

This Week @ Good Shepherd

9-12-20

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The Kingdom of God comes near

This Sunday, September 13th we continue in our new sermon series on the Gospel of Mark. The sermon will focus on three small stories from Mark. One story is about a leper that comes to Jesus to ask for healing. Lepers in Jesus' day were considered to be "unclean," that is, ritually impure.

Lepers were required to follow a set of strict guidelines according to the purity code in Leviticus 13 and 14. Lepers were, for example, examined by the Israelite priest to determine if they had leprosy and so were impure or unclean. If they were determined to be unclean, then the leper was to wear torn clothes, have disheveled hair, and, covering his upper lip with a clothe, cry out "Unclean, unclean." The leper was to self-quarantine, that is, live alone and outside of the community or camp of those who did not have leprosy. In other words, it wasn't simply a physical illness that disordered the health of the body. It was also a disconnection from the community.

Sometimes modern people look down on such purity codes as "relics of the past," But, purity codes are hardly a thing of the past. For example, from 1966-1976 Mao Zedong, the communist dictator of China, instituted what was known as the Cultural Revolution. The purpose of the Cultural Revolution was to purify China and create the Maoist utopia.

Mao called on China's youth to purge the "impure" elements of Chinese society and revive the revolutionary spirit. Some of us may remember the video at that time of the Red Guard composed of youth and young adults who enforced the Maoist purity code on an entire society. The Maoist purity code instructed the Red Guard to eliminate the "Four Olds." The Four Olds were Old Culture, Old Customs, Old Habits, Old Ideas. As Mao and his Red Guard moved to purify China, anyone not agreeing with the purity code was labeled "anti-revolutionary." During the Cultural Revolution millions were killed and more were imprisoned and tortured in the name of purifying Chinese society. From the perspective of some modern purity codes, the purity code in Leviticus is extraordinarily humane. Maybe you know of other purity codes today.

In this story from the Gospel of Mark Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, didn't seem to be concerned with the Levitical purity code. He had something else in mind. We will look at that story and two others this Sunday in worship.

Sunday Morning Worship This Week

This Sunday morning worship will be available to you in two ways. First, worship will be available online. Jordan Cardenas will be singing for us in worship online this week. Online worship is accessible to you throughout the week.

Second, on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. in Good Shepherd's Christian Life Center in-person worship will be available to you. Live music will be provided by Matt Cowell and Logan Walker. Pastor Michael will be preaching in-person as well.

Paul writes that "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a Spirit of love, of power and a sound mind." That Spirit, the Holy Spirit, will be present as we worship online or in-person.

Invitation to RightNow Media

We have learned that some people on our extended church family did not receive their invitation to sign up for a free account with RightNow Media. RightNow Media is a Christian media library that has over 20,000 videos on Bible studies, personal finance, children's videos, relationships, and more. You are invited to set up an account and view what they have.

Some of the videos will be used for some upcoming study series at Good Shepherd. For instance, there is an upcoming study on "The Gospel of Mark" by Francis Chan. The Francis Chan study gives people an opportunity to be part of a small group connected to our current sermon series on the Gospel of Mark. The videos for Francis Chan's study are accessible on RightNow Media. Also the study booklet for that particular study is available on RightNow Media by clicking the "View" button next to the "Leader's Guide."

Below is the link you can use to sign up for a free RightNow Media account:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/GoodShepherdOK>

You can also text "RIGHTNOW GOODSHEPHERD" to 41411 to sign up for an account. You can log in on other devices at: rightnowmedia.org. You can also download the RightNow Media app and sign in through it.

Fall 2020 Small Groups

Being a part of small group allows us to grow in our faith as we pray, study, listen and learn about Jesus with other people seeking and following Jesus. Below are listed a variety of small groups offered this fall. Most of these groups will meet online. Two groups listed below will meet in our Christian Life Center on Thursday evenings. The GriefShare group has been added recently. Instructions on how to sign up for a group are below.

