

## **“There Cannot be Attachment Without Detachment”**

Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020, Rev. Kevin Hilgendorf

I picked the sermon title from "The One Year book of Psalms." As you can, see the book is falling apart but I'm still together. At the end of the devotion is the "Notable Quotable." This one reads, "Two things will always be found together-love of God and recoil from sin. There cannot be attachment without detachment." Think about this 'there cannot be attachment without detachment' as I share the following three prayers. The first two are from "For All the Saints."

Prayer: I asked God for strength, that I might achieve...  
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.  
I asked for health, that I might do great things...  
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.  
I asked for riches, that I might be happy...  
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.  
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men...  
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.  
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life...  
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.  
I got nothing that I asked for...  
But everything that I hoped for.  
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered...  
I am among all men most richly blessed. Amen

Found in the clothing of an unknown dead Civil War soldier. There cannot be attachment without detachment.

"Unknown Child (1940's)" prayer:

O Lord, remember not only the men and women of good will, but also those of ill will.  
But, do not remember all of the suffering they have inflicted upon us:  
Instead remember the fruits we have borne because of this suffering-  
Our fellowship, our loyalty to one another, our humility, our courage, our generosity,  
the greatness of heart that has grown from this trouble.  
When our persecutors come to be judged by you, let all of these fruits that we have  
borne be their forgiveness.

Found in the clothing of a dead child at Ravensbruck Concentration Camp. There cannot be attachment without detachment.

This last prayer is #811 in "Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book." I memorized it by singing.

On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, king of grace,  
that life's troubles nor its pleasures ever may your work erase.  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, all my glory and salvation!

There cannot be attachment without detachment. Help us Lord to grow in our attachment of your love. Amen