

## The Gospel Class

GIFTS | 03.11.12

### THE GOSPEL CLASS

This preaching series is designed to communicate the beliefs and practices of The Church at Martinsburg. It also serves as the biblical overview of the foundation from which our theology and community springs. Content of *The Gospel Class* includes an overview of our church and our core values, with a doctrinal exploration of the Scriptures, God, Creation, Sin, Salvation, the Missional Church, Stewardship and Spiritual Gifts. This series explores basic, biblical theology and how this teaching plays out philosophically and practically in the way we embody the gospel to the neighborhood in which we live.

#### Growth Questions

1. Share with the group any insight, truth, or observation from Sunday's message that helped you, troubled you, or ministered to you.
2. Share with the group some similarities and differences between your physical family and your spiritual family. In what ways are you more (or less) connected to your spiritual family? Share some ways that your community group could deepen this connection.
3. What are the differences between spiritual fruit and spiritual gifts? What are the differences between talents/abilities and spiritual gifts?
4. How do we get a spiritual gift? When does this happen? (See 1 Cor. 12:4-11,18; 1 Pet. 4:10; Ro. 12:6) What are they for? (Eph. 4:11-16; Ro. 1:11-12; 1 Cor. 12:7; 1 Pet. 4:11)
5. Discuss this idea: "You shouldn't bend your mind too much trying to label your spiritual gift before you use it. That is, don't worry about whether you can point to prophecy, or teaching, or wisdom, or knowledge, or healing, or miracles, or mercy, or administration, etc., and say, 'That's mine.' The way to think is this: The reason we have spiritual gifts is so that we can strengthen other people's faith; here is someone whose faith is in jeopardy; how can I help him? Then do or say what seems most helpful, and if the person is helped, then you may have discovered one of your gifts." Are you aware of the spiritual gifts at work in your community group? Affirm one another in your unique giftedness.

#### Living on Mission

1. Consider these means of discovering the spiritual gifts you have been given:
  - a. Opportunity: What doors for service are open? What needs to be done? Where might you plug in? What seems to be a good fit for you?
  - b. Ability: What am I good at? What do people say I am effective in? In what areas are you already bearing fruit?
  - c. Affinity: What human needs "resonate" with you? What interests you? What are your passions? What burdens you? What brings you joy? What invigorates you?  
*Ask God to reveal to you the gifts with which He has graced you. What is your first step toward using your gifts for His glory?*
2. Are you unhappy with the gifts God has given you? Do you envy the gifts of others? Do you make others feel guilty that they aren't as passionate or as good at what you do? Do you expect others to function in their gifts in the same way that you do? Read 1 Cor. 12:4-7,11. How could this truth move you toward the gospel and repentance?
3. How could sincerely treating other believers as family help you appreciate the roles and gifts of others?
4. In what ways does God want to use your gifts in your neighborhood and city? How do you fit in His mission?

#### This Week's Reading:

Monday: Eph. 2:19  
Tuesday: Mt. 12:48-50  
Wednesday: 1 Cor. 12  
Thursday: Ro. 12:1-8  
Friday: Eph. 4:11-16  
Saturday: 1 Pet. 4:8-11

#### Resources:

*Discerning and Exercising Spiritual Gifts.* Copyright © 2007 by Timothy Keller, © 2011 by Redeemer City to City. [www.redeemercitytocity.com/resources](http://www.redeemercitytocity.com/resources)  
*A Primer on the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.* Winfield Bevins. <http://theresurgence.com/2010/04/21/a-primer-on-the-holy-spirit-a-free-e-book>

### IMPORTANT DATES

03/18/12 Volunteer Banquet  
03/31/12 Mission Team Arrives  
04/06/12 Good Friday Service - Hosted at Westview Baptist Church – 6:00 pm  
Childcare will be provided.  
04/08/12 Easter Worship Schedule - 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 Start inviting TODAY!  
Baptisms at Easter – Register at [baptism.martinsburgchurch.org](http://baptism.martinsburgchurch.org)  
05/13/12 Baby/Child Dedication – Go to [dedication.martinsburgchurch.org](http://dedication.martinsburgchurch.org) to register.

**Please begin praying for the Mission Team** coming to work with C@M from 03/31/12 through 04/04/12 and how you can get involved and serve with them.

### Community Groups Going On Now – Join One Today!

For more information about group meeting times and locations, please visit [groups.martinsburgchurch.org](http://groups.martinsburgchurch.org). Gathering weekly for fellowship and accountability, study and prayer, good times and tears, Community Groups are an essential expression of our church's mission. At the heart of the Community Groups ministry is the desire to see a community of believers who worship Jesus, love one another, and embody the mission of The Church at Martinsburg to make disciples.

### 2011 YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS

Year-end giving statements are available now! There are 2 ways to get your giving statement.

1. Log on to C@M Connect at [connect.martinsburgchurch.org](http://connect.martinsburgchurch.org), go to your profile and click financial. Your year-end statement is available for download.
2. Call or email the church office and request your giving statement to be sent directly to you. (304) 596-9330 or [contact@martinsburgchurch.org](mailto:contact@martinsburgchurch.org)

Thanks for using these methods of obtaining your statements.

### G4 Kids

Volunteers are needed to serve in Motion (nursery), Discovery (preschool), and Launch (k-5). If you are interested in serving one of these areas please contact the church office at (304) 596-9330 or [contact@martinsburgchurch.org](mailto:contact@martinsburgchurch.org) to receive an information packet and background check form.

**VOLUNTEERING: Interested in serving at C@M?** Our volunteers are a huge part of what takes place here not only on Sundays, but the entire week.

Visit [volunteering.martinsburgchurch.org](http://volunteering.martinsburgchurch.org) to see the opportunities we have posted and sign up today! You can call (304) 596-9330 or email [contact@martinsburgchurch.org](mailto:contact@martinsburgchurch.org).

### PASTOR ON CALL FOR 03/16/12 – 03/19/12 Shay Osborne

If you or your family have an emergency and need to get hold of a pastor from Friday morning through Monday morning please call 304.616.9007 to reach The Church at Martinsburg's Pastor on call.

### Missionary Toolbox

**Church History Bio – Ambrose of Milan (AD 339-397):** The first Latin Church father from a Christian family, he was considered the most "talented bishop" of the early church. He was governor in Italy's Northern Province before age 30. Ambrose was trained in rhetoric, law and Greek, and was a superior preacher. He became bishop of Milan, introduced congregational singing – because of his influence, hymn singing became an important part of Western liturgy – and introduced the medieval concept of a Christian emperor as dutiful "son of the church serving under orders from Christ." His allegorical preaching even influenced Augustine.

**Theological Term of the Week – Spiritual Gift:** "An ability ('working' or power) that comes to you freely ('gift') for the purpose of ministering to needs ('service') so as to build up Christian community in size and depth ('the common good')." They are given through the Holy Spirit's discretion and solely by God's grace. Gifts are given to "prepare God's people for works of service," to build up the body of Christ in unity, knowledge and maturity.