

Elohim Great Banquet Community

Newsletter May, June & July 2018

2018 Great Banquet Board Contact List

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Fall 2018 Weekends

Men's Great Banquet #53

September 6-9, Palestine Baptist Camp

Lay Director- Jay Scamihorn

Women's Great Banquet #54

September 13-16, Palestine Baptist Camp

Lay Director- Kathy Hayes

Palestine Baptist Camp • Robinson, IL

Guest and
Team fees are

\$75

noted on
each form.

Note: Only persons who have attended a required weekend may attend the events for any EGB weekend: Men's, Women's or Awakening. Please do not bring babies or children to any weekend event.

Team Meetings for 2018

July 15 - 1pm to 4pm

Marshall First Christian Church

902 N. 6th Street • Marshall, IL

July 21 - 8am to 4pm

Zion Methodist Church

20592 E 1350 Road • Marshall, IL

August 4 - 8am to 4pm

Marshall First Christian Church

902 N. 6th Street • Marshall, IL

August 18 - 8am to 4pm

First Baptist Church • Martinsville, IL

5 Trotter Lane • Martinsville, IL

We need sponsors and guests!

Website: www.elohimgreatbanquet.org

.....serving Jesus Christ Our Lord in serving others

A message from the Community Spiritual Director

Matthew 5:1-12, "And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

All the Beatitudes promote blessedness (happiness). True Christian blessedness and happiness are found when the characteristics of each beatitude become a reality in our lives. All people seek happiness but most go after it in the wrong way, especially non-believers.

Of all the teachings of Jesus, the Beatitudes are the most misunderstood by the present people of God. The problem is that the American dream has influenced Christians to seek pleasure, power, prestige, wealth, and the self-centered life so that the majority of Christians cannot see how the teaching of the Beatitudes applies to them.

The Beatitudes are a picture of the character qualities that all true believers should demonstrate daily. These are the character qualities of the man, Christ Jesus. In fact the eternal purpose of God is to conform His children into the image of His Son. Jesus lived the beatitudes. Isaiah 53 prophesied that the life of Jesus would demonstrate the same character qualities depicted in the Beatitudes.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit and those who mourn." Isaiah 53:3 (NKJV) He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

"Blessed are the meek." Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV) "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am (meek) gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness." Isaiah 53:9 (NKJV) "And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth." Jesus did not have to hunger and thirst after righteousness because He was fully righteous. But because of sin we must Hunger and thirst after righteousness.

"Blessed are the merciful," Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV) "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed."

"Blessed are the pure in heart." Isaiah 53:9 (NKJV) "And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth." "Blessed are the peacemakers."

9 "Isaiah 53:11 (NKJV) 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. Making peace between God and Man.

11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake." Isaiah 53:8 (NKJV) He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

Jesus told the disciples to deny themselves and pick up their cross and follow Him. If you are a true disciple you will characterize the Beatitudes by denying yourself to pick up your cross following His lead. But we are still full of imperfections.

None of these descriptions refer to what we may call a natural tendency. All are produced by grace and the operation of the Holy Spirit. Jesus life demonstrated these characteristics. What is amazing to me is the fact that the worst sinners were attracted to Him. And if we humbled ourselves as Jesus did the lost would be attracted to us. Philippians 2:5-8 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

Now let's go over the beatitudes and seek to understand what Jesus was teaching His disciples (not just the twelve). "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. First anyone who is poor knows he has needs. Jesus is referring to people who know they have needs (poor in spirit); that is they know that they are sinners, hopeless and helpless to save themselves. They understand that they need help from someone far greater than themselves. The poor in spirit realize their total helplessness and sinfulness in the presence of the holiness of God.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. Jesus mourned over sin but not his own (sinless) but because of our sins he offered Himself as our sacrifice. Jesus mourned because he knew he would be made sin at the cross. He mourned because he came to his own people and they received Him not. But we should mourn over our sinful nature and the thoughts and actions of our self-centeredness.

Christians must see themselves as undeserving of the grace of God because of sin. Grace is un-merited favor before God. John 3:16; the kingdom of heaven is a gift to those who are poor in spirit. When mourning over our sin we come asking for mercy and grace, This is an act of repentance.

