



# grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

May 31- June 6, 2021

Sermon by Rev. Stephen Coleman

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon Title: *"The Good News of the Kingdom"*

Notes from sermon on 6/06:

To pray for this week:

### Family Focus Question

Where have you seen instances of God's peace, comfort, mercy and humility in your life and in the life of the church?

### Questions for Small Groups

- 1) 1) What does the Beatitudes teach you about God and Jesus?
- 2) Do you think the Beatitudes are indicative statements that testify to God's grace or are they imperatives, demanding obedient action?
- 3) How do you describe the kingdom of God?

### Monday, May 31: Read Matthew 5:1-12

Some exciting things have been happening at Reveille in the past few weeks. On Sunday, May 23, our youth wrapped up filming their virtual production of *Godspell, Jr*, which will livestream at selected times June 25-27. In preparation for this one-of-a-kind event, Reveille will embark on a short sermon series based on the teachings of Jesus, the major focus of *Godspell*.

This week, we start with what is arguably the most famous of Jesus's teachings, the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount, the first of five great discourses Jesus gives in the Gospel of Matthew. While these teachings may be familiar to us today, they are anything but simple, and it's hard to fathom just how radical they were in Jesus's day. Right in the beginning of his ministry, Jesus is turning the world upside down while still supporting and building on the ancient wisdom and truth found in the Hebrew scriptures. Here, Jesus is casting a vision of the Kingdom of God...one where all can receive the hope and comfort to endure through their struggles, both 2000 years ago and today. What is comforting and familiar about reading the Beatitudes today? What is still challenging and confusing?

## **Tuesday, June 1: Read Isaiah 61**

This ancient scripture from the prophet Isaiah predates Jesus's Sermon on the Mount by centuries, yet casts the same vision of a God who proclaims good news to the poor, binds up the brokenhearted, proclaims freedom for the captives, comforts those who mourn, provides hope to those in despair, and promises justice and reward for the wronged and the righteous. In the midst of the trials and tribulations faced by the ancient people of Israel at the time of Isaiah (war, exile, diaspora) the words of the prophet offered hope and joy. How desperately our world needs this same hope and comfort today. What difference could it make in the lives of so many we know and love if they knew God is noticing every hardship they endure and has a plan to heal and transform them? What difference could it make in our lives if we fully embraced this truth?

## **Wednesday, June 2: Read 1 Peter 5:1-7**

Today we get to fast forward in time from the Sermon on the Mount to see how Jesus's words were interpreted and implemented. God does not work in isolation to provide comfort, guidance, justice, hope, peace, and shepherding – God uses *us*. As we read in today's passage from 1 Peter, in order to help others, we need humility, compassion, selflessness, and faith so we are not overcome by anxiety, distractions, or our own ego and agenda. At the same time we are helping others, God supports us, asking us to "cast" our anxieties to God because God "cares for us." What could be a relationship between "casting our cares" on God and being "blessed" as described in the Beatitudes?

## **Thursday, June 3: Read Romans 14:13-21**

We turn today to this passage in Romans to examine a specific aspect of being a "peacemaker". Paul describes a serious threat to the unity of the early church – whether or not keeping kosher dietary laws was necessary for Christians. While Paul has a specific stance on the subject, he urges mutual respect and understanding, recognizing that believers need to follow their conscience and avoid being stumbling blocks to others in their faith. Where could we be better peacemakers within our own body of Christ? Within Reville itself? Could we show empathy and respect to those with different views on politics, mask wearing, and Biblical interpretation, allowing each member to follow their conscience and respect them for it? How could this attitude help heal the Methodist church and Christianity as a whole?

## **Friday, June 4: Read Psalm 15**

We read today's psalm as a bookend to the Beatitudes. The psalm starts with a question: "Who may enter the sacred tent?" After reading the description that follows, do any of us feel confident we would have been allowed in? These words are aspirational and certainly reflect the morals of the Beatitudes, and we can be ever-more grateful for the grace of God available to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ for the times we fail and the strength when we succeed. Let us all aspire to live the words of the Beatitudes and today's psalm, and know we are neither alone in our quest nor condemned (or qualified to condemn) when we fail. Let us all thank our Lord and Savior for giving us the example, the power, and the forgiving grace to aspire to build a kingdom such as this.

## **Saturday, June 5: Scripture Memorization: Isaiah 61:8**

"For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them." (NIV)

## **Sunday, June 6: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of**

**Common Confession:** *Almighty God, we confess that we are often swept up in the tide of our generation. We have failed in our calling to be your holy people, a people set apart for your divine purpose. We live more in apathy born of fatalism than in passion born of hope. We are moved more by private ambition than by social justice. We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice. We try to speak in your name without relinquishing our glories, without nourishing our souls, without relying wholly on your grace. Help us to make room in our hearts and lives for you. Forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.*