

Bring it Home

MONDAY: What Happened in Nazareth - - Read Luke 4:14-30. Notice that Jesus goes in the power of the Spirit. God is in control! As a visiting teacher, Jesus is asked to read from the ancient scroll; then He sits down to begin teaching. At first the people listening are amazed at Jesus' grace-filled words; what changes that? Pray you will never spurn Jesus but always be open to His words of truth.

TUESDAY: Jesus Is God's Truth! - - Read Luke 4:18-21 and 2 Corinthians 1:20. Though the people don't really grasp what Jesus means, they listen with amazement to His teaching until He suggests they will question His authority and anointing. Read Luke 4:22-30. Consider how we react when we hear God's words. Is it easy to embrace teachings that square with our expectations or more difficult to receive when we hear God speaking in ways we'd rather not hear?

WEDNESDAY : Surprised by the Familiar - - Are you more apt to accept truth from your family, friends, or a well-known Christian speaker? What is it about those who are familiar that often causes us to minimize their teaching, especially if it is challenging? Read Luke 4:21-30. Remember Jesus was raised in Nazareth, and knows the hearts of those listening. Do you ever refuse to hear truth from someone you know? Tell Jesus you will listen to any who speak God's truth.

THURSDAY: How Do We See Ourselves? - - The Jews knew they were chosen by God, but sometimes they forgot they were set apart for a purpose. Read Genesis 12:2; Exodus 34:10-11a. Was Israel chosen to bask in her privileged position or to fulfill God's plan for revealing God's heart? Do you see yourself as chosen? Meditate on Paul's words: "Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy..." (Ephesians 1:4 NLT).

FRIDAY: God's Love for the World - - Meditate on John 3:16. God's love is vast and inclusive, yet the Jews in Nazareth bristle when Jesus reminds them how God showed grace to Gentiles during the ministries of Elijah and Elisha. But before we condemn the exclusiveness of Jesus' Jewish audience, let's ask ourselves if we sometimes see others as beyond God's grace. Read John 3:16, and even though Christmas was a month ago, sing/pray, "Joy to the World."

SATURDAY: We Can't Put Jesus in the Boxes of Our Understanding - - Jesus says He is the one who brings good news to the poor, sight to the blind, freedom to the captive, release to the oppressed, and in Him God's favor is made manifest. Did the people understand; do we always understand Jesus? Meditate on Deuteronomy 29:29 and Isaiah 55:8-9. Do we try to define God and put God in the boxes of our understanding, or do we allow God to mold us (Isaiah 29:16)? Pray you will be God's moldable servant.

SUNDAY: What Will We Do with Jesus? - - Take a careful look at Luke 4:22-23. The people are surprised that a local carpenter's son speaks with such authority. They receive grace-filled words and longed-for miracles, but do they want Jesus, the Messiah, for who He is? Are we like the people in the synagogue; do we want Jesus' blessings and miracles, or do we want Jesus? Do we want the gifts or the Giver? Read John 6:25-48; tell Jesus you want Him above all else.

Familiarity Breeds

There's an old saying that you are probably very familiar with – "Familiarity breeds contempt." One way to explain that saying is to say that, the more we know someone, the more we know of their more hidden faults and idiosyncrasies. Another way of saying that – though it fits more the days of Downton Abbey than today – is: "No one is a hero to their valet."

These thoughts run in my mind whenever we read of Jesus's visit back to his hometown of Nazareth, which is featured in our Gospel lesson for today (Luke 4:14-21). It is not in the lesson itself, but right after Christ proclaimed that He would fulfill the Messianic prophecy – right after He proclaimed He was the Christ – the citizens of His hometown turned on Him.

We are reading from Luke, but Mark's version of this event (Mk. 6) is clearer in this respect. Mark quotes the townspeople: "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to Him? What deeds of power are being done by His hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not His sisters here with us?" Mark adds, "And they took offense at Him."

We can see here that the townspeople complain in part of Jesus that "we knew you when" – we knew You, Jesus, when You pooped in your diapers...we knew You when You stumbled and bumbled around the village...we knew You when You hammered the wood and repeatedly hit Your thumb...we knew You when You were sick and injured...we knew You when."

One gets a feeling, reading these texts, that the Nazarenes thought their boy had gotten too big for His britches. Of course envy is one of the easiest feelings to sneak up on someone.

That envy is best described in Luke, where Jesus replies, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in Your hometown the things that we have heard You did in Capernaum.'" It seems the Nazarenes were jealous that Jesus had moved away to Capernaum and had done marvelous miracles there instead of in Nazareth.

The Nazarenes were being overwhelmed by their bad feelings, blinding them to the joy they might feel instead with the Messiah in their midst. Jesus pointed out to them that familiarity not only breeds contempt, but blindness: "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." (Mk. 6:4)

There's a sadness in this saying – and a lesson for each of us. In pre-marital counseling I tell couples, "DO respect the other person. Always remember your spouse's best points, even when you don't like him or her at that moment." God has given us the people around us as a gift.

Instead of letting familiarity breed contempt, let your heart, guided by the Holy Spirit, guide our familiarity with others into breeding appreciation and contentment instead, as is fitting for people made in God's image and likeness.

