JARS OF CLAY: BEING HUMAN IN CHRIST BEING REAL IN AN INSTAGRAM WORLD

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 12: 1-13

Gospel: Matthew 13:24 - 30

*Free Bibles available on stage near Besserer door.

Questions and/or comments about the sermon or scripture text? Email george@messiahchurch.ca

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Making disciples of Jesus gripped by the gospel, living for God's glory.

February 5, 2017

messiahchurch.ca / 613.235.0596 / info@messiahchurch.ca office & mailing address: 315 Lisgar St. Ottawa ON K2P 0E1

Follow us on twitter: @messiah_church Like us on Facebook: Church of the Messiah, Ottawa We are a prayerful, Bible-teaching, evangelical church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city and the world. We are a member of the Anglican Network in Canada and part of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. We seek to be a biblically faithful and orthodox church within the Anglican Way of following Jesus.

Are you new? Get connected!

Is this your first visit to Church of the Messiah? Thank you for being with us. We are glad you're here. Interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? Contact us: info@messiahchurch.ca or 613.235.0596. Check out the Welcome Centre in the lobby or messiahchurch.ca

Nursery & Sunday School

Nursery (0 - 24 months) and Sunday School (2 yrs - Grade 6) are available at the 10am service. For Nursery, please bring children to the Green Room (basement) before or during the service. For Sunday School, kids are invited to follow the cross after the last worship song.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev. Canon George Sinclair Rector Jonathan Camiré Ministry Intern - Evangelism and Discipleship		Daniel GilmanPastor of Evangelism and Discipleship (Children, Youth and Young Adults)Rev. Neil StephensPastor of Discipleship and Pastoral Care	
Deborah Reid Worship Leader	Shirley Allan Administrator	Earl Maynard Karl Ruban	Shannon Ripley Dana Scherf

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

If you are visiting, please feel free to let the basket go by. If you would like to donate, there are many ways to give:

1) Place cash or cheques payable to "Church of the Messiah" in the offering basket on Sunday, or mail to the church office. Please contact the office if you are interested in using offering envelopes.

2) Email your contribution to givings@messiahchurch.ca Please use the security question: "What is the pastor's first name?" and the answer: "George"3) You can use PayPal to donate to the church. Click on the "Contact" tab (far right side) on our website (messiahchurch.ca)

4) Pre-authorized debit – You can authorize the church to debit your bank account for a fixed amount on a recurring basis of your choice. To get started, please contact the office: info@messiahchurch.ca

Dear Friends,

I really, really need your prayers!

At Messiah we either preach through whole books of the Bible or big chunks of the Bible. God willing, I will finish Second Corinthians in two weeks time, on February 19. I have been praying about the upcoming sermon series. I think we might go through the Ten Commandments this summer - one command a week. In the Fall we will probably go through the book of Galatians to help us mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The event that often marks the start of the Reformation took place on October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther nailed his theses to the door of the church in Wittenburg. I am also thinking that we might begin the Gospel of John after we finish Galatians. But what about three weeks from now? That is why I am asking for prayer!

For several months I have been wrestling with whether or not I should preach through Genesis, chapters 1 - 11. I will be honest with you; I feel led to tackle these momentous eleven chapters, but I also feel inadequate to the task. So, please pray that the Lord will help me as we begin Genesis 1-11 on February 26!

In light of the theory of evolution, how do we understand Genesis 1-3; how do we think about evolution? In a world where "abortion on demand" is demanded and there is a growing desire for genetic engineering, how do we hear Genesis' teaching on human beings being made in the image of God? In a culture embracing the transsexual revolution, how do we understand Genesis' teaching that human beings are made by God as male and female? In a world where the existence of many religions is claimed to prove that Christianity cannot be true, what do we learn about Genesis' account of the development of religions? In a world that longs for sundry utopias, what does Genesis 1-3 tell us about the human predicament and possibilities? And apart from these questions, how does Genesis 1-11 help us to see the true state of our heart in light of the true and living God?

