



24 February 2017

Planning Ahead

Thursday-Friday, 9-10 March – **MACSA Bible Quiz Retreat**. Black Rock Retreat, Lancaster Co., PA

Friday, 24 March – **FJS 20th Anniversary Banquet**, 6:15 p.m., Shady Maple Banquet Center, Lancaster Co., PA

Science Fair research paper due.

Monday-Friday, 27-31 March – **Missions Week**, parents invited

Friday, 31 March – **Science Fair** experiment design or model plans due.

Friday, 31 March – End of 3rd Quarter



Living Through Pain

We all live with pain – pain from our past, pain from broken relationships, pain from our own failures, pain from traumatic life events. How we deal with this pain is important in our day-to-day relationships.

Many times we want to blame others for our pain. We blame our parents for being abusive or for not giving us their time and attention. We blame other people groups for not allowing us to live up to our full potential. We blame God for allowing accidents to happen or sickness to occur.

Blaming others is a way to avoid taking personal responsibility for our own choices in regard to pain. Because we hurt, we permit ourselves to hurt others in return. Pain provides an excuse for us to not live up to our full potential. Pain allows us to retreat from life and avoid responsibility. Perhaps because it has been those in authority who have hurt us, we now have an excuse to not respect or honor any of our authorities.

We also give expression to our pain in different ways. Some of us try to make all of life a joke. If we can make others laugh, it lightens the pain. If we can get lost in our work, in a book, in alcohol or drugs, in pornography we can forget about the pain for a while.

Jesus' solution for our pain is both simple and extremely hard. He asks us to trust him and forgive others. How can we trust if he is the one who allowed the pain in the first place. And how can we forgive? Won't that allow the other person to just "get away with it"? But Jesus knows every part of our journey and also experienced the pain of rejection, false accusation, and being made fun of. And yet, on the cross, he was able to pray, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing."

As we do not forgive, we allow others actions toward us to control us and our responses to life. When we forgive, we release them to God and we are able to live in freedom.

It was prophesied of Jesus, "A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out" (Isaiah 42:3 NIV). We want that to be our motto here at FJS as well. We want this to be a safe place where godly teachers can effect healing and bring hope to hurting students. We want to be a place where teachers are willing to listen to a child talk about his pain and walk with him on a his journey to wholeness.

James E. Gochnauer, Principal