Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

What is your favorite inspirational quote?

This question actually jumped out at me from the pages of a magazine I was reading.

I read with interest the quotes readers had sent in. Some were good, like this one: "*You miss 100% of the shots you don't take*." (Wayne Gretzky, the greatest hockey player of all time.)

That quote actually reminded me of one from an old boss at my first job out of college, *"If you don't ask, you don't get!"* (You still might not "get" when you do ask, but you are guaranteed to not "get" 100% of the time you don't ask.) The whole idea behind both quotes is that fear of failing will only lead to one thing: Failing!

Some of the quotes just made me scratch my head. Like this one: "*We're all just walking each other home*."   I guess it made sense to someone.

Some made me smile. Like this one from the Arthur Carlson character on one of my favorite sitcoms from the 70's WKRP in Cincinnati: "*As God is my witness, I thought turkeys could fly*." (When you think of it, there's actually a profound truth in there: Wrong assumptions will get you into trouble every time!)

One quote was actually from the Bible. "*This is my command: Love each other*." (Jesus to his disciples as recorded by the Apostle John in John 15:17)

Of course, that biblical quote serves as a good transition to my own answer to the question. It's also a quote from Jesus, just one chapter later in John's gospel:

"*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world*." (John 16:33)

Jesus never sugar-coats things. He tells us what we need to hear. He knows the devastating effect wrong assumptions can have, so you can count on Him to be brutally honest. "*In this world you will have trouble*." So, when you find the world (or your own wrong actions or beliefs) have brought you trouble, remember, Jesus told you to expect it.

But, this is not a fatalistic quote that just brings depression. Rather, it is one that brings amazing peace, because it doesn't end with the "trouble." The quote goes on to bring the peace of knowing that no matter what trouble you find yourself in, Jesus is truly God thus has the power to get you through it! The result: You can "take heart" (have courage and hope) in the midst of whatever trouble you have!

That's a quote that has brought me peace and hope countless times. It seems to me it's a quote we all need to remember - maybe now more than ever!

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net