**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 26 October 2022 – Fall Semester**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

**The Gospel of Luke**

**Luke 6:17-19 (NIV)**

 17 He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon,

 18 who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured,

 19 and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

**Bible Lesson**

**What attracts you to a man or woman you’d like to marry or become friends with?**

**Or**

**What attracted you to your wife, husband, boyfriend, or girlfriend?**

**How would you make Jesus attractive to the world?**

**Luke 6:17-19**

 17 He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon,

 18 who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured,

 19 and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

**5 Ways to Become a More Attractive Christian**

By Pastor Danny Anderson,

**Senior Pastor of Emmanuel Church which has 6 locations, in Indiana. Dannyanderson.net**

**1. Stop being the moral police.**

 Many followers of Jesus have taken it upon themselves to be the moral conscience of society. We take to Facebook and other forms of social media to call people out on their sins. In casual conversation, we cast judgment on the “sinful behavior” of the world. Christians fail to understand that unbelievers receive this as a lack of love at best and hypocritical and hateful at worst, and they are repulsed either way.

**2.** **Stop with the politics.**

 Outsiders generally feel that people of faith use Jesus and Christianity to validate and advance their political agenda. I am not saying that Christians shouldn’t have strong political views or that they should not vote. What I am saying is that when we get political as Jesus’ followers, we can really push people away from the faith. We must remember that there is another Kingdom that is even more real than the visible one in which we live.

**3. Stop complaining.**

 It’s weird to say this as a pastor, but there are times I don’t like Christians. The reason is that they seem to complain about everything–the culture, the food brought out by the waiter, the music in their church, the sermons their pastor gives… and on and on it goes. When people hear all of this complaining, who would want to become like that? The Apostle Paul instructs us to, “Do everything without complaining and arguing…” (Philippians 2:14),

**4. Be generous.**

 “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35) Generosity is incredibly attractive. My favorite people on this planet are those who give abundantly to others. They are happier and healthier, and they live more satisfying lives. There is a joy in their lives that is contagious. I am convinced that we are never more like God than when we are giving our time and resources to others.

**5. Become Christlike.**

 Sheldon Vanauken once said, *“…the strongest argument against Christianity is also Christians. When they are somber and joyless, when they are self-righteous and smug in complacent consecration, when they are narrow and repressive, then Christianity dies a thousand deaths.”*

 When Christians don’t act like Christ, we make Christianity repulsive. We are to be, as Jesus said in Matthew 5, “salt and light.” Salt adds flavor, and light shows the way.

 The fruit of the Spirit is to become our basic character, “…love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness, and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22, 23) The fruit of the Spirit is the character of Christ. When we are Christlike, unbelievers will be drawn to us in the same way they were drawn to Jesus. (Luke 5:29; Luke 15:1)

  **The bottom line** is that unbelievers were attracted to Jesus. They wanted to be around Him and to hear what He had to say. If that is not true of us, the problem is not with them, it’s with us. We must become more attractive Christians so that more people can enter into a personal relationship with Jesus.

**Let’s read again, Luke 6:17-19 (NLT)**

 **17 When they came down from the mountain, the disciples stood with Jesus on a large, level area, surrounded by many of his followers and by the crowds. There were people from all over Judea and from Jerusalem and from as far north as the seacoasts of Tyre and Sidon.**

 **18 They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those troubled by evil spirits were healed.**

 **19 Everyone tried to touch him because healing power went out from him, and he healed everyone.**

**What made Jesus so attractive to these people from Judea, Jerusalem and as far north as the seacoasts of Tyre and Sidon?**

**What made Jesus so powerful?**

* He became a burden bearer:

**Isaiah 53:4**

 “Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.”

**Matthew 8:16-17**

 16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. **And He cast out the spirits with a word**, and healed all who were sick,

 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."

**Do you think Queens Chapel can become so powerful that anyone who enters the sanctuary will be healed of sin’s diseases and troubled spirits? If so, how?**

**The Answer is YES:**

1. **We must attract attention through our light and influence**—**Matthew 5:13-16**

 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

 15 "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

 16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

1. **Providing a Hand up and not just a Handout**—**Acts 3:1-8**

 1 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

 3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

 5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

 6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God.

1. **Prayer, Praise, and Worship**—**Acts 16:23-26**

 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

 25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake so that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.