



August is here and the race meet at Ruidoso Downs is drawing to a close – its' 61st season of racing.

This concludes my 7th year as chaplain. I have made many friends and have a love for this hardworking group of men and women and their families. Many of the patrons in the stands have, also, become close.

As I prepare devotions for the jockeys and gate crew, sermons for Sunday service and Bible studies for Wednesday night, I keep in mind the responsibility of a minister of the Gospel. A clear message from a pure heart to people you truly care for. A personal challenge that has matured

me and taught me to be compassionate and kind (even when I don't always feel like it!).

Maybe Jesus didn't always feel like it. In fact, on the night before He was to be crucified, He asked to be spared the suffering. Realizing the necessity, He asked for the Father's will to be done.

We will never face such a situation, but we do face crisis in our lives. Do we show great faith and great character? As followers of Christ – believers – the Father's will is non-negotiable.

Love those who hate you. Show kindness to even your enemies. Be gentle in the midst of persecution.

Even if you don't feel like it!

We sent 10 kids to camp this summer, had a campout, sleepover at the chapel, Racehorse Hall of Fame trip, and school supply giveaway party.

Our summer has passed quickly. I will travel some to Hobbs and El Paso in the fall and winter to keep up with everyone.

In the book of John, the people asked Jesus what must we do to do the work of God. Jesus said, "Believe in the One He has sent."

Make this your quest – true belief, true faith in the Son of God.