

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for July 2022**

Web Site



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Grand Commanders Message

Greetings, Sir Knights:

I hope everyone has a safe and Happy 4th of July. As we celebrate the independence of our Great Nation, with family and friends. Let us remember the men who led the struggle against oppression and tyranny, but more importantly we should remember who they relied upon to supply their daily bread. As they relied on the Great Creator for their physical and spiritual needs, so should we continue that reliance upon the “Great, I AM”. Over the past two months we have discussed two of the six distinct characteristics, Integrity and Humility, of servant leaders. We continue the discussion with the third characteristic of Flexibility.

FLEXIBILITY

I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. — Philippians 4:12-13 (NLT)

Servant leaders must be flexible — they are able to adjust to their circumstances and surroundings. They acknowledge that life can put them into unforeseen situations or challenges.

But instead of letting those unexpected developments to cause anger, confusion or panic, servant leaders recognize that God is omnipresent in everything. They are willing to practice flexibility and encourage change for a better understanding of their experiences whether it be moral, spiritual, or philosophical.

It is very easy to get stuck in a routine, with the mindset of one way to get anything done. But a servant leader’s strength is to recognize change for what it is — an opportunity for personal growth and a deepening of one’s faith.

Sir Knights, as we continue through this Templar year I pray for the blessings and peace of our Lord over your lives.

In His Service,
SK James R. Taylor, Jr.
R.: E.: Grand Commander



The 39th Holy Land Pilgrimage

Sir Knights, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. has announced their intentions to send 60 ordained Christian Ministers on the 39th Holy Land Pilgrimage in February 2023! This is great news and we encourage all Commanderies to submit the names of Ministers to be considered for this very special trip.

The mission of the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage is “to send Ordained Christian Ministers on a Biblical study and historical, cultural immersion experience who would not have the opportunity otherwise.” This program is intended for 1st time pilgrims and if a Minister has previously traveled as part of this program, they are not eligible to be considered. ‘Gate 1 Travel’ has reserved places for two (2) groups of 25+ for the 2023 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. The dates that have been secured are February 6-16, 2023 and February 20 - March 2, 2023. It is an 11 day program that covers as much ground as possible in the touring days.

The trip averages about 5-7 miles of walking on several days and includes uneven terrain and up/downhill surfaces. If your Commandery has a potential Minister-Pilgrim that you feel is able to travel and take part in the activities please submit your nomination forms as soon as you can to SK Mark McFadden at mrfixit74403@suddenlink.net .

The cutoff for submissions is 1 July 2022. For more information please refer to General Order No. 5 series 2022-2023 which also includes the nomination form. May our Lord and Savior continue to Bless us All!

In Service to our Knights,
SK Glen A. Chaney, Eminent Grand Generalissimo



Suspicion

Galatians 5:15-17

If the truth were known, there's a secret "detective spirit" in most of us. With the best of the paperback and television detectives, we vicariously probe for motives, analyze the evidence, and ponder the killer's next move. Our curiosity forces us to investigate things that are just slightly irregular.

Even a child is known to pry deeper because of a built-in bent to inquire. It often leads to danger, but nobody would deny that that inquisitive nature is proof of a keen (often creative) mind. As growth occurs,

this desire to question and challenge increases . . . often exasperating lazy-minded adults and easily threatened parents. While I would agree that it *can* be overdone, I am nevertheless convinced that Curiosity and Challenge are the healthy twins in the Discernment family. They are dressed alike until they grow up and become more refined and distinct.

But there is a difference between the expressions of discernment and raw suspicion. The difference may be veiled, but it is real. It lies in the realm of motive. Suspicion is the act of suspecting something wrong without proof or evidence. It is mistrust . . . doubt . . . skepticism . . . extreme or negative caution.

Curiosity sees a cast on a leg and asks, "What happened?" Suspicion wonders if *anything* happened.

Curiosity listens to a speaker and thinks, "How did he come up with that—what's his technique?" Suspicion doubts the validity of the statement or the motive of the speaker . . . or *both*.

Curiosity observes an irregularity and challenges simply, "Why?" Suspicion entertains the immediate idea, "What's wrong here? Who's to blame—who's at fault?"

Curiosity analyzes with neutral, unprejudiced wisdom while suspicion frowns and looks for deception and subterfuge. Curiosity listens to logic, common sense, and reason . . . suspicion looks for something hidden, something held back.

Both curiosity and suspicion may be terribly persistent, but one stays with the facts while the other strays beyond the facts—and in so doing, develops *without* the facts.

It was with commendable curiosity Moses investigated the burning bush in the Midian desert:

"I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up." (Exodus 3:3)

But it was with an entirely different spirit Saul observed David in the king's court:

Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on. (1 Samuel 18:9)

What a remarkable contrast!

Moses saw and then couldn't imagine . . . Saul imagined and then couldn't see.

—SUSPICION BURNS US—

Moses's investigation resulted in hearing God . . . Saul's imagination resulted in condemning David.

—SUSPICION BURNS US—

Moses turned aside because a bush kept burning . . . Saul changed within because *he* kept burning.

—SUSPICION BURNS US—

Curiosity and suspicion may look similar, but one leads to life and one leads to death.

SK Steven Cox EGP



**Muskogee Inspection Order of the Temple
Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation for their generous donation to
the Knights Templar Eye Foundation**



**Oklahoma Knights Templars represented in Memorial Day Ceremonial at
the 45th Infantry Division Museum**