

As If

In our series through Matthew, we've recently finished the section sometimes called the "antitheses." It's called such because Jesus challenges the assumptions many at that time were making about God's law. "You have heard that it was said... But I say to you..." All of them are difficult sayings that challenge us to live radically different lives as the salt of the earth, the light of the world. They might even feel impossible, leading us to think "As if!" As if I could live a life never losing my temper, lusting for what isn't mine, desiring a divorce, or seeking vengeance on my enemies whatever form it takes. Perhaps what Matthew 5:42 teaches is what is difficult for you:

Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

Malcolm Guite considered this verse in one of his works. Guite is a writer, musician, and Anglican priest though he is perhaps best known as a poet. In his "Parable and Paradox," Guite collected a series of sonnets on the sayings of Jesus. One of his poems was written about Matthew 5:42. I was touched by his interpretation, and I wanted to share it with you. It plays on that phrase I mentioned earlier, "As if!" by using it throughout the poem as well as its title. Here is As If by Malcolm Guite:

Continued...

October @ Grace...

Wednesday Evenings Bible Study @ 6:30pm

October 3-4
Men's Retreat

October 12
Prayer @5pm
Elder/Deacon Meeting @ 6pm

October 18

Women's Brunch 9-11am

October 26
Mission's Giving (Detwiler)
Reformation Sunday

November @ Grace...

Nov. 5, 12, 19 Bible Study @ 6:30pm

Nov. 1 Men's Breakfast 8-10AM

November 9

Prayer @5pm Elder/Deacon Meeting @ 6pm

> November 20 Partial Carpet Cleaning

November 23
Christmas Luncheon & Decorating

November 30 Mission's Giving (Peterson) The Giver of all gifts asks me to give!

The Fountain from which every good thing flows,
 The Life who spends himself that all might live,
 The Root whence every bud and blossom grows,
 Calls me, as if I knew no limitation,
 As if I focused all his hidden force,
 To be creative with his new creation,
 To find my flow in him, my living source,
 To live as if I had no fear of losing,
 To spend as if I had no need to earn,
 To turn my cheek as if it felt no bruising,
 To lend as if I needed no return,
 As if my debts and sins were all forgiven,
 As if I too could body forth his heaven.

Notice in the first four lines how God is the Giver, the Fountain, the Life, and the Root. He is the ultimate generous one, and we are called to be generous like him. He calls us, "as if [we] knew no limitation." The first "as if" lines are stated with an understanding that indeed we do have limitations and cannot focus God's hidden force for ourselves. They are exclamations of impossibility. But notice the last "as if" statements. Rather than impossibility, they state what is indeed the case: believers are forgiven completely and are equipped to embody the kingdom of heaven. To put it in Jesus' words, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matt. 19:26)

In Christ,
Pastor Nathan

Kid's Corner...



Beginning September 28, children PreK through 4th grade will begin using, "The Biggest Story" curriculum for Sunday School. We have the wonderful problem of having a lot of children with varying age ranges. For the coming year, they will be divided into 2 classrooms. PreK – 1st grade will be in the same room they are currently in with Mrs. Lafferty. 2nd-4th grade will move into the room across the hall from the restrooms with Ms. Yessie. Both rooms will be using the same material but at age-appropriate levels. The younger group will begin in the Old Testament with the Pentateuch, and the older kids will begin in the New Testament with the Gospels. This is a great opportunity for your children to come and learn the Word while you are in adult class. Feel free to stop by and check out the new curriculum.

Please take your child to the restroom before dropping them off in class. Class begins at 9AM and ends at 9:45AM.

Children will come home with a handout and/or craft that they have worked on in class. Please, talk with your child about what they learned in class.

Talk to Ms. Yessie or Mrs. Lafferty with any questions you may have. Please pray for us as we begin this curriculum.

The Children's Church side of the classroom will be at the far end of the room starting September 28. They will have separate desks/tables from the Sunday School classroom. There will be an open space in between the two areas for activities and movement time.

