4/1/20 - Fools

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. — 1 Cor. 1:18-25

Our family isn't really one for April Fools. Rarely have we used the day for tricks or pranks, and never have we expended much energy on them. I know many who do, who put a LOT of energy into pulling the best prank of the year, who then glory in that title for the next 364 days only to be outdone the next year. It's almost like a sport for some, but not a sport we play in our family.

Since yesterday's video blog about the Valley of Dry Bones, I've been listening to my old Michael Card songs on Spotify. His "Valley of Dry Bones" is still one of my favorites, and it stuck in my head after yesterday's taping. Another of his songs I've loved is "God's Own Fool", speaking of Jesus. No, not heresy, but scripture! Using 1 Cor. 1:25, he sings about following Jesus and the seeming foolishness of it. Because it really doesn't make much sense if taken seriously. "I follow a guy who 2000 years ago gathered a small following of virtual nobodies, taught a variation of Judaism which was seen as heretical enough to get him killed. Then hundreds of witnesses claimed to have encountered him, that He rose from the dead, and that His teachings were all true. Now all we have to do it follow His ways, develop a relationship with this guy we can't see, and we all get eternal life. Oh, and there is no proof of any of this except a book.

Well, yeah. That's about it.

I can see how so many people have ignored this as foolishness at best, insanity at worst. It really does sound pretty foolish to those who aren't Jews and pretty heretical to those who are. Until, that is, you meet Him.

You see, we aren't worshiping a book. We aren't worshiping an idea. We're worshiping a man, a living man, and once you meet Him, everything changes. Just ask Peter. Just ask Paul. Just ask me or anyone else with a relationship with Jesus. We meet Him through the pages of scripture and through the Holy Spirit. We meet Him in prayer and in serving with others who believe. We meet Him in those we serve, those we do life with.

Foolishness, you say? You're right. It sounds downright ridiculous. So come and meet Jesus with us, and join us fools following God's own fool into eternity.

Questions to ponder:

- Have you ever felt foolish for believing in Jesus?
 How do you deal with just how foolish our faith can sound to those who don't know Jesus?