

MEDITATION



Josh Tucker
Pastor
St. Matthew's
Lutheran Church

While [Jesus] was speaking, a Pharisee invited him to dine with him; so he went in and took his place at the table.

The Pharisee was amazed to see that he did not first wash before dinner. Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? So give for alms those things that are within; and see, everything will

be clean for you." Luke 11:37-41

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Now more than ever it seems so easy to fake being a Christian. It's seems so easy to put on a spiritual front where on the outside one can appear devoutly pious in their faith practices but, like the Pharisee's dishes Jesus references in this week's passage, their insides are filled with hatred, selfishness and faithlessness. Modern tools and resources make this counterfeit Christianity possible. With information at our fingertips and the ability to interact with others via social media, the opportunity to portray a false

sense of one's religious self is made more readily available.

In this encounter with the Pharisee, Jesus makes it known that to be a true disciple one has to be made pure not only the outside, but the inside as well. Discipleship then is about more than our actions and outer presentation - things that make us appear faithful; internal discipleship practices are vital as well - those things that we are called to do as Christians that help us build upon and further develop our faith foundation. Discipleship is about becoming a deeper person in the faith.

Jesus implores us in this passage to be faithful in our spiritual practices so that our insides are sanctified. Jesus says that if we focus our Christian growth on developing our spirituality within, the outsides

would be made clean as well; we would experience that same type of growth on the outside too. Spiritual cleanliness starts within and works its way out. This passage is about growing in our faith and deepening our relationship with God. How might we be faithful stewards of our insides, our souls and our very beings so that we grow in the faith internally? For me, a regular practice of Bible study, prayer and seeking God's presence in the world promotes growth in my relationship with God. What spiritual practices promote a connection to God and growth for you? I encourage you to be intentional about developing your faith and discipleship from within and see how God will continue to foster nurture growth on the outside as well.

Prayers requested for Ebola victims, families

Area churches are being asked to offer a special prayer on Sunday that God would stop the deadly Ebola virus in West Africa.

Christians around the world are being asked by SIM, the global mission organization of which SIM USA is a part, to set aside some time during the week for prayer.

"For two millennia, the church has prioritized the sick and marginalized, we are called to do no less today," said Joshua Bogunjoko, international director of SIM.

SIM encourages prayer specifically for the people of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, where the Ebola outbreak has been most severe. SIM urges prayer specifically for health-care workers, grieving families, church and government leaders and protection for those who otherwise come in contact with the deadly disease.

Bogunjoko said that Sunday should be a day of focused prayer by churches and individuals in stemming the tide of Ebola.

"We know that when Christians unite in prayer and call upon God, He acts," said Bogunjoko.

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

KINGS MOUNTAIN
Long Creek Presbyterian Church
701 Long Creek Road
704-629-4406

Love Valley Baptist Church
2032 Bethlehem Road
704-730-0075

Macedonia Baptist Church
1101 S. Battleground Avenue
704-739-6811

Midview Baptist Church
703 Margrace Road
704-739-6711

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354

Mountain View Agape Church
506 Sparrow Springs Road
704-739-0160

Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Compact School Road
704-739-4516

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354

New Beginnings Church of Jesus Christ
541 Crocker Road
704-730-9507

New Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church
N. Cansler Street
704-739-2606

New Camp Creek Baptist Church
863 New Camp Creek Ch. Road
704-487-7128

New Life Family Worship Center
428 Oak Grove Road
704-739-9371

New Way Missionary Baptist Church
105 Waco Road
704-724-0414

Oak Grove Baptist Church
1022 Oak Grove Road
704-739-4833

Oak View Baptist Church
1517 York Road
704-739-7831

Pathway Baptist Church
3100 Parkdale Circle
704-734-0852

Patterson Grove Baptist Church
301 Oak Grove Road
704-739-5826

Peoples Baptist Church
1010 Groves Street
704-739-0398

Proclaiming the Word Ministries
7011 Cleveland Avenue

Progressive Church of Our Lord
1001 Cleveland Avenue
704-734-1070

Resurrection Lutheran Church
600 Crescent Circle
704-739-5580

Royal Praise Ministries
2055 Shelby Rd.



Featured Church of the Week: David Baptist Church

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church
201 N. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-7466

Second Baptist Church
120 Linwood Road
704-739-4216

Shady Grove Baptist Church
339 Shady Grove Road
704-739-8920

St. Paul United Methodist Church
N. Cansler Street
704-739-1256

Sunrise Baptist Church
208 Mail Road
704-692-3007

Temple Baptist Church
612 N. Cansler Street
704-739-4716

The Favor Center Church
602 Slater Street

True Gospel Holiness Church
1608 Shelby Road
704-739-6764

Unity AME Zion Church
948 Unity Church Road
704-228-0328

Vestibule AME Zion Church
2175 Vestibule Church Road
704-739-7961

Westover Baptist Church
114 Westover Drive

GASTONIA
Bethesda United Methodist Church
3714 S. New Hope Rd

Grace Community Advent Christian Church
206 West 3rd Avenue
704-739-9230

GROVER
Bethany Baptist Church

423 Cleveland Avenue
704-937-3010

Carolina Praise and Worship Center
201 N. Main Street
704-937-7541

First Apostolic Church of Blacksburg
205 E. Cherokee St.
Blacksburg, SC704-937-7390864-839-1873

WACO
New Testament Missionary Baptist Church

Notice: In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next week.

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CGA
Christian G. Anderson, MD, PA
Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Internal Medicine and Primary Care
502 West King Street
Suite 100
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Phone: 704-734-0576
Fax: 704-730-1712
E-Mail: ANDERSONCG@AOL.COM

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