

## Scripture Reading: Luke 19:1-10

*Words express what's on your mind, but your actions say what's in your heart.*  
—Frank Sonnenberg

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We live in an Age of Evaluation. It's all about ratings today. Just about every commercial enterprise is subject to a "rating reaction." The obvious ones are restaurants, movies, hotels and books. But you can also review cars, airlines, colleges, stores and more.

When I look at ratings, I am most interested in the one-star ratings. These evaluations usually tell me more about the person offering the low rating than it tells me about what is being reviewed.

Consider the following 1-star ratings for some of our national parks:

- Grand Canyon National Park: "More like 'Mediocre Canyon'."
- Badlands National Park: "You lose cell service because you're in NOWHERE USA!" Really? You're surprised that in about 400 square miles of "badlands" you can't get a signal?
- Death Valley National Park: "I have to say, this is the ugliest park I have ever seen."
- Cuyahoga Valley National Park: "This is not a true national park." Like, what is a "true" national park?
- At Carlsbad Caverns National Park, there is only one thing to see: an epic cave. So that makes this comment interesting: "Unless you find caves and rocks overwhelmingly fascinating, skip this." So why one would travel to southeastern New Mexico? You didn't know that a place called Carlsbad Cavern wasn't about a ginormous cave?

We can laugh. It's okay. But, then let's remember that people who have no trouble giving the Grand Canyon National Park a 1-star rating *are also evaluating us!*

That's right. People are watching us, rating us, every day. Especially if we have made it known that we are God-loving, Jesus-following Christians.

The general public, including our friends and family, our neighbors and colleagues, roommates and tablemates in the dining room — knows if we're living up to the hype. They have opinions as to whether our actions are living up to our words.

Of course, we can't meet everyone's expectations. But it is helpful to remember that the eyes of others are on us.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, help my actions to match my words today. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

*Blessings on Reformation Sunday,  
Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz*

## Daily Bible Readings

**Sunday:** Acts 19:11-41;  
2 Corinthians 1-3

**Monday:** Ezra 5-7

**Tuesday:** Ezra 8-10

**Wednesday:** Nehemiah 1-3

**Thursday:** Nehemiah 4-6

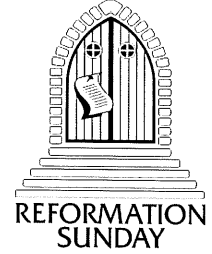
**Friday:** Nehemiah 7-9

**Saturday:** Psalms 124-126

## Verse to Remember

*May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.*

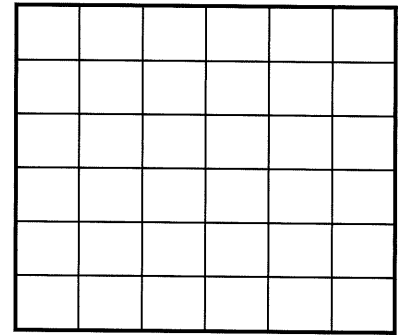
—Psalm 126:5-6



S	O	R	E	L	Y
M	U	S	T	E	R
C	A	M	E	R	A
F	L	A	M	E	S
S	T	O	L	E	N
W	A	I	T	E	R

## WORD SHUFFLE

Notice that the diagonal letters in the box to the left spell SUMMER. Shuffle the order of the words so the same diagonal spells WARMER.



## PYRAMID PUZZLE

**ORANGE**

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Reduce the six-letter word "orange" to the **left** by one letter at each descending step so each step makes a new word.

To the **right**, descend the stairs by adding one letter to the "O" at each step to make a new word.

**O**

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Solution to Pyramid Puzzle: ORANGE, range, rang, ran, an, a, O, on, one, tone, stone.

Solution to Word Shuffle: waiter, camera, sorely, flames, stolen, muster