

Devotion: August 25, 2020

1 Peter 2:2-10 King James Version

² *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

³ *If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

⁴ *To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,*

⁵ *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

⁶ *Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*

⁷ *Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,*

⁸ *And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.*

⁹ *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light;*

¹⁰ *Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

1 Peter 2:9, *"You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people."*

We, are the chosen generation. So, maybe we should move to Oddville, Kentucky or Peculiar, Missouri.

I tried to find out how and why these towns got their names. Oddville was first settled in 1799 and apparently chose the name in an attempt to satisfy the postal authorities with a unique name when the post office opened in 1851.

Peculiar, Missouri, got its name in a similar fashion as Oddville. In about 1858 the area had gotten big enough to need a post office. The man seeking the town's first postmaster position requested to the United States Post Office Department the name of Excelsior.

The postmaster wannabe was told that name was already taken in Missouri. So, he chose another name. That name was also taken. This happened 4 more times. "Finally, exasperated, he wrote to Washington and said, 'Listen. We'll take any name. Just send us a name that's a little bit peculiar, and we'll be happy.'"

The reason I say that you and I would qualify to live in Oddville is because Christians are not the "Normal People." We're called to be abnormal. Normal is what you see on TV, in the movies, in magazines and in the Reality TV shows. Normal is the big house, fancy car, greedy filled, self important, in your face, self centered life of the celebrity that everybody seems to want. Normal is the American Dream on steroids and out of control.

You and I called to be abnormal. We're called to live by a different standard. Remember, Jesus said, *"I picked you to live on God's terms and no longer on the world's terms...."*

From the very beginning God's people have been Peculiar and lived in Oddville. While the rest of the world was practicing polytheistic religions God told Abraham that there was just one God.

While other religions were requiring the sacrifice of the first born child, God lead Abraham and Isaac to the hill of sacrifice and then emphatically said: "No more child sacrifices."

While other religions were making grand sacrifices to win back the attention of their so called gods, over and over again we are told by God, "I will not leave you or forsake you."

While other religions leave us live in the depth of our sin, God sent Jesus, His own Son, to take our sin upon Himself and be the last and final blood sacrifice needed to forgive and redeem the sins of the entire world. God did what God told Abraham NOT to do.

While other religions say life has no meaning and there is nothing beyond death, God reminds us that through Christ Jesus, what He did on the cross and how Jesus rose from the dead, gives us not only the hope but the promise of life eternal with Christ because death has been defeated.

We are the Abnormal people, the Peculiar people. We live in Oddville.

So, why do I say we live as Peculiar people?

Well, we do and I'm not talking about the little quirks that make us all unique. Because of Christ, we have chosen to live by a different set of rules and a different master. We believe that Loving God with all of our heart soul mind and strength & Loving our Neighbor as ourselves are the highest rules for living. John Wesley would call this Personal & Social Holiness. Jesus simply called it being a Disciple. Paul said: *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed"*

So you see, we are a Peculiar People. We are not supposed to be normal. We are called to look at the world with different eyes. And we do. That's why our mission statement resonates with us so much. *"Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of world."* And the thing is, with all the pessimism in the world today, we STILL believe that we can transform the world. And we will!

O Lord my God, I believe in you: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Insofar as I can, insofar as you have given me the power, I have sought you. O Lord my God, my sole hope, help me to believe and never to cease seeking you. Grant that I may always and ardently seek out your countenance. Give me the hope of finding you. Amen.—Adapted from Saint Augustine.

- Pastor Jack