

Deliver Us From Evil

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The Transfiguration of Our Lord
11 February, A.D. 2018
2 Kgs 2.1-2; 2 Cor 3.12-13, 4.1-6; Mk 9.2-9

Introduction

The Transfiguration is about...

Wrestling with God...

Protecting innocent ears...

CCT: Christ conquers evil. All evil. Even our evil.
Even the evil done _____ us.

I. Confronting a Great Evil

On matters of _____ abuse _____ is
not silent; the _____ is not silent.

There is healing and new life in _____.

Those who would or have harmed us must: know
that _____ abuse is evil, _____, and
learn to live from the _____.

II. Why Now?

Rachael Denhollander and those who exposed the
truth...

I encourage all adults in this congregation to search it out on YouTube and watch Rachael's full testimony. .

What Rachael's testimony made me think of...

By speaking publicly, confronting with the Law, speaking the Gospel, and calling for justice, how did Rachael help others?

III. Regenerative Marriage

Rachael on her marriage:

I have experienced the soul-satisfying joy of a marriage built on sacrificial love, safety, tenderness and care. I have experienced true intimacy in its deepest joys. And it is beautiful. It is glorious.

Rachael on the long-term impact of sexual abuse:

The damage of sexual assault is extreme and it is lifelong. As much as someone forgives their abuser, as much hope as is found in the gospel, we don't get complete restoration this side of heaven. It does not happen—that's why the hope of heaven is so glorious. But the suffering here on earth is very real, and it does not go away simply because you forgive and release bitterness. These women are going to live, myself included, with lifelong consequences of the sexual assault, and the vast majority of this never needed to happen.

"Michigan Assistant Attorney General Angela Povilaitis said, "Without that first Indianapolis Star story in August 2016; without the story where Rachael (Denhollander) came forward publicly shortly thereafter — he [Larry Nassar] would still be practicing medicine, treating athletes and abusing kids."What prosecutor said about IndyStar's reporting in Larry Nassar case." Indystar.com. Accessed 2 Feb 2018. URL: <https://www.indystar.com/story/news/2018/01/24/what-prosecutor-said-indystars-reporting-larry-nassar-case/1062360001/>

Save the Date

Please join us for an enriching experience at the
2018 St. Paul's Marriage Retreat

November 09 - 11, 2018

*Celebrating the Journey with Christ:
Bear With Each Other*

Where?

The Osthoff Resort – 101 Osthoff Ave, Elkhart Lake, WI
www.osthoff.com

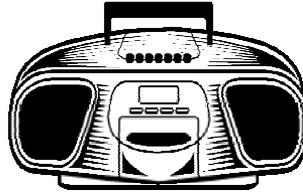
Questions?

Email: stpaulmarriage@gmail.com

Call or Text: Linda Hertneky @ 651-206-8497 or
Angie Scharnell @ 920-285-1264



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Feb. 18	Apr. 29	Aug. 19	Dec. 2
Feb. 25	Jun. 3	Sept. 9	Dec. 9
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Mar. 18	July 15	Oct. 21	Dec. 23
Apr. 15	July 29	Nov. 18	
Apr. 22	Aug. 5	Nov. 22	

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NAME _____

DATE- 1ST CHOICE _____ 2ND CHOICE _____

Please dedicate to (i.e. in memory of, wedding anniversary, to the Glory of God, in honor of...etc.)

“How did your faith inform your decision to go public with your experience?”

In terms of how my faith played a part in making that decision, God is the God of justice, these things are evil, and it is biblical, right, and godly to pursue justice. I had to make a decision to do what was right no matter what the cost was. I felt I was the best one in a position to do that. . . I felt that because of my worldview and *because of the support system that I had*, I was the one positioned to bear that cost and that it would be worth it regardless of the outcome.

A *man* has learned to _____ a woman. He protects her, defends her, provides for her. How did Rachael’s husband help her help others?

How is Biblical marriage regenerative?

IV. A Message for Victims and the Church

“Was there a particular Bible verse or passage that you felt spoke to your situation?”

One was from John 6, where Jesus asks Peter, “Do you want to leave too?” Peter says, “Where else would I go, Lord? You have the words of life.” There was a point in my faith where I had to simply cling to the fact that although I didn’t understand or have the answers, I knew that God was good and that he was love. Whatever else I didn’t understand couldn’t be a contradiction to that.

Beyond that, it was learning more about God’s justice, that contrast between darkness and light, and how to properly interpret God’s sovereignty and Bible verses that command us

See Rachael’s interview with Morgan Lee in *Christianity Today*, “My Larry Nassar Testimony Went Viral. But There’s More to the Gospel Than Forgiveness.” 31 Jan 2018. Accessed 2 Feb 2018. URL: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2018/january-web-only/rachael-denhollander-larry-nassar-forgiveness-gospel.html>

to give thanks or reveal God's promises of bringing goodness out of evil. When those verses are interpreted properly they are glorious and beautiful truths. More often than not, particularly in the case of sexual assault, they're really used to mitigate and to minimize—almost as if the victim handles it “properly,” if the victim just forgives, all of the feelings are going to go away. That's not true and that's not what Scripture teaches.

Rachael's warned about forgiveness being used as a _____ in the Church in cases of assault, as if forgiveness must mean there can be no earthly _____. The victim needs to just “forgive” and be quiet. She said,

It's devastating enough when money and medals are put against sexual assault victims [This, by the way, is her allusion to MSU and USA Gymnastics]. But when the gospel of Christ is wielded like a weapon against sexual assault victims, that's wicked. There's no other way to say it.

Christ is not silent; the Church is not silent. We must “... *renounce disgraceful, underhanded ways.*” We must “*refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word.*” (2 Cor 4.2)

1 John 1:8–10 (ESV)

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Conclusion

In Christ, you are forgiven. Through faith in Christ you are pure and holy. You may stand. You can face the shame. You can rise above what you have done, or what has been done to you. You are God's child.