

Subject: What do You See?

From: St. Francis Episcopal Church <vicar@stfrancisva.org>

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August 21, 2013

What Do You See?

*And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom
Satan has bound for eighteen years,
be loosed from the bond on the Sabbath day?
Luke 13:15*

Jesus' Portrait

When you picture Jesus what do you see? Different people will naturally see different things. One of the main pictures in the minds of many people is that God will act specifically on the behalf of Jesus. One implication of this is that if you are in a right relationship with Jesus then you will get the same benefits that Jesus gets, if you are not, then you won't. One very interesting observation is that the only figure in the bible who says he holds that picture of Jesus is Satan in Luke chapter 4. What we see in the gospels is something very different. We see Jesus spreading the outward signs of the kingdom of God. Those signs are shared with many different kinds of people, not just those with a "right" relationship with God. Jesus extends signs and promises of the kingdom of God are given to prostitutes, adulterers, condemned thieves, Samaritans, and all kinds of Gentiles.

Why Is That?

Jesus is continuing the promise made through Abraham that God would bless every family on earth (Genesis 22:18; Acts 3:25). By bringing signs of the Kingdom of God through the healing of this woman on a Sabbath day, Jesus is announcing freedom, release, mercy, and life to all the families of the earth. The Sabbath is meant to be holy. Holiness is the life of God. The best practice of the Sabbath is to be in the position to have the life of God flow through you.

Who does This Today?

We do. Our relationship with Jesus is not only for our benefit. It is so we can grow into the ones who bring the blessing of God to all the families of the earth. Who comes to your mind that God might be preparing to receive the blessing of the kingdom through you?

Coming Attractions

Sunday, August 25, 2013

Worship at 10:00am

No Wednesday morning Bible Study on August 28th.

Thursday, August 29, 7pm first meeting of a new Bible Study Fellowship

"Behold the Lamb of God" scheduled for Dec 5 at 7:00 PM. Larry Kidd will be ordering a group of tickets together to this performance in early September.

Anyone desiring tickets should let Larry (lkiddjr@gmail.com) know by Sunday, Sept 1.

Centerville Circle of Prayer:

Pray for the Sunset Trust to serve more customers in the Centerville area.

Metro Richmond at Prayer:

For the workplaces and businesses of Metropolitan Richmond: For full employment opportunities for our young people and heads of families, for the long-term unemployed, and for the underemployed.

"Jump Start" is a one-day workshop put on by the diocese of Virginia scheduled for Saturday, Sept 14 at the Church of the Resurrection in Alexandria, VA from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

This conference is meant to cover the issues confronting many churches today including:

Sunday attendance has declined.

Church income does not meet its expenses.

Parts of the church building are not used throughout the week.

Fewer members are available and willing to participate in important church ministries.

The workshop's goal is to address how congregations can Jump Start themselves to a renewed and revitalized existence.

Please let Larry Kidd (lkiddjr@gmail.com) know by the end of the day Thursday, Aug 22 and to register.

A Vision Day sponsored by Fresh Expressions US will be held in Richmond on Friday, Sept. 20 in partnership with the Baptist General Association of Virginia, The Anglican Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic and Third Presbyterian Church. Several of us from St. Francis are going.

The Vision Day is ideal for:

Anyone interested in renewal within established congregations

Those interested in building relationships and serving the communities in which they live or work

Those who have real questions about fresh expressions and mission-shaped church

Those who have started something new and need some practical help

Consider going. Email John at vicar@stfrancisva.org to let him know you want to attend. Registration fee is on St. Francis.

Some serious end of summer reading:
The Culture Code by Clotaire Rapaille

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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