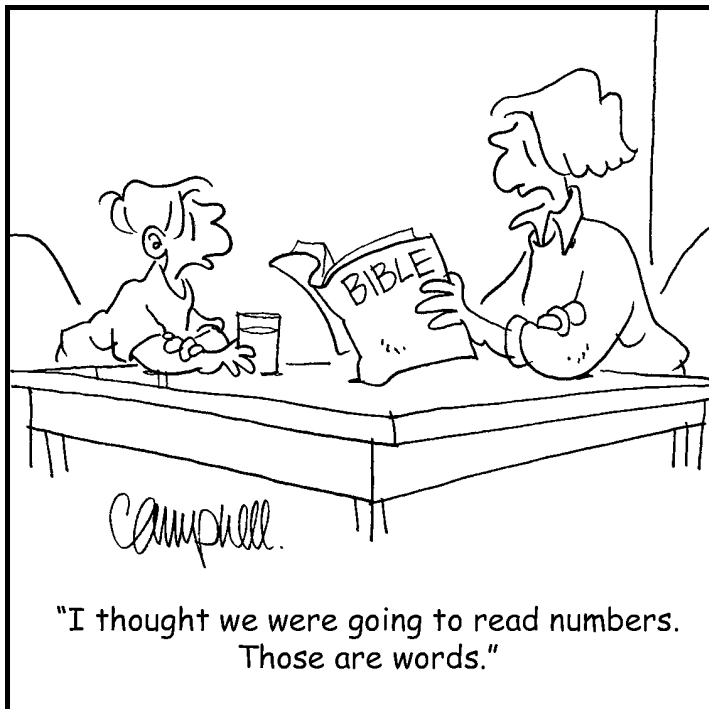


Sunday May 5 through Sunday May 12

- Pastor Robert continues his sermon series and today's sermon will focus on the blessing of mourning that brings comfort.
- UMYF will not be meeting tonight. Everyone is invited to come take part in MEOC's Walk-a-thon at Bullitt Park at 2 pm.
- The study group for the second book in the Apprentice Series will begin Monday night at the Parsonage at 6:30.
- The Ugly Mug Study Group will be meeting Tuesday morning at 11.
- The NOW Team will be meeting Tuesday evening at 7.
- Bible Study will be Wednesday at 6 pm
- Choir Practice will be at 7 Wednesday evening.
- Next Sunday, Pastor Robert will focus on becoming Jesus' Blessing on Earth.
- ENJOY MOTHER'S DAY. NO UMYF.
- The Administrative Board will be meeting next Sunday evening at 7 pm.



This WEEK at Trinity

OFFICE: (276) 523-0789

trinityumc.bsg@gmail.com

Sunday May 5

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship

Monday May 6

11:30 am—AARP
6:30 pm—2nd part Apprentice Series
begins
7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

Tuesday May 7

11:00 am—Ugly Mug Study Group
7:00 pm—NOW Team Meeting

Wednesday May 8

6:00 pm—Bible Study
7:00 pm—Choir Practice

Thursday May 9

NO SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Friday May 10

9:00 am—MEOC

Saturday May 11

NO SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday May 12

Mother's Day

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
7:00 pm—Administrative Board

The Blessing in Mourning

Jesus is fully human, fully God, and always led by the Holy Spirit. Therefore we may experience God as One but always through three revelations. In today's text, Jesus says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Let's look at the three revelations of God in Jesus' Be-Attitude.

Western culture loves to think and reason with dualism. Dualism means two things. One to be kept and the other to be rejected. The fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil turns the power of choice into the power of sin and evil. The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil deceives us into judging all things into one of two things: right or wrong, good or evil, human or spiritual. To understand the Beatitudes, we must deny ourselves such judgement.

For example, dualistic judgement looks at each Beatitude and segregates Jesus words into three parts.

1. Blessed
2. Mourning
3. Comfort

Blessed and Comfort we judge as good. Mourning means something bad has happened.

Try dropping the judgement to see how these three words form ONE attitude that reflects the image of God.

1. To Bless means to Be Happy.
2. Mourning means to grieve.
3. Comfort means to be free from distress. To be in a state of peace.

Imagine how Happy we would be to find Jesus with us when we mourn. This child like imagination is exactly what Jesus calls faith. Faith in Jesus Christ requires us to deny our judgements. Jesus speaks of this faith as being "the size of a mustard seed" or the "little faith" Peter had when he sunk beneath the waves upon which he walked.

Faith requires us to "repent." To repent means we have reached the end of our ways and have turned to God's one true way. What Jesus calls the Kingdom of Heaven/God means "the rule of God." Living according to God's rule means we live in a world of suffering filled with faith in Jesus Christ and because this is our truth, we live as though we are already with God in Heaven. Therefore, we live in the Kingdom of Heaven, even NOW!

A disciple lives under the "rule of God."

Another way to imagine faith, the Kingdom of Heaven, or "the rule of God" is to look at what we believe. Each week we say, "Jesus suffered under Pontus Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. On the third day he rose from the dead."

Therefore, Jesus knows the grief caused by suffering. Listen to Him mourn as He prays in the Garden of Gethsemane. He also knows the blessing of Easter morning. My child like imagination sees a blessed smile on His face while he speaks to Mary. His blessedness comforts Mary's mourning!!! Notice that following His resurrection Jesus appears to His disciples. He appears and offers them Peace. He offers them His Peace. The peace he made with sin and death. Friends, this is the Good News Message we are called to speak with our mouths and deliver through our actions.

Those who wait shall give an answer on the day of judgment. Many call Him Lord, Lord. They claim to know Him. The test of salvation is does He know you. (Matthew 7)

Invitation to Discipleship:

- We know that grief reveals the nature of our love. At Lazarus' tomb, Jesus wept. The crowd said, "See how he loved him?" Why would our grief regarding sin be any different. Mourning signifies our awareness of separation from God. Mourning is prayer, even without words, that ask God to come comfort us.

- Where is God calling you to apply this Be-Attitude?

- The Gospel indeed calls us to change. What must you do to change from judgement to faith?

- What must you do to get out of the pew and walk on the waters of life? Peter, ask. Jesus called. Peter "tested the waters" of salvation to walk where Jesus walked. Peter learned to trust Jesus for salvation in the moment. He didn't wait for judgement day.

One in Christ,
Robert