So, please pray for me as I read and listen to Genesis 1-11 and please pray for me as I preach. Please pray that I will preach simply and truly. Please pray I will preach with courage and humility. Please pray that God's people will learn of the true and living God, the creator and sustainer of all things. Please pray that we will grow in humble knowledge and adoration of how big and present and faithful He is. Please pray that we will grow in our confidence in the Bible, God's Word Written. Please pray we will be disciples of Jesus gripped by the Gospel living for His glory and praise.

George+

GROWING IN GRACE

I need to develop godly attitudes.

- A) Pray for godly attitudes in general & certain attitudes in particular.
- B) Ask others to pray the same thing for you.
- C) Repeat the attitude to help it sink in. Do this in conjunction with A & B!

Attitudes.

- 1) One verse of the Bible understood and believed is of more value than 100 visions.
- 2) I think I need more power, but God knows I need His powerful grace.
- 3) Dear Lord, please deliver me from being conceited.

I need to grow in prayer.

A great way to do this is to learn to pray the Bible. Pray this prayer until you can pray without reading: Loving Heavenly Father, I confess to You that I would rather have a vision than have the Bible, Your word written. I confess to You that I see conceit in others but I am easily blind to my conceit. I confess that I believe I need more power than I need Your grace. Have mercy upon me! Thank You for saving me by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone. Please help me to be honest and real. Make me a disciple of Jesus gripped by the Gospel who knows that I am a jar of clay and all Godly power comes from You alone for Your glory and praise alone. In Jesus' name, Amen!!

I need to get God's word in my mind and heart.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.2 Corinthians 12: 9

I need to do something or start to do something.

Complete the following sentence: "In light of God's word, the Holy Spirit is leading me to _____

GOING DEEPER

Read

• 2 Corinthians 12: 1-13

Learn

- How does this passage connect to what has come before?
- What do we know or can infer about the "super apostles" from this passage, as well as chapter 11 and the rest of 2 Corinthians?
- How does Paul correct their false teaching?
- What do you think Paul is saying to the Corinthians and why is he saying it? What does this teach us today?
- How does the world's understanding of weakness and strength differ from what is taught in v 9-10?

Inwardly Digest

- In your own life how have you seen God's power made perfect in your weakness? How have you specifically experienced the sufficiency of God's grace in challenging times in your life?
- How does Jesus empower you to be content in weakness, hardships, persecutions and calamities (v10)?

Pray

- Choose one scripture and take a couple of minutes on your own to think about what it is teaching you.
- Turn something you have learned from it into thanksgiving, confession, praise and supplication (asking).

EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, February 7

7pm: Lowertown Home Group @ 110 Nelson

Wednesday, February 8

- 7pm: Church on Wednesday @ uOttawa
- 7:30pm: Hintonburg Home Group @ 84 Fairmont

Thursday, February 9

• 7pm: Old Ottawa South Home Group @ 267 Sunnyside

Friday, February 10

 7pm Adventure613 (Youth) @ École Ste Anne (235 Beausoleil)

Saturday, February 25

4pm Vestry followed by Potluck Supper

Learner's Exchange resumes today @ 9:15am.

Today, Derek Ross speaks about Seeking the welfare of our Nation.

Messiah's Response to the Refugee Crisis: Church of the Messiah has partnered with Grace Presbyterian Church (Orléans) to raise \$20,000 to help bring a Burundian widow and her 6 children to safety in Canada. Details were provided in a letter emailed earlier this week. Copies of that letter are available at the Besserer door and at the Welcome Centre. **Here's how to contribute:**

- Make a cheque, **payable to Grace Presbyterian Church** clearly noting that it is for the Refugee Fund. You can mail it to Grace Church (1220 Old Tenth Line Rd Ottawa ON K1E 3W7) OR place it in the offering plate at Messiah and it will be forwarded to Grace for you (Please clearly mark the envelope that it is for the Refugee Fund.
- Give to Grace Presbyterian Church via CanadaHelps (www. canadahelps.org/dn/7750) clearly indicating that it is for the Refugee Fund.

Questions? shirley@messiahchurch.ca

The Marriage Preparation Course begins soon! Do you know a couple planning to marry in 2017 or who are thinking about marriage? The 5-week course begins February 26. For info / to register: shirley@messiahchurch.ca