

Remember Jesus

and it won't turn into "a zoo around here"

The wedding of Kyle & Becky Jones - July 27, 2013
Pastor Jim Rademaker

We've all heard the phrase, "Boy, it's like a zoo around here!" - especially related to families or classrooms or the office or an emergency room, or maybe even a wedding rehearsal. You might not know it, but Kyle and Becky met at a zoo. I'm not sure what that means or what that's supposed to symbolize. "It's like a zoo around here!" What do we mean when we use that phrase? "It's nuts!" "It's crazy around here!" "It's wild ... like a zoo!"

Kyle and Becky, your love for the wild, for nature, for the natural world, is no secret. In your studies over the years, you might recall something commonly referred to as the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics or the law of entropy. The natural tendency of things to move from a state of order to a state of disorder. (It's a bit more complex than that.) For more, go to www.entropylaw.com

Order to disorder. If you buy a new car, what eventually happens? It breaks down and wears out. After a good Wisconsin winter, it turns to rust. This last month alone, we've had two vehicles in the garage, with an appointment awaiting the third.

Left to the natural state of things, what will happen to your beautiful new house? Like all the rest, it will slowly fall apart. And you'll spend more weekends than you'd like trying to see that that doesn't happen. And Becky knows what happens to the lip muscles when you stop practicing your trumpet. What would happen to the great *Badger Marching Band* if every member let nature take its course! (Where would we be without the "Beer Barrel Polka"? And would our beloved state fall off the map if it weren't for another round of "On Wisconsin"?)

The law of disintegration. That's what was happening to the church in Corinth. That's what led the Apostle Paul to write what's known as "The LOVE chapter" in his letter to the church there. It was like a zoo around there ... everyone thinking of himself, doing his own thing ... and the church was falling apart.

How did things get to this point? They had forgotten what's most important. They stopped practicing love (Which, in the Bible, is more than just an emotion, but an act. A sacrificial act. Sacrificing our interests for the interest of another.)

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

... 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

It's what happens when nature take its course. Because of our natural tendency toward sin, relationships fall apart. That's what happens in churches, and that's what happens in families, and that's what happens in marriages. And things soon get out of order and it becomes like a zoo around here.

Remember, the "love chapter" in 1 Corinthians 13 takes place in a zoo, where everybody was acting like children ("me, me, me") and things were really getting out of order in a hurry. And yet, it reminds us of Another. A Servant ... who loved, who had other's best interest at heart, who was patient, and kind, and all the rest.

In the song that was just sung, (*A Thousand Years*) are these words, "*I have died everyday (waiting for you)*". That's what love is ... dying daily to self, as Christ did for you. Serving the other, as Christ served you. Being patient with one another, as Christ is patient with you.

Becky, when Kyle proposed to you under that gorgeous night-time sky, you wrote on your wedding page, "*I was so happy - I forgot to look at the ring!*" How cool is that!

If only every day was like that. But as great as your love is for one another, it's not perfect. None of ours is. And times will come when things seem to be falling apart. When it feels a bit like a zoo in your relationship. At times, you'll fail to love - to always think of the other, and have their best interest at heart. Because of our sinful natures, it's unavoidable.

But at those times, remember the One who will always love you, always forgive you, always be patient with you, always think of you and have your best interest at heart. The One who gave His life for you - your Savior Jesus Christ - in order to restore your relationship with God and with one another.

Look to Him and you will always find what your marriage needs - The Love that will grow your love for each other. A love that will not wear out and go the way of all other things. But a love that will build and grow and last a lifetime.