-DLH-



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January 26-27, 2019

CONNECTIONS

Calendar

• Sunday, January 27

9:00 am Worship
9:00 am Gloryland
11:00 am Worship
5:15 pm Sr. High Youth

• Monday, January 28

6:00 pm Girl Scouts
6:30 pm Yoga

• Tuesday, January 29

5:30 pm Pilates/Sculpt
7:00 pm Boy Scouts

• Wednesday, January 30

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:15 am WOW
2:00 pm Cardio Dance
5:30 pm CHOW Dinner
6:00 pm King's Kids
6:00 pm Bible Study
6:30 pm Glory Singers
7:00 pm King's Chorale
7:00 pm Friendship Bible Study

• Thursday, January 31

1:30 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Pilates/Sculpt
7:00 pm Sounds of Glory

• Friday, February 1

4:00 pm Pinewood Derby Setup
7:30 pm ICCCI Dance

Council

Elders

Dick DeLor (317-816-2230)
Donna Frazier (371-896-5378)
Paul Retzlaff (317-843-9068)
Kevin Wachtel (317-727-9583)
Deann Wimer (317-846-6822)
Pastor Hewitt (317-846-1555)

Deacons

Jeff Boldt
Julie Hayden
Carole Rahn
Bob Tipword
Brandon Hulse
Susan Kraabel
Ann Sullivan

Announcements

WORK DAY - - So many projects. So little time! Please plan to join us on Saturday, February 2 beginning at 9:00. Projects include painting, plumbing, dry wall work, general clean up, etc. Please sign up on the clipboards today!

CHILI COOK OFF NEXT WEEK - - The ever popular Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Auction will be Saturday, February 2 following the 5:01 service. This "mildly" competitive event is sponsored by our Sr. High Youth as a way for them to start to raise funds for their summer mission trip. Sign up today on the clipboards or at the large bulletin board to enter the Chili contest as well as to attend the event!

1ST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP - - Who doesn't love Hot Chocolate on a cold February morning?!!! You are invited to Fellowship Hall during the Grace Period (between services) next Sunday, February 3, to enjoy some delicious refreshments and great company!!!! See you there!!

SOCS - - Parents or grandparents with children in college or military are welcome to join us for SOCS (Supporting Our College Kids). We get together for about an hour to share updates, pray for our kids, write notes of support and encouragement and compile a care package full of goodies. We will meet again on Tuesday, February 5 at 6:00 in the Parlor. For more information call Amy Smith at 317-853-6114

GATHERING PLACE - - You may have noticed the beautiful new chairs and tables in the Gathering Place. We are grateful for the anonymous donations to purchase these items. Thank you!

WOW - - Women on Wednesday is studying "What Matters Most - a Study on Philippians" by Karen Ehman on Wednesdays from 9:15-11:00. Cost will be \$15 for the book. Contact Donna Frazier (317-696-0236) or Becky Ellis (317-460-4319) if you have any questions.

*It's going to be dangerously cold this coming week. If you have elderly neighbors please make sure to check on them.
Perhaps offer to go to the store for them before Wednesday when wind chills are forecasted to be up to -30.
Or better yet, bring them some homemade soup!*

Making the **CONNECTIONS** that make the difference

Announcements

FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES - - In the winter it's often dreadfully clear what our bodies need the most: warmth. Similarly, in life it's clear that God knows what we all need, and four of those needs are going to be explored in a sermon series this February "What We Need Every Day" based on gospel truths found in Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

February 2nd and 3rd We need a heart!
February 9th and 10th We need proof!
February 16th and 17th We need a promise!
February 23rd and 24th We need new life!

Come to worship during these cold winter months to be strengthened by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God knows how to calm our fears and warm our hearts in these times of challenge and opportunity; God knows how to fulfill our deepest needs.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - - This Wednesday morning group has resumed. You are welcome to join the study and discussion in the Cross & Crown area from 8:00-9:00.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY - - We resume this study of Luther's Large Catechism on Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 in the Cross & Crown area. All welcome!

HVAC GOAL UPDATE - - Thank you to those who have contributed to our Sanctuary HVAC goal. We are at \$7,865 of our \$29,000 goal which is 27.12%. Installation will be the first week of April but we would like to have all the funds well before that time. Please give as you are able. Thank you!

Prayers

MEMBERS

Becky DeWitt ongoing elbow recovery
Lynette Gross rehab for brain surgery
Camilla London breast cancer
Judy Naaman recovering from knee surgery
Wendell Rahn recovering from knee surgery
Tim Reeb upcoming back surgery
Connie Schmohe alzheimer's disease

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Jill Dietz DJ Dillon
Marlene Eisen Chris Excell
Karen Fethke Jason Mellema
Kaijah Monson Donald Ruthsatz
Tony Sandleben Pam Sandusky
Margie Stone Ray Strohminger
Henry Tomascycki Sarah Wassmuth
Bill Wehrman Kerry White
Nancy Zachary

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Roni Adler on the loss of her sister, Maxine Kennedy; and, to Elise Hannemann on the loss of her father, Chuck Lund



Team Leads

Evangelism, Jeff Boldt
Fellowship, Susan Kraabel
Finance, David Baugh
Lifelong Learning, Julie Hayden
Ministry Development, Brad Johnson
Mission Support, Carole Rahn
Preschool, Sherri Hunt
Property, Bob Tipword
Risk Management, Marty Culver
Stewardship, Brandon Hulse
Worship & Music, Ann Sullivan