Praying for Our Family...

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people."

1 Timothy 2:1

- Pray for Pastor Nathan, Eric Bjerkaas, Jeff Schenck, and Don Faux as they continue in faithful leadership of the church.
- Pray for Pastor Nathan as he weekly prepares for the Sunday School class, preaching the Word, and shepherding the flock.
- Pray for Don Faux as he continues to heal from surgery.
- Pray for Jason's upcoming ileostomy reversal surgery on October 20 and the recovery process.
- Pray for Pastor, Yessie, and Amanda as they prepare and teach Sunday school each week.
- Pray that as we hear the Word preached, our hearts and lives would be changed. Pray that we would be desiring God's Word, growing in our love for one another, and seeking to serve the Lord well in our church and community.

Our Missionary Partners...

Sillas & Wanger Campos, Brazil Karl & Glynn Peterson, South Africa, Mozambique Destin & Jennifer Detwiler, To Every Tribe

*If you have a prayer request you would like added or one removed, please email the office or place your request in the prayer box at the Welcome Desk.

Women's Brunch

When: Saturday, October 18
Time: 9-11AM
Where: Miller Home
1051 Lora Ave., Princeton
What to Bring: Brunch Dish

Sign up in the narthex starting September 28 and come and enjoy a time of food, fellowship, fun, and devotion. Invite a friend!!

Men's Breakfast

When: Saturday, November 1
Time: 8-10AM
Where: GBF Fellowship Hall

Sign up in the narthex starting October 12 and come and enjoy a time of food, fellowship, and devotion.

Praying for those who serve...

Leadership

Pastor – Nathan Miller Elder – Eric Bjerkaas Deacon – Jeff Schenck Deacon – Don Faux

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

Hebrews 13:17

Ministry Volunteers

Eric & Andi, Paul & Renée, John & Mary, Dan & Christine, Matt & Rebekah, Jason & Amanda, Jeff S., Adam & Jill, Don & Angie, Lori, Aaron, Yessie, Valerie, Patty, Kris, Kailee, Robena, Jake & Christiane, Jeff W., Caleb, Lydia, Marcos

Sunday School Teachers

Pastor Nathan: Adult Yessie Yanez – 2nd-4th grade Amanda Lafferty: Pre-K – 1st grade

"Blessed are those servants whom the Master finds awake when He comes." Luke 12:37a

TGCW26

When: June 11-13, 2026
Where: Indiana Convention Center
Indianapolis, IN
Cost: Dependent on when you register.

\$169 - \$329 Registration is open (link below)!!

Amanda, Denice, & Kailee will be reserving a 3-4 bed home that will sleep 6-8 ladies. If you are interested in going and would like to split the cost, please see Amanda ASAP so we know you will be staying with us. This makes it much more affordable.

https://www.tgcw26.com/event/45cdc8 e9-e0ab-4967-83cb-624ce8ec3f32/home



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: MON THURS. 9-5			BIBLE STUDY @ 6:30PM	2	MEN'S R	ETREAT 4
SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9 WORSHIP @ 10	6	PASTOR - AT CGN	BIBLE STUDY @ 6:30PM	9	10	11
SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9 WORSHIP @ 10 PRAYER @5PM BOARD MTG. @6	ADMIN. OFFICE CLOSED	74	BIBLE STUDY @ 6:30PM	16	17	18
SUNDAY 19 SCHOOL @ 9 WORSHIP @10	ADMIN. OFFICE REMOTE	21	ADMIN. OFFICE REMOTE BIBLE STUDY @ 6:30PM	23	24	25
SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9 WORSHIP @ 10 MISSION'S GIVING (DETWILER)	27	28	BIBLE STUDY @ 6:30PM	30	31	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8TH - JASON LAFFERTY 9TH - HANNAH BJERKAAS 10TH - JOYCE MCCULLOUGH 11TH - CHRIS MISKANIS 13TH - BETH CARSON 22ND - ARIANNA KEIGHIN