The Gospel of Mark by Francis Chan

This 11-week series traces the steps of Jesus and his disciples through Israel and asks: "Are we willing to take the journey and embrace discipleship?" **Video segments and free study booklet entitled "Leader Guide" are available in your RightNow Media library.**

Sun., Sept. 13 @ 8:30 a.m. Leader: Alan Childers & David Morgan

Mon., Sept. 14 @ 7:00 p.m. Leader: Cathy Childers

Wed., Sept. 16 @ 8:00 p.m. Leader: Michael Burkett

We Make the Road by Walking by Brian D. McLaren

If you're seeking a fresh way to experience and practice your faith, this book will inspire and activate you in your spiritual journey as you reimagine what it means to live joyfully and responsibly in today's world as agents of God's justice, creativity, and peace..

Mon., Sept. 14 @ 2:00 p.m. Leader: Cathy Childers

Wed., Sept. 16 @ 7:00 p.m. Leader: Cathy Childers

Dream Big by Bob Goff (meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday - five sessions)

Bob Goff knows what it's like to be on the other side of what we were made to do. Feeling stuck is no fun, so he's made a framework to get dreamers out of the mud. What goals and dreams have you been putting off out of fear? Chances are, Bob could talk you out of those negative thoughts and send you charging into your next adventure.

Thurs., Sept. 17 @ 7:30 p.m. Leader: John & Jeanne Hathcock

Sermon on the Mount by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine

This 6-week study focuses on Matthew 5-7, which contains some of Jesus' most profound and memorable teachings providing for us a roadmap to living as God would have us live.

Sun., Sept. 20 @ 7:00 p.m. Leader: Charlotte Teel

Thurs., Sept. 24 @ 9:00 p.m. Leader: Charlotte Teel

Get Out of Your Head: A Study in Philippians by Jennie Allen

This 7-week Bible study inspires us and equips us to transform our emotions, our outlook, and even our circumstances by taking control of our thoughts. When we submit our minds to Christ, the promises of God's goodness flood our lives in remarkable ways. **Video segments are available in your RightNow Media library. Book will need to be purchased.**

Thurs., Oct. 1 @ 6:30 p.m.

Leader: Linda Truitt

Where: Good Shepherd
Christian Life Center

GriefShare

Thurs., Oct. 1 @ 6:30 p.m.

Leader: Sharon Burke

Where: Good Shepherd
Christian Life Center

Sign Up Instructions: To sign up for one or more of these small groups, send an email to Jamie, Good Shepherd's church secretary, at office@umcgs.org indicating which study or studies you would like to be part of and what day and time the group meets.

Worship Offerings

Good Shepherd continues doing its ministry to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world and bless other people in Jesus' name. Let me tell you of a couple of examples of how that happened this week.

One family came to Good Shepherd seeking help because they did not have money to pay for their rent and were potentially going to become homeless. Another family came to Good Shepherd

because their electricity was about to be cut off. Good Shepherd helped both of these families in their time of crisis.

Thank you for making that help possible through your worship offerings to the ministry of the Gospel through Good Shepherd. Your offerings made a difference in people's lives this week.

Below are listed three ways that worship offerings can be made this Sunday, September 13th:

First, you can mail your **worship offerings by check** to the church at: 10928 S.W. 15th, Yukon, Ok. 73099. For ease of routing, put "attn: Misha" on the envelope.

Second, you can give your **worship offerings electronically** by going to Good Shepherd's website at umcgs.org. As you scroll down the page, you will see the "Give" button. By clicking the "Give" button, you will be sent to our giving portal operated by ShelbyNext Giving.

Once in the Giving portal, you will see "My Donation." Under "Fund" is a drop down menu entitled "Choose a Fund." You can donate to the general fund of the church either through pledged or unpledged choices. The General Fund is the main fund used for the work of ministry through Good Shepherd. Check the "Make this gift recurring" if you wish set up recurring giving. You will also see "+ Add Donation." You can click on "Add Donation" to donate to another need in the list of funds.

Third, at our in-person worship there will be offering boxes at the entry and exit doors. You can drop your **in-person worship offerings** in one of these boxes if you would like this Sunday, September 6th.

"Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor."

—Proverbs 22:9

I encourage you to be in worship online or in-person this Sunday.

Hope and Confidence in Christ,

Michael Burkett

Lead Pastor

Church of the Good Shepherd