

Sunday May 12 through Sunday May 19

- Pastor Robert will focus on becoming Jesus' Blessing on Earth.
- ENJOY MOTHER'S DAY. NO UMYF.
- The Administrative Board has been rescheduled for next Sunday **May 19th** at 7 pm.
- The Parsonage Study Group will meet tomorrow evening at 6:30 pm.
- Tuesday morning at 11 am the study group will be meeting at the Ugly Mug.
- Pastor Robert will lead Wednesday night's bible study at 6 pm.
- Choir practice will be Wednesday evening at 7 pm.
- UMM will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning beginning at 7 am and ending at 10 am.
- Pastor Robert will continue his study of the Beatitudes .
- Immediately following service next Sunday, there will be a Benefit Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Carry out meals will be available.



"Mom — you deserve a raise for raising me."

This WEEK at Trinity

OFFICE: (276) 523-0789

trinityumc.bsg@gmail.com

Sunday May 12

Mother's Day

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

Monday May 13

- 6:30 pm—Parsonage Study Group
- 7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

Tuesday May 14

- 11:00 am—Ugly Mug Study Group

Wednesday May 15

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

Thursday May 16

NO SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Friday May 17

- 9:00 am—MEOC

Saturday May 18

- 7:00 am—UMM Pancake Breakfast

Sunday May 19

- 10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
- 12:30 pm—Benefit Spaghetti Luncheon
- 5:00 pm—UMYF
- 7:00 pm—Administrative Board

Blessed are the Humble

A sign hangs above the door in my office. It reads, "Courage is Also what it Takes to Sit and Listen." Today's passage also offers such wisdom. Jesus says, "Blessed are the meek/humble, for they shall inherit the earth!"

Culture teaches us to believe that courage calls us to defeat our enemies. Jesus teaches disciples to love their enemies! Culture teaches what the Bible calls the Way of the World. Jesus teaches us to live in the World with our feet planted firm on the Earth from which God created us and filled us with the fullness of His Presence.

The culture of Jesus' era believed that only the healthy and wealthy with a large family were blessed. Therefore, poverty, disease, and barrenness were the results of sin. Furthermore, they held that poverty, disease, and barrenness proved that God cursed the sinner. Hear the Good News: Christ has DIED! Christ is Risen! Christ will come again! Seen from Christ's perspective, humility is courage we need to sit and listen to our enemies.

It takes courage to sit at Jesus' feet, listen, and learn how to hold the blessing of the Kingdom of God and the judgment of this world together as one. For the eternal -life of us, too few believers have eyes to see Jesus' Be-Attitudes lying dormant in addiction, affliction, hate... We are quick to tell people to change, but slow to help them hear Christ for themselves.

Blessing: The Old and New Testaments describe God's blessing in terms of being favored. The Christmas story reveals the power of humility. Mary comes from poverty. God's favor places her in jeopardy of being stoned to death. Through Mary we learn that being favored means that God fills people, like us, with the fullness of God's presence. The Bible calls God's Presence in humanity Holy Spirit! (Read Genesis 1 and 2.) God breathed the fullness of God's self into humankind. Never forget that God made us from the dust of the EARTH. This is why we inherit the earth, not the system of the world that rejects the "Corner Stone."

Next, Jesus invites us into the way of the world. The world teaches us to judge "the poor in spirit," "those who mourn," and "the meek or humble" as cursed by God. Now, sit at Jesus' feet and listen to the grand reversal. Those the world curse are God's favored! Those of you who have read "Good and Beautiful God" will recognize this grand rehearsal as awareness of a "false narrative." Jesus calls God's favored people "the kingdom of heaven," "comforted," and those who "inherit the earth." (It takes courage to take a stand on the earth that God used to make us in His image.) It takes humility to bless those who curse us. Such is the BE-Attitude of the Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Jesus teaches His disciples God's will! I hear Jesus telling me to bless those who believe God has cursed them. Of course, this requires the courage of Job. Job was seen as the blessed! He had health, wealth, and many children. Over night he went from being seen as the blessed to the cursed. At the end of the story, I hear God tell Job that he needs to be careful in choosing friends. What a friend we have in Jesus!

A true friend has the courage to sit and listen, to hear the story of our cursed life, and patiently walk with him or her till he or she hears the voice of God. The "blessed" experience God in all their heart, soul, and mind. Especially in the stuff counted as bad, evil, and sinful. (See Jesus on the Cross.) Discovering God's fullness in us is exactly what Mary understood to be highly favored by God.

It saddens me that people in the United Methodist Church use theology and doctrine to stone one another. I suppose this is what scripture means by "the stone the builders rejected." It deeply saddens me, but no longer surprises me. Hey, I get caught up in it too! Living in the world but not of the world may have been Paul's thorn in the flesh. I know it is mine! The world props up my flesh/ego. It cheers me on to prove I am right. Alas, I am listening to the wisdom of Job. He finally sat in sackcloth on ashes and mourned his poor spirit. His friends told him to curse God and die. Job, however, refused to be satisfied with the words of humanity. He had the courage to demand a conversation with God. God spoke! Job listened! And like Abram, Jacob, and Paul, he discovered that God was with him through it all. For to such as these God promises "the Kingdom of Heaven" on earth, "comforted" by God's presence, and at last the unction to stand on the earth proclaiming Christ to this world driven by the right to judge, condemn, and curse!

Be still...be still and listen to God...be still and know God through the BE-Attitudes of Christ Jesus our Lord!

One in Christ,

Robert