

Leesburg United Methodist Church



Trail Guide -- Week of January 30, 2012

Message Map

January 29, 2012

"I Like Your Attitude!"

(Attitudes of a Five-Talent Follower-3rd in the Five-Talent Follower series)

Rev. Jim Wishmyer

Scripture Reference: Philippians 2:1-11

HUMILITY Philippians 2:8; also verse 3

HOPE Hebrews 12:2-3; Phil. 2:9-10

HAVE Phil. 2:5; Romans 12:2

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 -

Prayer requests, insights, questions, things to do that I'd like to remember from today:

In Philippians 2:5, the Greek word that is sometimes translated with the English word "attitude", or "mind", actually is in the form of a verb. Brown's *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology* defines *phronesis* as a "way of thinking, judging, discerning" (Brown, NIDNTT, Vol 2, p.616). The implication is that one's attitude or mindset is the result of conscious, intentional choice on the part of the person. The latter part of this verse "in Christ Jesus" has challenged translators who typically look to the context in order to ascertain meaning. The context suggests several distinct possibilities. One possibility points to the most common translation/interpretation of this verse that points to Jesus as our example. However, Paul's use of the phrase, "in Christ Jesus", throughout his letters *usually* points to the new identity of believers grounded in the person and work of Christ. In either case, because Christ is our example, or because Christ is the unifying source of our relationships in the body of Christ, we are urged to consciously choose a different way of thinking – attitude – toward one another that leads to a distinctly different way of relating to one another in the body of Christ.

Mon, 1/30 **Philippians 2:1-4** Reread these verses from Sunday. What word or words paint a bulls-eye between your eyes? What can you choose to do differently? Ask Christ to help form in you a mindset, way of thinking, attitude that reflects his influence in your life.

Tues, 1/31 **Ephesians 4:1-6** Elsewhere in Paul's writings, we find parallel themes to Philippians 2. Once again, mindset, attitude, etc., inform our conduct toward others in the body of Christ. How we treat one another either brings honor to Christ, or embarrassment. Review your "difficult" relationships in the church. Ask Christ to help you "walk" in ways that honor him.

Wed, 2/1 **Colossians 3:12-14** Paul talks here about "putting on" attitudes like they are clothing. In actuality, our attitudes get reflected in our demeanor and our actions, and detected by others. As one chosen by God, "holy and beloved", what do you need to add to your "wardrobe"?

Thurs, 2/2 **Colossians 3:8-11** Of course, we know that we can't put on new clothing if we're wearing something already. And, each of us is wearing something. The good news is that in Christ, we have the option *and the power* to choose. This is Paul's "What Not To Wear" list. Are any of these in your wardrobe?

Fri, 2/3 **Ecclesiastes 5:1; Philippians 4:8-9** Coming to the close of the week and approaching the weekend, here's some advice about our attitude when we come for worship. Also, I've included a couple of verses that we'll be looking at on Sunday. Listen and look for the best.

Sat, 2/4 Review what insights you have gained this week and share one or more with another person. Pray for all who will participate in and lead our worship, Sunday morning discipleship groups, and evening youth fellowship. Invite a friend or family member to join you on Sunday!

LUMC – Five-Week Five-Talent Challenge – Update #1

1/23/2012

Jim,

A friend of ours son in Tucson, AZ is participating in a 30 hour fast to raise money for hungry children around the world through World Vision, and set a goal to raise \$360.00, which will feed a child for a year. Nearly 8,000 children under age 5 die every day because of hunger-related causes—that's one child every 10 seconds. I learned that every \$30 raised for World Vision can help feed and care for one hungry child for a month. With that in mind, I donated the Lord's \$5.00 plus an additional \$25.00 to help feed a child for a month. Thanks for the challenge Jim!

In Him,

Michael

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1/23/2012

Hey Jim:

Well, it did not take long to find a way to pass on the \$5 from last Sunday (1/15). As you know I go from the 8:15 service to the 10:00 AA meeting. There were a couple of newcomers in the meeting, so Dwayne and I purchased a book "Living Sober" for each one @ \$6 apiece.

Thanks,

Jim Moran

(Follow-up: Jim reported that another person did the same as the result of Jim's and DeWayne's examples. Jim and DeWayne plan to keep doing this each month and hope others will follow their example.)

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The Reverend Jim Wishmyer

I chose to use my \$5.00 gift as indicated in the below letter. I know something good will come of this but only God knows when and how and I may never know exactly what it was.

- 1-15-12 Church service; Mentally developed a plan of action; Rough draft of language for my letter
- 1-23-12 Refined the language for my letter; Started to randomly select recipients
- 1-24-12 Completed my list of recipients by name and complete address; Proofed language for letter
- 1-25-12 Prepared letters and mailing envelopes to all recipients;
- 1-25-12 Offered a prayer for God to bless this action in some way
- 1-25-12 Mailed letters to 12 recipients

James W. Craun

The Letter Sent to 12 Randomly Selected Neighbors

01/25/12

James W. Craun
314 Evergreen Mill Road, SE
Leesburg, VA 20175

Kxxxxx & Sxxxxxxx 1xxx xxxxx DR SE LEESBURG VA 20175-6137

Dear neighbor:

Although I do not personally know you, I will share that I am a member of the Leesburg United Methodist Church located in downtown Leesburg. On Sunday, January 15, 2011 our pastor delivered a sermon entitled "Five-Talent Followers". As a part of that service all adult participants received an unmarked envelope with a \$5.00 bill enclosed. We were asked to pay it forward in some way to encourage or help others. I decided to use my \$5.00 to buy 12 stamps and to also place \$5.00 of my own money in each envelope. Furthermore, I selected twelve households in the Evergreen Meadows subdivision, my neighbors, to see how they might use that \$5.00. The money is for you, so enjoy or pay forward to help someone else. I hope you will do just that to try to encourage some other person or place trust in another just out of love. I would love to know how you have helped someone else in his/her journey through life but it is fine if you never share anything with me. Since our church is using a sizeable amount of money to pay forward it would be nice to hear back from a few recipients. But, like I said, the money is yours to use. Before you purchase a \$5.00 cup of coffee, which would be fine, I hope you will read Matthew 25:14-30. In about five weeks, I will provide our church with any acknowledged acts of kindness that I hear about as a result of my 12 letters. Good luck.

Sincerely,

James W. Craun

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1/26/2012

Jim,

After a week or more of trying to decide what to do with our five dollars, we stumbled upon the answer. The Bloom grocery store near Home Depot is going out of business and they were clearing their shelves with 50% off everything. As we stuffed our grocery cart with many items we don't need, only because they were half off, we suddenly realized that we could put our buying power to better use.

We were able to fill three bags full of groceries for the food bank at a very modest price. So maybe it was a little more than the five dollars we started with, but we did manage to buy \$10 worth of groceries with the original five dollars.

Brian & April

PS- This was a really thought provoking idea that definitely had the whole congregation buzzing.

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Sara Elliott and Betty Dailey reported that they and four other members of the Sunshine Circle of the United Methodist Women combined their "talents" and more to purchase \$50 worth of grocery coupons for the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (LAWS).

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Elsie Letendre, along with Nikki and Bill Haase, Mary Frances Townsend, and others will be combining their "talents" for a bake sale to benefit missions. They've invited others to join them!

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Jill Ryan combined her talents with her "Happy Birthday Jesus" collection and has donated this to help provide a scholarship to Financial Peace University for single moms who sign up for the class and need assistance.