



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast*

*August 13, 2023*

*"Blind Faith"*

+ *"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1, NIV)*

+ *"So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." (Romans 1:17, NRSVUE)*

+ *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Ps 119:105, NRSVUE)*

### **The Power of Parable**

Jesus taught in parables, and people didn't always get it. That's because parables challenge us to go beyond what is just on the surface. Our longer readings in Chapel this week (from Hebrews 11 and Matthew 7 and 17) touch on two themes: anchoring our lives and faith. Pretty big topics! But we have a modern parable to help us zero in on a small piece of anchoring and faith: "Blind Faith." For this we will use a modern parable written by C.E. Davis, a Christian writer and columnist, who introduces us to the theme of "Blind Faith" vs. "Wishful Thinking."

### **"The Mower in the Dark"**

*"Behold, a mower went out to mow his lawn a little while before night, and alas, he had not finished. However, he continued to mow his grass in the dark against the dim half-crescent moonlight that shone, and a nearby streetlight. To his dismay, he realized his lack of vision would hinder the aesthetic of the yard, yet he knew he needed to finish. He pressed on. Ultimately guided by his sense of pride, he squinted to follow the tracks in the dark that his mower was leaving, to not mow over the same area twice. After a while, he settled on the hope that even with lack of visibility he would be able to see a nice, manicured lawn in the morning."*

### **What is the Parable's Message?**

Now, we might see the mower as someone having faith, "blind faith." (unwavering trust or belief in something or someone without relying on evidence) After all, the Scriptures tell us: *"We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor 5:7, NRSVUE)*. Yet, when we read this story deeply, we see that the mower had no guarantees, no anchors, no foundations, for his "faith" in a good outcome. He possessed nothing besides belief in his own fuzzy vision and determined focus on the task at hand. This man's faith was truly blind, and in actuality, it wasn't faith at all, but merely wishful thinking.

### **This Parable's Challenge**

This parable challenges us to examine our own faith: is it founded on self-reliance or anchored on God's word and guided by God's light? Does our walk by Blind Faith help us persevere through hardships? Or are we guided by wishful thinking? After all, that is how we should read Jesus' parables: as challenges to us. What is this parable calling you to do?

*--God's Peace be with you! Vance*

**Prayer box:** let us pray for James' soul and his grieving family and friends; for those struggling in their relationships; for those struggling with addiction; for those suffering from extreme weather; let us be grateful for the support from the Raquette Lake Community! Lord, hear our prayer!