of us are like Thomas. Thomas wanted visible proof and when Jesus stood before him and commanded him to prove for himself that he was the risen Christ Thomas became a very contrite man.

How many of us realize the amount of thought and prayer and work that goes into a minister's week. We miss him from the pulpit or he is

4
Worst of all is writing. He needs
someone to talk things over with.

Our prayers do not seem to be answered
and so we turn to our ministers

THE
MINISTER whose "sheer folly" has placed him in
AS A
HELPERS a position to bring comfort and
renewed hope to many despairing
and weary souls. In talking things over
quite often we find that other needs
are much greater than our own and we
lose our own identity in trying to
help the less fortunate and get a glimpse
or a taste of the "peace" that passeth understanding.
From a man whose folly it was
to join the Christian ministry.

In the Gospel of Mark we read of
the rich young man coming to Jesus.
He had everything a man could want.
Wealth, friends, prestige. Had kept all
the Jewish laws faithfully. Best of
all he had Jesus love. Yet like
so many of our contemporaries today
something was lacking. So we find
him coming to this new Teacher in
the hope that by some means the
inner spirit or conscience could find
peace. Jesus answers "One thing thou
lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever

2 between Laban & Jacob and so when Jacob finally left and returned to the land of his fathers we find him with twelve sons ten from his wife Leah, four from his concubines and two from Rachel his first love, Joseph and Benjamin.

However in a family where the children are not all of both parents (most prevalent in those days) there is bound to be discord so we find jealousies arising between the elder brothers and the younger son Joseph. Jacob helped matters not one bit in openly showing his favoritism for Joseph and in giving him his coat of many colors usually only worn by princes he favored a son already lit by the demeanor of Joseph himself toward his brothers. Thus we have the ancient stage all set for the chapter we have read this morning.

There is an interesting factor in this family. We note that two of the brothers were definitely against killing Joseph. Reuben and Simeon. Reuben suggested that they cast him into an unused well or cistern privately making up his mind that he would come back & release him & take him home to his father. Reuben must have gone on out into his own beds after that because we have the Midianites bargaining with Simeon for Joseph, finally taking him as a slave to Egypt, and Reuben