**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 25 January 2023 – Spring Semester**

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

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

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**The Gospel of Luke**

**Luke 6:37-38 (NLT)**

 37 “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.

\_ 38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

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**Read Luke 6:37**

 In our lesson today Jesus is showing us three (3) things love doesn’t do.

* 1) Love does not judge nor does it condemn

 **Luke 6:37**

 “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged.

* Do not judge people’s motives—impulses that cause people to act in certain ways

Why?

* We cannot read a person’s heart nor know for sure why a person acts the way he/she does—only God has the power and right to judge a person’s heart

1 Corinthians 4:5

 So don’t make judgments about anyone ahead of time—before the Lord returns. For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due.

* 2) Love does not condemn others

Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you.

* The Lord prohibits believers from expressing **adverse** judgment against another person

Romans 14:13

 So let’s stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.

* 3) Love does not hold a grudge against others

Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.

Matthew 6:14-15

 14 “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.

 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

* Jesus isn’t talking about salvation; he’s referring to our discipleship.
* Our fellowship with Him is partly contingent upon our willingness to forgive others who wronged us
* Forgiving your brother and sister indicates that you’re not holding a grudge or seeking retribution
* Since we all need God’s forgiveness on a regular basis, we should not withhold it from others.

Ephesians 4:31-32

 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.

 32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

* However, in the context of **Matthew 7:1-2,** Jesus does not prohibit all types of Judging

 “1 Do not judge others, and you will not be judged.

 2 For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.”

* A disciple of Christ practices a righteous type of judgment by using the Holy Spirit to discern.

John 7:24

 “Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly.”

* Don’t be so quick to jump to conclusions until you prayed and invited the Holy Spirit to assist in discernment
* **Christian Discernment** **is the perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding.**
* The Holy Spirit is available to discern those who are not authentic believers

 **Matthew 7:6**

“Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.”

* Jesus forbids believers who are hypocritical and self-righteous

 Jesus also reminds us in **Luke 6:38,** not to judge another person’s stewardship

 “Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

 **Love does not judge another’s stewardship; Love teaches one how to practice stewardship from a heart of love.**

Stewardship begins with a healthy knowledge and spiritual perspective of tithing

Q = How did Tithing begin and why was it important to the community God delivered from Egypt?

* God knew from the beginning that His people whom He delivered from Egypt could not live, function, or grow without finance.
* God wanted to teach this community how to use their financial means to bless their personal lives and the community they lived in.
* “Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full..”

**However, the principle God wants His people to learn**

* If a bank doesn’t solve its money problem, it will go bankrupt
* If the government doesn’t solve its financial problems, there will be economic problems.
* If a marriage doesn’t solve its financial problems, there will be arguments, contention, and ultimately divorce.
* If the members of Queens Chapel UMC ignore the fact that the church cannot survive without the finances of its members, growth will not happen and the vision of “becoming Kingdom focused and disciple strong” will not be fulfilled.
* God always expected His people to tithe [giving 10% to the Lord]

**Did you know…**

* Tithing didn’t begin with the Law of Moses
* We discover Tithing as far back as Abraham who existed before Moses and the Law.

**Genesis 14**

* Abraham, after rescuing his nephew Lot, met with Melchizedek, King of Salem.
* Abraham paid tithes to the Lord as an act of thankfulness for allowing him to bring his nephew home safely
* Melchizedek was a type of Christ

**Genesis 28**

* Jacob promised the Lord God that He would give a tithe of everything he had to the Lord
* When Moses brought God’s Law to the Israelites, tithing was a more complex system
* They were responsible for three types of tithes
* 1st tithe was the Lords—Leviticus 27:30-32

 30 “One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, **belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy**.

 31 If you want to buy back the Lord’s tenth of the grain or fruit, you must pay its value, plus 20 percent.

 32 Count off every tenth animal from your herds and flocks and **set them apart for the Lord as holy**.

* This 1st tithe was collected to help and/or finance the nation—much like paying taxes to the government
* The Israelites lived in a **Theocracy** [ government by divine guidance or by officials who are regarded as divinely guided.]
* The Church today should be considered a theocracy—why?
* We’re governed by the principles of God’s Word
* **The 2nd tithe---Next Week**

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