

Weekly Study Guide

The week of October 11, 2015

Wish to view the message again? Go to vimeo.com/flcwb. Will you be out of town soon? Watch online at livestream.com/flcwb.

Wish to ask Pastor Angie question about today's message? Contact her at 651.429.5349 x208 or away@flcwb.org.

Daily Readings

Monday	Mark 10 : 42-45	Tuesday	Matthew 5:3-12	Wednesday	Matthew 23:11-12
Thursday	Luke 6:32-36	Friday	Luke 14:7-14	Saturday	Luke 21:1-4

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Love your Enemies*

Next week's readings: Matthew 5:43-48

The world has always functioned through taking sides– friends and enemies. Love your friends, and hate your enemies! Jesus turns the world around by commanding a different kind of waging war against your enemies: by praying for them and asking God to work in them. This teaching of Jesus shocks us into realizing that although someone may be our 'enemy,' God still loves them. We are called to love those who God loves, and when we commit to pray, we both may be changed!

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect

How do people convey 'status' in our world today? Are there ways that you feel people let you know that they are 'better than' you?

How do you react in those situations?

Learn

The disciples often argued about which of them was greatest. What does Jesus' answer tell us about what is 'great' to God?

We often look at our heroes to know what we ourselves want to become. If we love and admire Jesus, what does this passage tell us about what greatness is?

God has always called his people to this kind of aspiration. **Read Micah 6:8.**

- What things is God telling us that he finds important to develop in the lives of his people?
- Why do you think God wants us to grow in those things?

In the ancient Roman world, status was everything. Pursuing greatness was very important. Unfortunately, even though God was very clear with his people about what he wanted from them, this tendency to want to be 'better than' others snuck its way even into the practice of their faith. Read Luke 18: 9-14.

- How is the Pharisee pursuing 'greatness'? Does he need God to be 'great' in his own eyes?
- What does the tax collector know about God that the Pharisee seems not to understand? What do you think Jesus is telling us in this parable about what matters to God?

In our striving to do good, sometimes we can make an idol out of goodness, instead of worshipping the one who IS good. **Read Mark 10: 42-45.**

- What does this story tell us about where our goodness comes from?
- When has our pursuit of being 'good' or even 'great' kept us from living into the good Jesus wants to show us?

Apply

Deep Roots Make Good Fruit: **Look up in your Bible how many things are called "greatest" and how many things are called "good."**

What is the "good" of the good life that you want Jesus to form in you?

Pray

The good life can be found in any circumstance, because our God is the source of all comfort and hope. In prayer today, ask God to remind you of your status in his love, through the good gift of Jesus Christ for you.