5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. Meekness is the opposite of being out of control, angry, and

revenge. Meekness requires us to love others with un-conditional love as God loves us. It does not demand its rights. They are more concerned about the needs of others than themselves. Jesus chose to become a servant, a slave for the benefit of others. We are called not only to love others as ourselves but to esteem them as better than our selves.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. This is the opposite of the self-righteous Pharisees who attempt to establish their own righteousness. But those who are poor in spirit, long for a righteous life not tainted by sin and selfishness. When one is born again, he now has and burning desire to be righteous in order to please God.

7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. To become merciful one must take the next logical step in spiritual growth from hungering and thirsting for righteousness to be merciful. To be merciful one must choose to be selfless in an act of faith. Our fleshly nature desires to take vengeance when hurt by someone from word or deeds, but the merciful must lay aside these feelings and choose to forgive as an act of mercy and not demand justice on the offender.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. This is the next step in spiritual growth to become like Jesus. Jesus as a man walked in complete dependence on the Holy Spirit's power to obey the word and also to seek the Father's will in everything he did. Thus, His heart remained pure. We will never be pure in heart unless we totally submit and obey Jesus as Lord of our lives.

If we are rightly related to Jesus Christ through repentance and faith, having been forgiven of all our sins (no hidden sin) our hearts will become pure. It is then that the fruit of the Holy Spirit will be manifest from you. Galatians 5:22-23, " But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. Jesus came to earth as the Prince of Peace. Through his righteous life he became the mediator between God and man to reconcile us to God thus making peace between us and God. Becoming more like Jesus the logical step of spiritual growth is to become a peacemaker. This person does not demand his rights but tries to bring healing in relationships with others.

To be a peacemaker is to be filled with God, from which the love of God flows from you to all others. A peacemaker's attitude is: as Jesus has been to me I choose to be to others as loving, kind, and merciful. These characteristics were manifest in the early church. That is why they were such soul winners. So if you are a peacemaker you will respond as Jesus did to persecution.

Matthew 5:10-12 (NKJV) "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Can you see the logical progression from being poor in spirit to being persecuted because of your response to Father God and others like Jesus did? You can't respond like this until you love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. It is God's eternal purpose that you be conformed into the image of His Son with the same character qualities of His life. That is what the Beatitudes are all about. This will never happen until you fully yield to Him in everything and pick up your cross and follow Him. The theme of the Great Banquet is to live out the beatitudes. We are called to love God with all our hearts, and souls, minds, and strength and our neighbors as our selves. Is this your spiritual goal or are you still serving self?

Jeff Loper, Community Spiritual Director

A message from the Community Lay Director

What a wonderful set of Spring weekends we just witnessed. The wind blew and the Spirit moved! What a blessing to be able to serve on the team and be apart of what God is doing through our community. To the new members, welcome to the family! I look forward to getting to know you all. Thank you all for being open and sharing at closing. It was such a pleasure to listen to what the weekend meant to you and what you plan on doing with it. If you think you were blessed during your weekend, just wait until you serve on one. God shows up and knocks your socks off every time. Team selection is in full swing for our Fall weekends. Please turn in your volunteer forms if you haven't done so already. The weekends can't happen without volunteers to serve on the team. When volunteering for the first two times we ask that you serve outside the conference room in agape, prayer chapel, or kitchen. This gives you time to see how it all works and get accustomed to the process. By volunteering you are also committing to attend the team meetings for preparation. There will be 3 or 4 team meetings that are usually on Saturday from 8:00 – 4:00 at different churches chosen by the lay directors. We preview talks and allow the team to bond and form relationships before the weekends. A lot of time, effort and most importantly prayer goes into it. The Fall weekends will take place at the Palestine Baptist Association Campground near Robinson, Illinois. The dates are Men's – September 6-9; Women's – September 13-16. Our Lay Directors will be Jay Scamihorn and Kathy Hayes.

John 3:8 – The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

See you all at the next gathering! DeColores!

Shannon Burkybile, Community Lay Director

