

Heart to Heart: Women of the Word
Matthew 5:1-12 and Psalm 105:1-4

Symbol: Heart

Theme Hymn: In My Heart There Rings A Melody

Theme Chorus: I Love You, Lord!

The Beatitudes are probably some of the most favored and memorized passages from God's Word...right up there with the 23rd Psalm, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments! The words have been cross-stitched and framed, songs written using these words, and innumerable sermons and Bible studies prepared focusing upon these precious words. Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry will now have these words as our theme for the coming year.

The Beatitudes are couched in a much larger sermon (the Sermon on the Mount) given by Jesus, the Teacher. Jesus, the Teacher, sat down to teach the crowds gathered around him — the disciples (those who had made a true commitment to him) and “the crowd” (mainly curious bystanders and interested folks). The Beatitudes and the larger discourse found in chapters 5-7 are basically instructions for living life as a disciple of Jesus. It has been said that the Beatitudes, and the larger Sermon on the Mount, can be designated as training in Christian discipleship for believers of all eras. At the same time, the Beatitudes' rich words of Kingdom Living also hold out an invitation to the “crowd” gathered around Jesus to enter the Kingdom. Through his Sermon on the Mount, and the Beatitudes in particular, Jesus is teaching his disciples how to bring about the Kingdom of God on earth, as prayed in the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:10, “...*thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.*” Yes, the Beatitudes are about a future hope of eternal life with God in Heaven, but those beautiful words are also about living a Kingdom life right now on earth! And they are certainly appropriate for Women's Ministry as we seek to uncover what it means for us to be “Women of Word.”

What does it mean to be “***Women of the Word?***” What difference does God's Word have upon our lives? Are we better women for reading and studying God's Word? Will our lives, our families, our churches, communities, and ultimately the world, be a better place because we are women of the Word? Do we have to possess a strong devotional and prayer discipline in order to be “***Women of the Word?***” To be a woman of God's Word, do we need to be ordained as clergy, elder or deacon? Can a woman who is brand-new to the Christian faith call herself a woman of God's Word? Does a woman of God's Word have to ‘have it altogether?’

To be “***Women of the Word?***” simply and basically means that we let God's Word work in hearts, in order to direct our actions. For some women that will involve a very disciplined prayer and devotional life; for others it will be a five-minute devotion in the morning before waking the kids up for school and rushing out the door. For some women it will mean leading a weekly Bible study group; for others it will be participating faithfully or sporadically in the monthly or weekly Women's Ministry group. For some women it will be responding to God's call into ordained ministry, for others it will be responding to God's call to be a faithful Sunday school member. Women of God's Word come in all shapes and sizes, in all age brackets and life situations, in all socioeconomic groups, in all colors and abilities. To be “***Women of the Word?***” is to live the words of Psalm 105 -- “seek the Lord continually” (through prayer), “remember the wonderful works he has done” (through study), and “tell of all his wonderful works” (through witness). **Blessed are Cumberland Presbyterian Women....*Women of God's Word!***

The Joyful Heart (Matthew 5:3)

The Courageous Heart (Matthew 5:4)

The Sanctified Heart (Matthew 5:5)

The Trusting Heart (Matthew 5:6)

The Merciful Heart (Matthew 5:7)

The Pure Heart (Matthew 5:8)

The Peaceful Heart (Matthew 5:9)

The Wise Heart (Matthew 5:10)

The Fruitful Heart (Matthew 5:11-12)

In the Journey (Jeremiah 29:11)

In Circumstances (Philippians 4:11-13)

In Strength (Ephesians 6:10-17)

In Times Like These (John 14:1 and
Isaiah 43:1-4)

In Ministry (Romans 12:3-8)

In Praise and Worship (Colossians 3:16-17)

In Promises (Ephesians 2:13-17)

In Witnessing (Ephesians 6:18-20)

In Forgiveness (Ephesians 4:30-32)