**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 8 February 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**

**Home Work—Genesis 14**

 Q: What did Abraham have in his possession when he returned from

 rescuing his nephew Lot? (V 16)

 Q: Who came out to meet Abraham, and what two offices did he hold?

 (V17)

 Q: To whom did Melchizedek give praise for Abraham’s successful

 venture? (Vs 18-20)

 Q: What did Abraham do to honor the Lord for His victory? (V 20)

 Q: What measure of integrity did Abraham display regarding the

 captured possessions? (Genesis 14:22-24)

 22 Abram replied to the king of Sodom, “I solemnly swear to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth,

 23 that I will not take so much as a single thread or sandal thong from what belongs to you. Otherwise you might say, ‘I am the one who made Abram rich.’

 24 I will accept only what my young warriors have already eaten, and I request that you give a fair share of the goods to my allies—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre.”

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**Lesson**

**Luke 6:39-45 (NKJV)**

 39 And He spoke a parable to them: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?

 40 "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

 41 "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye?

 42 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye.

 43 "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

 44 "For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush.

 45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

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**Luke 6:39 (NKJV)**

 **39 And He spoke a parable to them: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?**

**Q:** **What is a Parable**?

* Earthly \_\_\_\_\_\_ with a Heavenly \_\_\_\_\_
* A truth to illustrate a Truth
* Verbal Teaching Aids
* Inspired Analogy Designed to Compare Two Truths

**Q: Why did Jesus use Parables?**

**Matthew 13:10-11 (NIV)**

 10 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

 11 He replied, “**Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them**

* The truths about the Kingdom were hidden [in the dark] from those in the Old Testament
* When we accepted Jesus Christ as Lord, the Holy Spirit gives every believer the ability to understand [to see spiritually] the hidden treasures of the Kingdom of God
* The more we worship God, spin time in prayer, read, meditate, and study God’s Word, the more the Holy Spirit uncovers the truths of God’s Kingdom
* We overcome **spiritual blindness** through our relationship with Jesus Christ

**Q: What is Spiritual Blindness?**

* **Spiritual Blindness** is a spiritual condition experienced by those who do not believe in God, His Son Jesus Christ as Savior, the work of the Holy Spirit, or accept His Word as divine truth.
* **The effects of Spiritual Blindness**

**Isaiah 59:10 (NIV)**

 “Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like people without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead.”

* **The Consequences of Spiritual Blindness**

**2 Corinthians 3:13-15 (NLT)**

 13 We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away.

 14 But the people’s minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ.

 15 Yes, even today when they read Moses’ writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand.

* **Why the Love of God and Neighbor is Connected to Spiritual Blindness.**

**1 John 2:10-11 (NLT)**

 10 Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble.

 11 But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

**Luke 6:40 (NKJV)**

 **40 "A disciple is not above his teacher****, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.**

* **“A disciple is not above his teacher”**
* Attitude of Humility

**Isaiah 57:15 (NLT)**

 15 The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: “I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.

* **“…but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.”**
* Discipleship is acting like the one he/she is following

**Matthew 16:24-25 (NLT)**

 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

**Luke 6:41-42**

 **41** **"And why do you look at the** **speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the** **plank in your own eye?**

 **42 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye.**

**Q: What is Hypocrisy?**

* There are two forms of hypocrisy:
* Professing belief in something and then acting in a manner contrary to that belief.
* Looking down on others when we ourselves are flawed.
* The proof is in the pudding
* A true Christian will not complain about the **speck in your brother's eye** [minor fault]
* While doing nothing about the **plank in your own eye** [major sin]

**Hypocrisy will hurt you**

 **Proverbs 26:24-26 (NLT)**

 24 People may cover their hatred with pleasant words, but they’re deceiving you.
 25 They pretend to be kind, but don’t believe them. Their hearts are full of many evils.
 26 While their hatred may be concealed by trickery, their wrongdoing will be exposed in public.

**Hypocrisy will reveal your true spirituality**

**Matthew 23:27-28**

 27 “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity.

 28 Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.