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## Viewpoints

*Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.*

### A Brush with Bees? ~ October 5, 2013

*God blesses us even when we don't remember that he does.*

[Online Version & Archive](#)

Not long ago I was out for a jog. My footfalls strayed enough so that I brushed into a large bush. Something small jettisoned out of the bush. Maybe it was a moth- some bug suddenly roused from sleep?

And on I went with my jog. No big deal. Right? But what if that was the wrong bush to unsettle? What if bees or hornets were living in that bush when I whacked their little world?

*Full disclosure*, as they say. When I brushed into that bush I instinctively held whatever breath I had in my lungs and forcefully exhaled through my nose. That's a defensive move I learned when I was eight years old and witnessed a Lutheran Pioneer leader brush into a bush on an Arizona hiking trail. From it emerged some angry wasps, a couple of which he inhaled up his nose. When you're that young and you see a big, strong man cry in pain, and your group's hike is aborted in order to speed the wounded to the nearest medical facility... well, now you know why I instinctively reacted the way I did.

I know, I know. What are the chances that something similar would happen when out for a little jog? Yet who would have thought that an experienced mountain climber would be stung... to death? Along with his faithful dog companion. (Other climbers on an earlier day escaped the bees, barely.)

And of course you've heard of what's been happening in central China. Some 41 have been killed by wasps. Another 37 are in critical condition in the hospital and "hundreds have suffered from anaphylactic shock and renal failure."

In my narrow thinking, I was concerned about not being stung, and my jog being ruined. In my narrow thinking I never even considered the danger of an allergic reaction and anaphylactic shock.

And that's my point: my narrow thinking, and your narrow thinking. In our narrow thinking we fail to realize the myriad of ways that God on a daily basis keeps danger from us, as he gives one good gift after another. And he's so gracious about it! My Maker doesn't preserve us because we pried this from him by our incessant thanksgiving and recognitions of all his good gifts. *Full disclosure*: I'm lousy at recognizing his grace and blessings in my everyday life. Yet he continues to pour them out, for the sake of his Son Jesus who lived and died in my

place, and in your place. At least we have the Apostles Creed to remind us that we could never begin to thank our Creator and Preserver for all he does for us on a daily basis. Aren't you glad that through Jesus' sacrifice at the cross, he's given us eternal life, and with it, many, many, many days to thank him for all his goodness that we failed to recognize while on earth?

Martin Luther: "This article [of the Creed], 'I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,' [describes how] I am a creation of God, that is, He gave me and continuously preserves for me my body, soul and life, my bodily members great and small... He also daily protects and defends us against all evil and misfortune, turning aside danger and mishap of every sort... It would take many words to describe in detail how few there are who believe this article. For all of us skim over it, hear it and recite without recognizing and considering what duty and privilege this article lays on us.... [For] every time we escape from distress or danger, we should realize that this is a gift and act of God... so that we may look into his fatherly heart and sense how boundlessly He loves us." -*The First Article, Luther's Large Catechism*

Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)

[Climber Found Dead from Bee Stings](#) @ Climbing.com

[Killer hornets: Deadly insects leave 41 dead and 1,600 injured](#) @ Independent.com

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*Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz*

