

peace be with you

# weekly devotional

from the desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler  
SAINT PAUL BENSON

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## MARVELOUS MIRACLES

Have you ever imagined what it must be like to race a bobsled on an ice-covered track or gracefully leap, then twirl, while on a pair of skates to cheers of the crowd?

We can make believe what it must be like to be the toughest on the hockey rink or somersaulting in the air while on a snowboard. Such acts are dizzying indeed!

How mesmerizing it is to observe one incredible feat after another as this year's winter Olympic athletes show off the potential of the human body.

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## **Luke 6: 27-38** **(The Message)**

<sup>27-30</sup> “To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer for that person. If someone slaps you in the face, stand there and take it. If someone grabs your shirt, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it. If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more payback. Live generously.

<sup>31-34</sup> “Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that.

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## MARVELOUS MIRACLES

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I like to picture Jesus placing a gold, silver, or bronze medal about our necks when time and again we refrain from vengeance when hurt and demonstrate unmerited kindness and love.

There are times that the depth of forgiveness seems practically impossible and I cannot grasp how the people's lives were put back together again. Is this less a miracle than scoring the winning hockey goal?

Dear one, what marvels will God initiate in your phenomenal life this moment in time and space? What will the response be to respond in Spirit's Compassionate Love?

## The Golden Rule

This scripture from Luke includes the Golden Rule. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" is the version I learned in Sunday School as a child. It has no less meaning today than it did back then. Now it is easy to see that if individuals live by this rule that Jesus gave the people of his time, the world could be transformed for the better.

## **Luke 6: 27-38**

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If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? Garden-variety sinners do that. If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that's charity? The stingiest of pawnbrokers does that.

<sup>35-36</sup> "I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind.

Receiving the Valentine postcard in the mail was a delight! "Whoooo loves you? Your Saint Paul family loves you." More than being fun to receive something other than address labels and bills in the mail, it makes me feel good to be reminded that our church is like a family. We welcome, accept, and forgive one another. Through prayer, we are connected as sisters and brothers in Christ to a God that loves us more than we can imagine.

*Open your hearts and allow God to love you,*

*Marta*

Rev. Marta Wheeler