

Sunday, November 5, 2023

Scripture Reading: Joshua 3:7-17

If you win without sacrifice you enjoy it, but it's more satisfying when you have struggled. —Andres Iniesta

In his book, *My People Is the Enemy: An Autobiographical Polemic*, William Stringfellow, a graduate of Harvard Law School, reveals that he spent much of his professional life working in the East Harlem Protestant Parish in New York City. His congregation was the very poorest of the poor as he advocated for them in their struggles against injustice.

He did this out of a deep sense of Christian vocation. In his own words: “I came to Harlem to live, to work there as a lawyer, to take some part in the politics of the neighborhood, to be a layman in the church there.”

Seven years later, he was at a gathering of Harvard alumni. A dean of the law school, who had just been examining some statistics about the law school’s graduates, complained to Stringfellow that by working with the poor, he was dragging down the average income of his graduating class!

The dean was working with different metrics, rubrics and standards of success than was Stringfellow! Jesus understood life to be about sacrifice, not success, and Stringfellow followed Jesus, not the culture.

The co-founder of Habitat for Humanity had a similar understanding. Millard Fuller was a successful businessman, but after his wife, Linda, left him, he realized that his material wealth was blocking him from serving God. After a tearful reconciliation, they set out to serve the Lord. Friends, family and even pastors tried to talk them out of it, but Fuller told them no. “If I think about it, I won’t do it,” he said, “because it’s not logical. But I believe that God is calling us to do this.”

You know the rest of the story. Tens of thousands of people are building equity in homes thanks to the vision of one man and his wife who understood what a life of sacrifice can accomplish.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for being the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep. Show me how I might live more sacrificially and unselfishly. In your name. Amen.

*Prayerfully on All Saints Sunday,
Liz & Pastor Ben Metz*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 23-24

Monday: Acts 25-26

Tuesday: Ephesians 1-2

Wednesday: Ephesians 3

Thursday: Philippians 1-2

Friday: Philippians 3-4

Saturday: Psalms 130-131

VERSE TO REMEMBER

*For to me, living is
Christ and dying is
gain.*

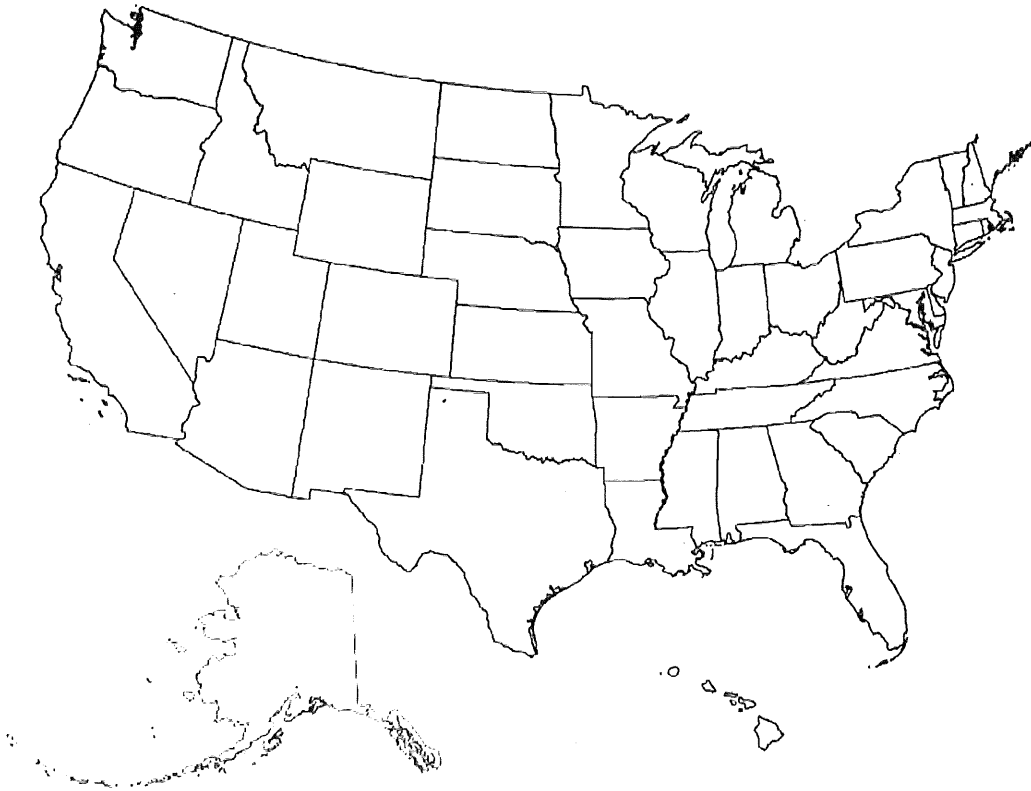
—Philippians 1:21



Can You Name the Neighbors?

Directions: What two states are tied for the most borders they share?

Can you name the neighboring states? Try not to look at the answers below. Use this area for notes.



Answers: Tie. First: what state borders Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri? Answer: Tennessee. Second, what state borders Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska? Answer: Missouri.