

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

February 18-24, 2019

Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.

BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: Luke 6:27–38 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=415779705>).

Other readings are: Genesis 45:3–11, 15; Psalm 37:1–11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50.

The theme is: Being Blessed.

Throughout history people have seen the Bible as a rule book for living, but to do so is to miss the point. Jesus' listeners were familiar with the rules and with the wisdom of that day, which taught people how to live respectable, honorable, God-fearing lives. Jesus was familiar with the same laws and wisdom. He was a master teacher who attracted crowds. Here we find Jesus interpreting what was found in God's law and contemporary wisdom and applying those teachings to the time and circumstances of his listeners. He doesn't mince words or sugar-coat the commands. In fact, Jesus' words sound even more demanding than what had been heard and taught as God's law. But Jesus isn't focused on ethical behavior. He is focused on the presence and character of God. We must do more than love. We must love as God loves. We must love those who are unworthy of our love. We must give to those who are unable to give in return. We must show mercy because God is merciful. (vs. 36) We must treat others as God treats us. Jesus calls us to more than ethical living. Jesus calls us to be in relationship with God and to allow that relationship to transform our relationships with others.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.

Is there someone you find hard to love?

Is there someone who you have a hard time forgiving?

How does this week's reading challenge you regarding these relationships?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of February 17:

Has a blessing received ever given you a sense of responsibility?

Has a blessing received ever given you a sense of freedom?

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