

## MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship This Sunday

April 25, 2021 ~ 9:00 AM

In our Sanctuary (*please wear a mask*)

or

Outside Parking Area

Services on YouTube

meadowbrookbaptist.cc

April 18, 2021

Worship Attendance 47      World Hunger \$14.75

Budget Offering \$3,338.00

Weekly Needs to Date \$42,400.00

Weekly Offerings to Date \$39,030.70

It is good to see more of you in our Sanctuary and Parking Lot on these beautiful spring days the Lord is giving us. We all have had a little “Cabin Fever” over the past 13 months. Psalm 19 says, “The heavens proclaim the glory of God.”

### The Gospel of Mark

#### THE CALL TO LOVE AND HELP EVERYBODY

Mark 1:21 - 3:19 / Luke 4:16-31

“Love your enemies, do good things for those who hate you.” / “If you love only those who love you, what good is that; sinful people do that.” – (Luke 6: 27; 33)

#### Limiting Love by Hating (Luke 6:16-31)

When Jesus returned to Galilee for the second half of His first year of public ministry; He went first to Nazareth. Because of the miracles He worked in Judah, and the fame He found when God spoke to Him at His baptism; He was asked to teach the Bible lesson on the Sabbath in the synagogue (church) where He grew up. Every preacher knows the joy of preaching in his home church for the first time. But Jesus did not find joy.

When He used the Old Testament, and insinuated that God might bless Gentiles (non-Jews); the church crowd turned into a mob that tried to push Him off a cliff and no doubt stone

Him. In some way, God enabled Him to escape. Jesus would die *when* He chose and *how* He chose (John 10). Jews hated non-Jews and that included half-breed Samaritans, who lived between Galilee and Judah. They believed the Messiah would defeat all non-Jewish nations and set up a kingdom where they would be ruled by a “rod of iron” (Psalm 2).

The anger in the church exploded because Jesus insinuated that God loved and wanted to help everyone on earth... and Jesus practiced this. Jews didn’t *walk through Samaria*, but He did on the way to Nazareth. Rabbis didn’t talk to women and good Jews didn’t talk to immoral women, but He did and led her to faith in Him (John 4).

Jews hated *Tax Collectors* (Publicans) - Jews who collected money for the Romans; but He called one, Matthew, to follow Him full time. Jewish patriots, called “*Zealots*”, carried knives and if they got the chance, they would kill a Publican on sight. Jesus called Simon the “*Zealot*” to follow Him full time, alongside Matthew (Mark 3:13-19).

People threw rocks *at lepers* to keep them from getting too close; but when Jesus healed a man, “*full of (covered with) leprosy*”, He reached out and “*touched*” him (Mark 1).

Jesus praised the faith of a *Gentile soldier*, and said it was greater than the faith any Jew had shown Him. And He said, Gentiles like this, from all over the world, will be in heaven with Abraham, and many Jews will not (Matthew 8).

The message is clear. We, as Christians, are to *love* every person and be willing to help them no matter what race, religion, ethnic group or culture they belong to. And we are to love people, no matter how far down in sin they are. The Samaritan woman He talked to had five ex-husbands and a live-in boyfriend (John 4).

We are to do this because *God created* every human being. David said to God, “You are the