

Grades 7-12

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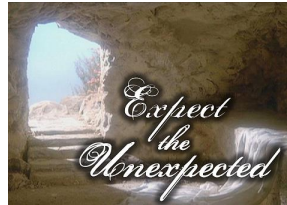
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Matthew 6:1-4

6 "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Greetings!



This week we celebrated Resurrection Sunday by going back 2000 years ago to see that without Jesus' Resurrection, the Christian Church may well have never been. We said that nobody expected Jesus to actually be

Resurrected, not even the Disciples.

To get a better idea what happened 2000 years ago, we put ourselves alongside the Disciples and imagined that we were there. For the past few years, we have spent literally all of our time with Jesus, following Him, hearing Him teach and experiencing first hand many unexpected moments and miracles.

We then took a look at a few of the miracles and imagined we were there. We started in **Mark 4:35-40** where Jesus taught that if they had true faith in the outcome, they could be at peace no matter what happened along the way instead of being in fear. Jesus even slept during the storm in total peace with the faith they would reach their destination while the Disciples expected they were going to all die.

We compared this with our teaching about Daniel when we saw that Daniel's faith in eternity with God was so powerful that it allowed him to be at peace even while in the lions den.

We then looked at when Jesus "Feeds the Five Thousand" in **John 6:5-13** where Jesus taught to have faith and believe without any doubt that God will provide by simply giving thanks for the food as if it was already done and it was done.

The Disciples' dependence on their own senses and worldly expectations concluded that there was no way they could possibly feed so many. Jesus' faith that God would provide left no room for doubt.

Finally, we looked at **John 11:1-44** where Jesus teaches that nothing is impossible with God and all you have to do is have faith and truly believe without putting worldly limits and

Life Skills Class

Our Youth Life Skills class with Tom is every Wednesday night at 7pm for all Youth grades 7-12.

Don't miss these great lessons that you can immediately apply to your own every day life.

Community Service

The LWA Youth, along with several adult volunteers provide an ongoing monthly community service project with the Department of Child Services (DCS).

On the 3rd Saturday of each month we meet at 10:00am at the DCS offices located at 1201 South Alma School Road (on the SE corner of Alma School and Southern Ave.

We typically spend about an hour or so cleaning the family visitation rooms and the toys that the children play with while they are there.

Please join us and be a part of this blessing we bring to these children, to their families and to the tireless workers at DCS.

Young Adults

Our weekly young adult service, lead by Jake, is every Thursday at 6:30pm for ages 18+.

Join us for Worship, a great lesson, fellowship, and donuts!

There will also be

expectations on the power of God and you will see God's glory as Lazarus was brought back from the dead.

Through miracle after miracle, Jesus was preparing the Disciples for His last days. He even tells them step by step exactly what will happen when they arrive in Jerusalem (**Matthew 20:17-19**) including that on the third day he will be raised to life, yet when the time comes they were still unprepared. They still did not expect what happened.

When Jesus died on the cross and was placed in the tomb, the Disciples all expected that it was all over and Jesus was gone. Nobody expected the Resurrection and they were so busy being afraid about what would happen to them as Jesus' followers that they certainly were no longer thinking of spreading Jesus' message.

On the first day of the week when they found the tomb empty, since they expected Jesus to be dead, their natural assumption was that somebody had stolen His body (**John 20**). Based on their worldly expectations, this is what made the most sense.

Even when Mary sees Jesus alive and actually talks with Him she doesn't even realize that it is Jesus because her expectation is that He is dead so it could not possibly be Jesus. He must be the gardener (Based on their worldly expectations, that's what would make the most sense)

We said that this is important because it shows us that our expectations can actually blind us from the truth even when it is standing right in front of us. When we don't expect the miracles and the goodness of God in our lives, we will not see them even though they are all around us and even right in front of us.

Of course, Jesus is able to finally convince them all that He was indeed raised from the dead just as He said He would be. Even Thomas believed but only after actually seeing, and touching, Jesus' wounds. Jesus tells them to now "Stop doubting and believe" [**John 20:27**]

Jesus blessed all of us who have NOT seen yet still believe by our faith. We said that through the power of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit, we can all have the very same faith as Jesus had, live in the same peace and authority as Jesus did and we can always expect the **unexpected with God**.

Upcoming Events!

Summer Camp is coming!

monthly activities as well as mission opportunities.

Sign up now for summer camp at <http://livingwordonline.com/event/summer-camp/> High School is June 5-8 and Jr. High is June 12-15. Each camp is \$199.

Camp is a time to have a truly divine experience with God that you will remember for many years to come. Veteran camp leaders will be personally discipling the kids in small groups, creating an atmosphere of discovery and fun, delivering in-depth teachings and providing an amazing praise and worship experience. Of course, all of the camp fun is included as well.

Michelle is on the radio!

Listen for Michelle's new Uplifting & Encouraging Christian Talk Show live every Tuesday night from 7:00-8:00pm only at www.centralcityradio.com/king-fm

or listen to previous shows anytime at www.centralcityradio.com/walking-in-grace

For those on Facebook, look for her page: walking in grace for inspirational messages through the week.

Personal Care Items Drive:

1 Youth is now continuing to collect "Personal Care Items" for the teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the two bins just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

Whenever you're out shopping for your own personal care items such as soap, deodorant, tooth paste, feminine hygiene items or when you see the "travel size" shampoo, mouthwash, etc., pick up a few extra items and drop them in the bins.

Help share God's love by letting these teens know that somebody really does care about them.

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Mark 4:35-40, John 6:5-13, John 11:6-8, John 11:14-16, Matthew 20:17-19, John 20:1-29

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry