

Welcome to Rosedale

Sunday July 26th, 2015

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation

Musical Praise & Worship

Missions Spotlight Niagara Challenge (OM)

Family Prayer

Scripture Reading..... Mark 4:10-12; 21-25

Message..... Pastor John Bellingham

WHY SPEAK IN PARABLES?

Final Song

Benediction

Memory Verses for Junior Church:

Younger Elementary:

Review: “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” - Ephesians 2:10

Middle Elementary:

Review: “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” - 1 Peter 3:15

Missionary of the Week

Christian Salvage Mission

“Normally the flow of materials coming into the warehouse slows down during the winter months, but that was not the case this year. Our Area Coordinators did not slow down during what has been one of the coldest winters on record. So far this year our Lord has enabled Christian Salvage Mission to send out three containers, one to Ghana, one to Nigeria and one to India. There are eight more ministries waiting for containers to be shipped when we have sufficient materials and funds. The ministries that are waiting are located in Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Philippines and India. Praise be to our Lord for His goodness!”

Families of the Week

Please remember to pray for and to encourage the following people this week

- Monday** Olynyk, Steve
- Tuesday** Pettit, Bryon & Jessica
Eden, Isabella, Myka
- Wednesday** Renaud, Robert
- Thursday** Riesebosch, Jane
- Friday** Robinson, Sheila
Mckalah, Maya
- Saturday** Sadowski, Stella

ROSEDALE BAPTIST CHURCH



Reaching up....

Reaching in....

Reaching out...

11 Rosedale Place
Welland, ON L3B 1J2
905-735-0788

Pastor: John C. Bellingham

www.rosedalebaptistwelland.com

This Week at Rosedale

Tuesday: Men's Bible Study – 9:30 am

Wednesday: Prayer and Praise – 7:00 pm

Saturday: Ladies' Bible Study – 8:00 am

Sunday: Christian Foundations – 9:00 am
Corporate Worship – 10:30 am
Benevolent Offering

Niagara Challenge: Consider participating in a week-long mission trip here in Niagara from August 3-8. Study world religions such as Islam, Mormonism and Secular Humanism and learn to share your faith with others. Visit a Muslim mosque, Mormon church and Catholic cathedral. Speak to Nichola Henry for more information!

Sundae Sunday: On August 9th after the morning service we will be having a Hotdog and Sundae Sunday. We are asking for a donation which will help us reach our goal of sending enough money to purchase 100 sewing machines for oppressed women in India. Thank you for your support!

Christian Foundations – New Series: “Are you pro-life or pro-choice? Few questions have divided people as deeply or as emotionally as this one. Abortion is such a deeply divisive issue because fundamental moral issues are at stake. In this series Dr. R.C. Sproul moves beyond the shouting matches in order to examine the issue calmly and rationally. With clarity and compassion he explains why abortion is a violation of God's purposes for His creation.” New foundations series begins August 2nd at 9:00 am.

Why Speak in Parables?

Mark 4:10-12; 21-25

I. The Purpose of Parables (vv. 10-12)

- 1) The Disciples' Dilemma – v. 10
 - a. Parables are like riddles - perplexing at first, but obvious once you know the meaning
 - b. The disciples had difficulty understanding Jesus' Parable of Soils and wondered why He taught people with this unusual method
- 2) The Rabbi's Response – vv. 11-12
 - a. Parables Reveal God's Truth
 - i. The 'secret' of God's Kingdom, largely hidden in the Old Testament, has now been revealed to God's elect people
 - ii. Jesus only provides the interpretation of this Parable to His disciples! (vv. 13-20)
 - b. Parables Conceal God's Truth
 - i. Parables were an act of divine judgement against obstinate unbelief
 1. Quotation from Isaiah 6 - parallel between ministry of Isaiah and Jesus
 2. Jesus was unwilling to 'cast pearls before swine' - cf. Matt 7:6; John 9:39
 - ii. Gospel preaching reveals the true condition of the human heart - it will either reveal the regenerating work of the Spirit, or the hardness of unbelief caused by our sin.

Application: We cannot understand or respond to truth about Christ apart from the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Preaching about Christ and His Kingdom has a two-fold purpose – it either softens the heart or confirms the hardness that is already there. In either case God is glorified through the proclamation of His truth.

II. Parable of the Lamp (vv. 21-22)

- 1) The Lamp is Primarily a Picture of Jesus
 - a. Literal translation of Greek text in v. 21: “Does the lamp come....”
 - b. Jesus is the light of the world who has come to shine in the darkness (John 8:12)
 - c. The Messianic identity of Jesus was kept hidden for a short time during His earthly ministry but was later fully revealed
- 2) The Lamp is a Picture of Jesus' Followers
 - a. We are the light of the world (Matt 5:14-16)
 - b. We are to shine like stars (Philippians 2:15)

Application: The disciples probably wondered whether they were to follow Jesus' pattern of 'concealing' the truth from certain people by speaking in riddles. Jesus makes it clear that His followers are to reflect the light and truth of Christ everywhere we go! The hidden 'secret' is now out!

III. Parable of the Measure (vv. 23-25)

- 1) Emphasis here on 'hearing' the Message
 - a. The extent to which you 'hear' God's Word determines how fruitful you will become
 - b. Those who neglect the 'means of grace' (ie. preaching, prayer, fellowship of believers etc.) will always remain spiritually poor
- 2) Image also used of God's Judgment (Matt 7:1-5)
 - a. Those who judge others without mercy will be judged without mercy (see James 2:13)
 - b. The same stick you use to measure other people will one day be used to measure you!

Application: The benefits you receive from God largely depend on the way in which you invest what He's graciously given you. Sow sparingly and reap sparingly. Sow bountifully and reap bountifully!

