

HomeTouch

is a weekly ministry of
Orange Coast Church



Pastor Ken Studer

Sunday, July 27, 2008

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26-39

TODAY'S THOUGHT: Motivation is what gets you started; habit is what keeps you going. —Jim Ryan

Lee Shulman has an essay in the “Forum” section of an education journal. It’s called: “I believe in pastrami.” After a brief opening, he writes: “I believe that pastrami is a metaphor for a well-lived life, for a well-designed institution, and even for a healthy relationship. Pastrami is marbled rather than layered. Its parts, the lean and the fat, are mixed together rather than neatly separated.”

He goes on to explain that people who buy a brisket and don’t want the fat simply pare it off. They use a knife and just cut it off. Get rid of the bad stuff, the unhealthy stuff. No problem.

But, of course, in relationships, and in the church (he doesn’t talk about the church), too often this is precisely what we do. We often have trouble working with those who are not like us. When a situation like this arises, we are sometimes tempted to simply cut them off, ignore them, or have nothing to do with them.

In other words, we don’t believe in pastrami. Shulman concludes: “Separate layers are much easier to trim from the brisket. Separate layers are much easier to build, to schedule, to design. But I believe that marbling demands that we work with the messy world of people, relationships, and obligations in their full, rich complexity.”

“Work with the messy world of people ...” That’s what we’re called to do, isn’t it? Jesus was a pastrami lover. Didn’t he say something about how he came to call not the “righteous” but “sinners” to repentance? Jesus was a pastrami lover. So how about us?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to rise above artificial differences. Help me to appreciate the “marbling” effect of the community in which I live. May I appreciate the flavor such marbling brings to all of us. . Amen.

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ACTIVITY PAGE for the week of July 27, 2008

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday: Acts 10-12

Monday: Micah 5-7

Tuesday: Nahum 1-3

Wednesday: 2 Kings 20-21

Thursday: Zephaniah 1-3

Friday: Habakkuk 1-3

Saturday: Psalms 79-81

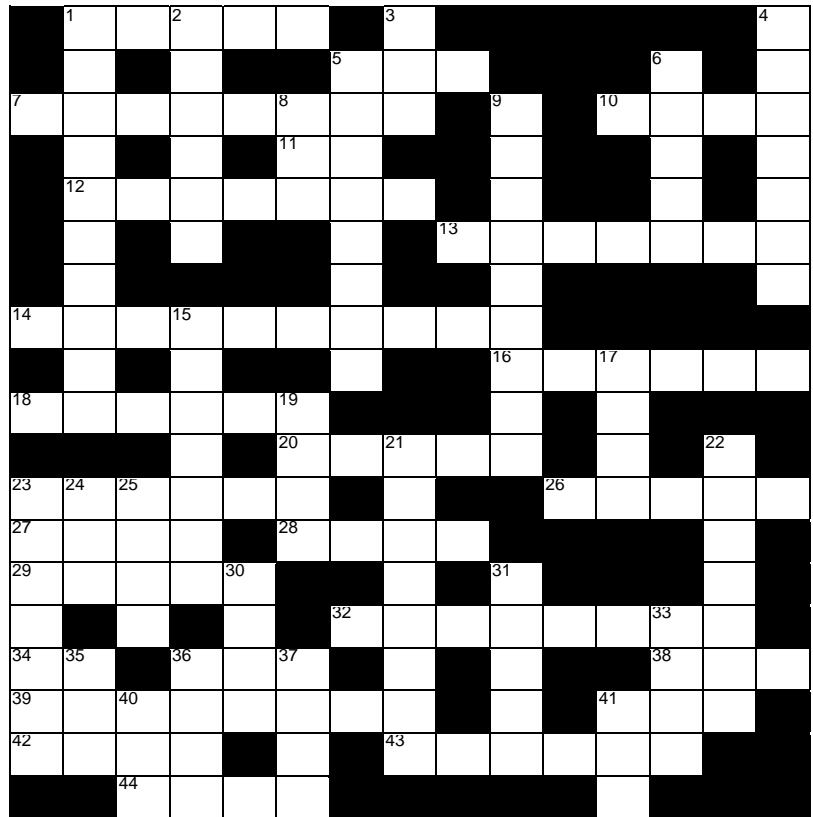
ACROSS

1. "God so loved the _____"
5. 24 hours
7. Books in the Bible
10. "I shall not _____"
11. Exists
12. Acts of sorrow for sin
13. To erase a debt
14. Training a child, for example
16. Mary's hard-working sister
18. The FBI has thousands of them
20. Lenten forehead sign
23. Outlaws
26. Disciple's name meaning "rock"
27. Greek word meaning "love"
28. Lake of fire
29. Barabas was headed for this
32. Called the "place of the skull"
34. Conditional preposition
36. Stool pigeon
38. Sole
39. Hold in high esteem
41. Snoop
42. Paradise
43. Give
44. Toil

DOWN

1. Talking very quietly
2. Most movies have one
3. Matthew collected this
4. The disciple of 3 Down
5. A learner
6. Leader of a synagogue
8. Misdeed
9. He came to Jesus by night
15. To acknowledge one's sin
17. City of Seven Hills

19. Mid-eastern cloth from shoulder to waist
21. "_____ be thy name"
22. Lazarus lived here
23. To accept
24. To sin
25. Sonic _____
30. A wound may leave this
31. Born _____
33. "Faith, _____, and love"
35. What Jesus did for the 5,000
36. Nevada city
37. Speak
40. Not old
41. Pig's home



Crossword

Use the clues to the left and below to complete the puzzle. Be careful to cover the answers in the box below as you work!

