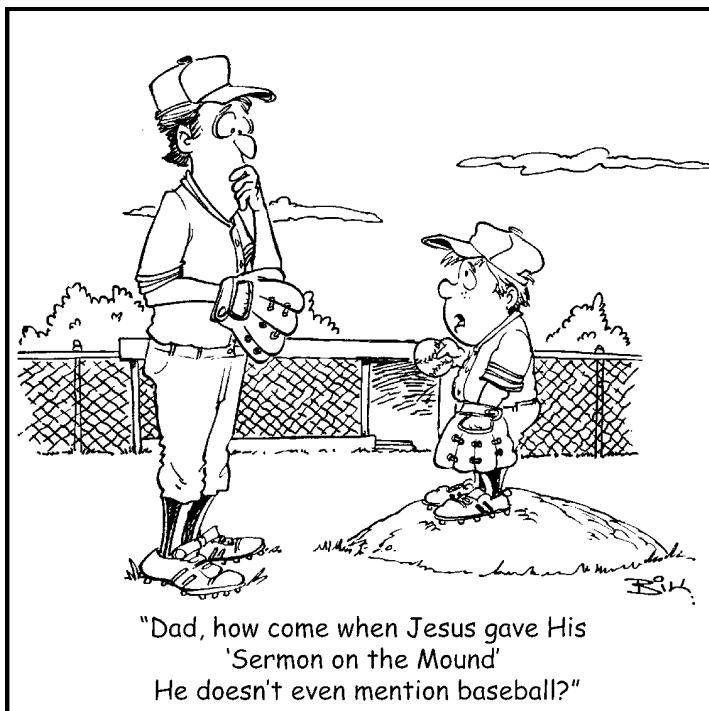


# Sunday May 26 through Sunday June 2

- Pastor Robert focuses on being merciful and being worthy of the measure that you receive.
- UMYF will be canceled this evening.
- Memorial Day—Parsonage Study Group will be meeting.
- Pastor Robert will be holding a study group at The Ugly Mug on Tuesday on 11 am.
- Bible Study will be Wednesday evening at 6 pm.
- Choir practice will be at 7 pm Wednesday evening.
- Saturday from 11 am until 1 pm there will be a wedding shower held in the Fellowship Hall in honor of Jesse Hagan and Morgan Pientka. Please RSVP to Nancy Toney
- Pastor Robert continues leading us to Galilee.
- Next Sunday there will be a Graduate Celebration Dinner immediately following communion service. Please stay to fellowship and celebrate our church family's graduates.



## This WEEK at Trinity

OFFICE: (276) 523-0789  
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### Sunday May 26

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship  
5:00 pm—UMYF canceled

### Monday May 27

*Memorial Day*

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

### Tuesday May 28

11:00 am—Ugly Mug Study Group

### Wednesday May 29

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

### Thursday May 30

NO SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

### Friday May 31

9:00 am—MEOC

### Saturday June 1

11:00 am—Hagan/Pientka Wedding Shower

### Sunday June 2

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship  
12:30 pm—Graduate Fellowship Dinner  
5:00 pm—UMYF

## Mercy

Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.

We need not look long at this passage to see its truth. The passage is a mirror! The merciful reflect the image of God. Mercy satisfies our hunger and thirst for "righteousness." Humility acts with Mercy and thereby reflects Christ in the World. Mercy purifies the heart and opens the eyes of the soul. As we shall see next week, the Pure in Heart see God!

Strong's Concordance defines mercy as compassion in action. Therefore, compassion leads to humility. Humility acts with mercy. It, indeed, includes forgiveness but accomplishes even greater things. Mercy transcends the moment. Mercy transports the Faithful into God's eternal presence. Yes, His presence, "the kingdom of heaven" that is Now and Coming. Mercy exudes patience, kindness, generosity, and hope. Such faith expresses unconditional love. The Merciful abides with the victim and the victimizer without insisting on her or his way. Such love reflects the Way of Christ.

At this juncture, we must look back at the Be-Attitudes. Let's say you meet a person who is "**poor in spirit.**" You take time to truly listen. You hear the "**mourning.**" Compassion says "I have been there." "I earned that merit badge." Compassion sees self in her neighbor. Jesus teaches that Compassion becomes mercy when loving-action begins. As James says, "Be not merely hearers of the word but also doers." Compassion hears the word. The Merciful do the same things as Christ Jesus.

Feeding the hungry and caring for physical needs reflects the temporal, worldly, nature of mercy. Presence reflects the eternal and Divine nature of the Kingdom of God. God's kingdom is Now but always Coming. It is always coming because we are called to always follow! Therefore, faith and mercy teach us how to live in the world but not of it. In other words, physical things never satisfy our soul's hunger and thirst for Spiritual Righteousness. Has the Church's blindness to the needs of the human soul contributed to addiction, depression, and poverty?

We must be very careful here. We must experience the difference between Empathy and Sympathy. Wisdom says that both Empathy and Sympathy see self in neighbor! Empathy sees her neighbor's pain and remembers the joy of being comforted. Sympathy sees his neighbors pain and finds unity in being co-victims.

The Me Too Movement, Black Lives Matter, MADD, AA, WCA, Progressive Movement... all represent Social Justice Movements. These movements are right and good. They raise awareness and unite people. But too often the victims' cry for righteousness turns the movement into a mob of victimizers. As Jesus says, "The measure you give is the measure you receive."

Dr King taught us how to transform victims into the merciful. Non-violent protest does more than raise awareness. Non-violent protest teaches people the Be-Attitude of the Humble. Dr. King taught how the Humble love neighbor as self. Dr. King's non-violent protests practice the personification of "the Fruit of the Spirit." What victim doesn't want to be treated with patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control?

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness "care-front" their victimizers. Dr. King says, "Punish me, I do not deserve it. But because I do not deserve it, I will accept it so that the world will know I am right and you are wrong." Therefore, the merciful bless those who curse them. Such Humility provides the victimizer an experience of the merciful and thinks to himself, "You know that this man is as good a man as you are; that from some mysterious source he has found the courage and the convictions to meet physical force with soul force." (Doctor Martin Luther King, *Why We Can't Wait*, page 30.)

As Bryan Smith says in *Good and Beautiful Life*, the goal of the Christian life is to get Heaven into us. Consider Dr. King's Ten Commandments of non-violent protest. Practice these daily. Experience God's Kingdom come. Experience God's will being done on earth as Heaven moves into you, me, and us!

1. **Meditate** daily on the teachings and life of Jesus.
2. **Remember** always that the non-violent movement...seeks justice and reconciliation --not victory.
3. **Walk** and Talk in a manner of love, for God is Love.
4. **Pray** daily to be used by God in order that all (People) might be free.
5. **Sacrifice** personal wishes in order that all (People) might be free.
6. **Observe** with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy.
7. **Seek** to perform regular service for others and the world.
8. **Refrain** from the violence of fist, tongue, or heart.
9. **Strive** to be in good spiritual and bodily health.
10. **Follow** the directions of the movement and of the captain of the demonstration. ( page 63-64, *Why We Can't Wait.*)

What would happen if we practiced non-violent protest at home, work, play, and especially when confronted by an enemy? Wouldn't we BE the Church? Isn't the Church a group of people who reflect the love of God as revealed through Jesus Christ? No wonder Jesus says, "Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me." At the cross, sin, death, and condemnation met The Merciful. You and I may be the only image of The Merciful our neighbors ever experience!

One in Christ,

Robert