

The Kingdom of Heaven

SUSAN BROWNING SCHULZ | FEBRUARY 4, 18

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. (Matt. 13:34)

THE WORD PARABLE means “cast alongside.” A parable is a mini story or analogy that casts a familiar idea next to a new concept to help make the lesson clear. Jesus referred to His parables of the kingdom as “the secrets of the kingdom” (Matt. 13:11). In Matthew 13:10, the disciples asked Jesus, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” Jesus explained that the spiritual truths in these stories are understood only by divine revelation, to those who listen to and obey Him. He explained some of the parables for those in His inner circle, but not for the casual passerby.

It works the same for us today. The more time we spend with the Lord, staying close, hearing His Word through study and prayer, the more His Spirit ministers to our hearts, assuring us of the realities of His magnificent kingdom. I trust Jesus did not use parables to confuse or condemn His audience. He must have wanted to arouse their curiosity. After all, most of us want to understand secrets!

Even though Jesus hasn’t changed the way He deals with His people, He is not physically here to explain things, and His inner circle has grown quite large. I’m grateful He sent His Holy Spirit to teach us all things and remind us of everything He said to us (John 14:26).

Ask God to open your ears to hear His messages more clearly.

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February 4, 2018

FOCUS Wesleyan Church

In Christ Alone - “God of the Living”

Sermon Notes:

Matthew 22:23-33

1. Everyone is _____

Deuteronomy 25:5-6

John 11:25-26

2. There is a _____ resurrection

Matthew 22:29-30

Job 19:25-27

Luke 20:34-36

2 Corinthians 5:1-8

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

3. In heaven, things will be _____ and similar, but certainly _____

1 John 3:2-3

Reflection: What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS?

The Word of God directs us as we consider what the **next step** is for our lives. What is your next step? What has been your view of eternity and life after death? Has your view changed as a result of hearing what the Holy Scriptures have to say about the matter? How does viewing people with eternity on the forefront of your mind cause you to interact with people differently?

Challenge: This week I will pray for following local schools (teachers, staff, students, and their families);

Communion at FOCUS

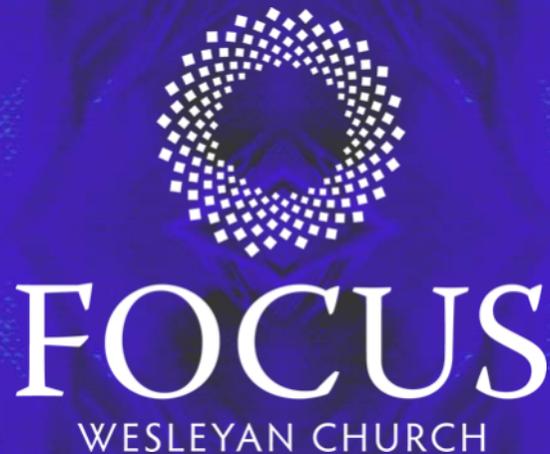
Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the Lord's Table, also known as Communion. We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

Super Bowl Sunday - FOCUS Youth Group will NOT be meeting tonight!

We hope to see you and any friends who don't already attend a Youth Group on Sunday evenings next Sunday, **February 11, 6:30-8 PM.**

Wednesday Night Meal

We would like to invite you and your family to join us for supper this Wednesday night. The meal will be ready at 5:30 PM. You have been invited to come and share a delicious meal and uplifting fellowship with us.



WELCOME

THANKS FOR JOINING US

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