

### **The Way of Love: LEARN**

[This sermon was preached from notes, not written out. Below is an outline with the main point of each of the sections. To watch the sermon, go to

<http://www.yourconcordtv.org/on-demand-player/>, scroll down to the St. Paul's Church channel, and then fast forward to around 15 minutes to find the sermon.]

- I. Intro
  - A. The Way of Love Sermon Series Part II: LEARN
    - 1. Practices for Jesus-Centered Life
    - 2. Turn last week = Pause, listen, and choose to follow Jesus
    - 3. Learn = Reflect on Scripture each day, especially on Jesus' life and teachings
- II. Jesus' Life and Teachings
  - A. Jesus is called Teacher and does some serious teaching.
  - B. Jesus is a great Teacher. He's more than a teacher of course but he certainly is wise and knows how to get his point across.
    - 1. Repetition, metaphor, hyperbole.
    - 2. Storytelling of course = parables
  - C. Our reading from Esther can also help us LEARN about God...
- III. Esther
  - A. Only book of the Bible that does not explicitly mention God.
  - B. Overview of book
    - 1. Esther is a Jewish woman who becomes Queen of Persia and uses her role to prevent a genocide, along with her cousin Mordecai.
    - 2. Our reading drops us into the middle of the story when Haman's plot is foiled and the fortunes reversed--the gallows that Haman had built for Mordecai (whom he hated) have been used for him and Mordecai and Esther are exalted like how Haman wanted to be. and I commend the whole book to you.
  - C. One of the points of Esther, I believe, is its witness to the fact that even when God isn't named, or doesn't even seem to be around, we can look back and see how God was involved and we can appreciate what was done or what we learned during those times.
- IV. That's what I want to call us to with this piece of the Way of Love.
  - A. Let's LEARN in two ways:
    - 1. Learn to look at our lives and see God at work
      - a) In the past by reflecting on our lives--good and bad

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- b) In the present by being present to how God is still speaking in your life and calling you to enter life, even maimed or lame.
  - c) And of course, to trust that God will also be present in the future and God goes before us to prepare the way and prepare a place for us in heaven.
2. Learn by looking at scripture every day, especially Jesus and his life and teachings. Ways to do this:
- a) **Forward Day by Day:** Pick up a booklet from church for 75 cents or click [here](#) for more info.
  - b) **Daily Office Readings:** Find them in the back of your BCP (we're currently in Proper 21, Year Two, p. 987). If you have an iPhone, you get just the readings for the Daily Office in app form [here](#).
  - c) **Daily Devotional Emails:** Check out SSJE's "Brother, Give us a Word" [here](#); or Henri Nouwen Society's Daily Meditations [here](#); or for a more prayer-focused audio devotional, check out "Pray As You Go" [here](#).
  - d) **The Bible Challenge: A Daily Guide to Reading the Bible in a Year** [here](#)
  - e) Or just open up your **Bible**, pick a book (might want to start with a **Gospel**), and starting reading! Read the Bible online [here](#) and the BCP online [here](#).
- V. The Way of LOVE, not just for information but for LOVE
- A. We must always remember that this faith thing is not just something we agree to in our minds. We live it out with our whole selves. We must LOVE God and LOVE others with our whole lives. Focussing on Jesus enables us to do this.