

STARTING OVER

I knitted an afghan for my Granddaughter for Christmas. It was a moderately difficult pattern and after knitting for about 24 inches I discovered a mistake near the bottom. I looked at various ways to correct this, but it would be very tedious and difficult. So, I ripped out the whole thing and started over. Wouldn't it be great if we could do that in life? Just think, having a bad day, just go back to bed and start over. Life does not work that way, sometimes we are called to start over and sometimes to correct our mistakes. Sometimes the hardest words to say are, "I'm sorry." But what about when we are the ones being hurt. Carrying old hurts can be a burden, the load gets heavy and weighs us down. We cannot focus on the good things in our lives but instead carry around the old hurts and sorrows. I can be bad about this but when I went on the Emmaus Walk, I was able to set down those burdens at the Cross and let them go. But occasionally, I can feel them trying to crawl back on me and I must remember they do not exist anymore, because I turned them over to Jesus Christ and I bear them no more. It is hard when someone hurts you to let it go and to start over but that is what Christ calls us to do. Every day is a new day, a new morning, a new beginning. We are called to forgive others because he has forgiven us. Let us dwell on our todays and not our yesterdays.

Luke 6:37-38 Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use. It will be measured to you.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day, for the sunshine and the warmth. May we reflect that warmth in our lives as we forgive others and ourselves. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, be with him and his family. Grant them strength and blessings. Be with our staff and leaders, give them your guidance and protection and bless them. Be with our church community, may we work together for the good of all your children. Guide us as we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Be with our country and all its people, may we join as one seeking what is best for all. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Grace Epperson