

September 2020

# Lappe Lutheran Church

*The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy.*  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

*"The journey is  
always the best  
part."*

**Josie Bisset** - Dreams come a size too big so that we can grow into them.

**Dr. Seuss** - You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.

**Marvin Phillips** - The difference between try and triumph is a little umph.

**Milton Berle** - If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door.

**Thomas A. Edison** - Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

**Lily Tomlin** - I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework.

## The 10<sup>th</sup> Apple Effect:

A hunter once lost his way deep inside the jungle while chasing a deer. He used all his navigation skills but neither did he find any way out of the jungle nor could he find any food to eat for 8 days at a stretch. He started feeling so damn hungry that he could eat an entire elephant at one go. Disappointed, he lost all hope. And that is exactly when an apple tree caught his sight. He collected a dozen apples to feed him for the rest of his search.

As he ate the 1st apple, his joy knew no bounds and he just couldn't stop feeling grateful and blessed. He thanked life. He thanked God. He could not believe his luck when he ate the 1st apple but he was less grateful while having the 2nd apple and even lesser grateful when he had the 5th apple. Somehow, with each passing apple, the hunger still kept on increasing and the joy kept on reducing drastically. He just could not enjoy the 10th apple.

Why? He had already taken for granted the gift of having found an apple tree in the middle of a forest after 8 long days of wandering with hunger. When he took the 10th apple in his hand, he was still very hungry but he just did not feel like having it any more. Economics calls this diminishing marginal utility. I would like to call it diminishing gratitude, in simple words, taking things for granted. Or let's just call it the 10th apple effect.

The 10th apple did not lack taste, it did not lack the potential to satisfy his hunger but the only thing lacking was his gratitude for finding food in the middle of the jungle.

The hunter represents us. And the apple represents the gifts that life gives us. The 10th apple represents our lack of gratitude for these gifts of life and our 'take everything for granted' attitude. As we continue receiving the gifts of life, our hunger, our greed keeps on increasing and the joy we get from these gifts diminishes.

The 10th apple is as sweet as the first apple. If the 10th apple fails to give you as much pleasure as the first one, nothing is wrong with the apple, everything is wrong with you. If you get bored on a dull day, it is not because the day is dull and boring. It is because your gratitude has become dull and boring. The gift of life for another day cannot be taken for granted. The Nth year of life should seem as exciting as the 16th year, as the 25th year, as the 50th year.

Never let the '10th apple effect' make you take these gifts of life for granted. Never let your gratitude for life fade away. Happy life!

A while back I read a story of a visiting pastor who attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country. The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.

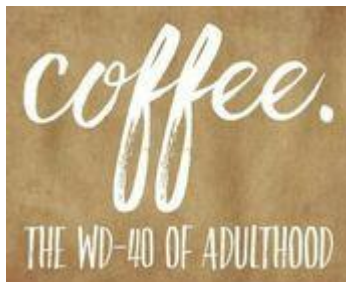
The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned.

Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour". The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today.

Stay strong, my friends, because our LORD is mixing several things that we don't really care for, but something even better is going to come when HE is done with it. AMEN!



**I may not  
have lost all  
my marbles  
yet, but there  
is a small hole  
in the bag  
somewhere.**

**GETTING OLDER IS  
JUST ONE BODY PART  
AFTER ANOTHER  
SAYING, 'HA HA, YOU  
THINK THAT'S BAD?  
WATCH THIS.'**

**Why must I prove that  
I am me to pay my  
bills over the phone?  
Do strangers call to  
pay my bills? And if  
they do, why don't  
you let them?**

**TALKING ABOUT  
OUR PROBLEMS  
IS OUR GREATEST  
ADDICTION. BREAK  
THE HABIT. TALK  
ABOUT YOUR JOYS.**

**One of the weirder  
things about being  
an adult is having a  
favorite stovetop  
burner. Yet nobody  
talks about it.**

**EXPECTING THINGS TO  
CHANGE WITHOUT  
PUTTING IN ANY EFFORT  
IS LIKE WAITING FOR A  
SHIP AT THE AIRPORT.**