

--- River's Edge Echo ---

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May 2022

New Sermon Series on 'Holy Spirit'

On May 1, I will be kicking off a six week sermon series on the Holy Spirit. The series will conclude on June 5, which will be Pentecost Sunday. The idea came to me while reading Dane Ortlund's book, *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Suffers*. In that book he spends a chapter looking at the working of the Holy Spirit – the third part of the Trinity.

I feel the Holy Spirit often is neglected in the church. The Bible is full of references to God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ. However, we have to search for the Holy Spirit. In the third chapter of John's gospel, Jesus compares the Holy Spirit to the wind. We can feel it, but we would be hard pressed to explain where it starts and where it goes. If I needed to provide proof that the Holy Spirit is overlooked, my first exhibit would be the liturgical calendar. Out of the 365 days of the year, there is only one day when the liturgical color is red – the color representing the Holy Spirit.

Changing the subject, I want to point out that we always need volunteers. While we often mention in the announcements the need, with summer coming and people going on vacation, the need will increase. There are many ways we can do our part. We frequently announce the need for liturgists and people to serve refreshments for fellowship after church services. We also now need two people to be ushers each Sunday. One area that does not get advertised a lot is the need for performing artist. With the absence of the choir, the need for volunteers in this area is increased. While we often think of people who can sing for this position, as we have seen recently people who write or read poetry can be used. Also, if you play an instrument that too can be a way to bring glory to God. I am sure there are other ways as well.

—*Blessings, Pastor Steve*

Sermon passages for the month of May:

May 1—John 3:1-15

May 8—1 Corinthians 12:1-11 **Happy Mother's Day**

May 15—Galatians 5:16-22 May 22—Romans 8:1-17

May 29—Romans 8:22-27



When God Created Mothers . . .

When the good Lord was creating mothers He was into His sixth day of "overtime" when the angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And the Lord said, "Have you read the specs on this order?"

She has to be completely washable, but not plastic; have 180 moveable parts . . . all replaceable; run on black coffee and left-overs; have a lap that disappears when she stands up; a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair; and six pairs of hands.

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands . . . no way."

"It's not the hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord. "It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel.

The Lord nodded. "One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, 'What are you kids doing in there?'" when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know, and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say, 'I understand and I love you' without so much as uttering a word."

"Lord," said the angel, touching His sleeve gently, "Come to bed. Tomorrow . . ."

"I can't," said the Lord, "I'm too close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick . . . can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger . . . and can get a nine-year-old to stand under a shower."

The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. "It's too soft," she signed.

"But tough!" said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure."

"Can it think!" "Not only think, but it can reason and compromise," said the Creator.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek. "There's a leak, she pronounced. "I told You, You were trying to put too much into this model."

"It's not a leak," said the Lord, "it's a tear."

"What's it for?"

It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride."

"You are a genius," said the angel.

The Lord looked somber. "I didn't put it there."—*Erma Bombeck*
—submitted by *Gloria Rakness*

Adult Bible Study

We took a couple Sunday mornings off for Holy Week and resumed our study of Psalms on April 24th. We are nearly at the end of the Psalter and will complete our study early in May.

If you have a Book of the Bible that you would like to explore with others that enjoy learning about man's relationship with God, join us in the next few Sundays and help us choose where our study takes us next. We meet almost every Sunday morning at 8:15, the coffee is generally on, and we would love to have you join our group.—submitted by *Sonja Collamer*

DEACONS' DOINGS

Thanks to everyone who donated food and/or helped serve at Marty Perue's memorial luncheon. We served approximately 60 people and took some leftovers to the Perue household. We all needed some time to share stories and visit with family members!

The Deacons met after worship on Sunday April 10, 2022. On May 1st, the Deacons will be selling packages of hand-made, all-occasion, black & white greeting cards. There will be 12 packages with 6 cards in each for \$6.00. These will be available in the Narthex. An envelope will be provided to leave your money in for the purchasing of the cards.

A new sub-committee has been established, named "Gather at the Table". Herm Strickland will be the chair-

Ways to contact Pastor Steve

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man; Lori Erhart will be the secretary; Cindy Kessler will be the treasurer; and Becky Strickland will be in charge of fund raising. They hope to have their first free dinner by the end of July or August. They are hoping to address those with food insecurity issues and fellowship issues.

In the kitchen cupboard labeled dishes/cups, there is a sheet for list of supplies needed, such as napkins, dishwasher soap, garbage bags, etc. If you see the church is running low on needed supplies, write it on the list and the Deacons will purchase what is needed.

The Deacons are discussing congregational care and guidelines to be put in place. If you have any ideas of how we could do more to help our shut-ins, ill members, care center patients, etc., please share those ideas with the Deacons.

Since our next meeting date falls on Mother's Day, we decided to meet after worship on Sunday, May 15, 2022. As always, if you have any ideas or comments for us, please talk to one of the Deacons. We always welcome your input!—submitted by Anne Wickstrom & Susan Col-lamer

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY & JOYOUS SPRING!

Prayer Chain No. is 326-3369

The Third Beatitude: Blessed Are the Meek... Continued

Before we go on to think about what it means to "inherit the earth," remember that all the beatitudes describe characteristics of citizens of the kingdom of Heaven. Meekness or humility is *one* of those characteristics. When we read "blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth," do not think it means that *only* the meek "shall inherit the earth" and that the "poor" or "those who mourn" get *other* rewards. We cannot single out meekness as the sole criterion for inheriting the earth – all God's people will!

The characteristics of the beatitudes are all-encompassing. As we have seen, the poor in spirit mourn for their sins. They are meek and humble. Next time, we will see that these kingdom citizens are hungry and thirsty for righteousness. Logical, isn't it? Those who are poor in spirit, who mourn for their sins, and are meek and humble would naturally would "hunger and thirst for righteousness."

The benefits—or blessings—of these characteristics extend to every citizen of God's kingdom. To *all* belongs the kingdom of heaven. *All* are comforted as they mourn for their sins. *All* who are meek and humble will inherit the earth. *All* who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled. And so on. We will cover the rest of the beatitudes in coming months. But for now, what does it mean to "inherit the earth"?

It depends somewhat on whether you were a Hebrew in ancient Palestine or if you are a present-day Christian. Some Bible scholars (and websites) say that when Jesus said that the meek will inherit the earth, He was referring to Psalm 37:9 (NIV), which says: "...those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land." The website "understandingthebiblecommonmisconceptions.com" says: "By referencing Psalm 37, Jesus is...specifically telling the Israelites about their inheritance [the Holy Land]."

The article clarifies: "The land in Psalm 37 is undoubtedly [sic] referring to God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 17:8 NIV, 'The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.' God uses similar language when he tells Joshua to 'Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them' (Joshua 1:6 NIV)."

The modern Christian viewpoint is that we will "inherit the earth" when we return with Christ for His 1000-year reign on earth. (See Revelation 20). Annette Griffin, at Biblestudytools.com, noted: "Not only do the meek enjoy more of life on earth **because of their ability to be content**, but they will possess and enjoy the earth after Jesus' return..." [Emphasis added] In either view, the operative word (and quality) is *meekness*, among the characteristics of citizens of God's Kingdom.

—Virginia Senne

