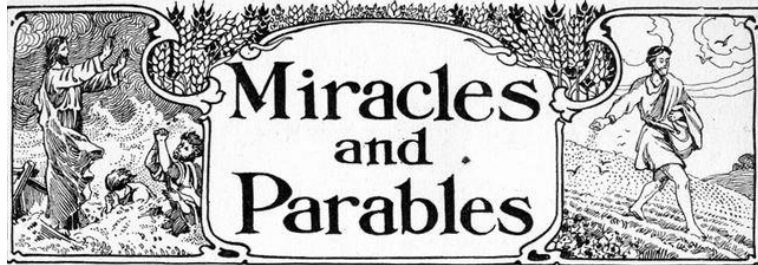


Sunday Praise and Worship Service

† Order of Service 



1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV) *Christ the Wisdom and Power of God*
18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.



Question: "How can I recognize and understand biblical symbolism?"

Answer: The language of the Bible is rich with metaphor. The biblical writers used familiar, everyday objects to symbolize spiritual truth. Symbols are quite common in the poetic and prophetic portions of the Bible. By its very nature, poetry relies heavily on figurative language; when Solomon calls his bride "a lily among thorns" (*Song of Solomon 2:2*), he is using symbols to declare the desirability and uniqueness of the Shulamite. Prophecy, too, contains much figurative imagery. Isaiah often used trees and forests as symbols of strength (e.g., *Isaiah 10:18-19; 32:19*). Daniel saw "a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes" who "came from the west . . . without touching the ground" (*Daniel 8:5*), and we interpret this as a kingdom (Greece) and its king (Alexander the Great) who speedily conquered the world.

Jesus' teaching was full of symbolism. He presented Himself as a Shepherd, a Sower, a Bridegroom, a Door, a Cornerstone, a Vine, Light, Bread, and Water. He likened the kingdom of heaven to a wedding feast, a seed, a tree, a field, a net, a pearl, and yeast. There are dozens, if not hundreds, of other symbols in the Bible.

Note that a literal interpretation of the Bible allows for figurative language. Here's a simple rule: if the literal meaning of a passage leads to obvious absurdity, but a figurative meaning yields clarity, then the passage is probably using symbols. For example, in *Exodus 19:4*, God tells Israel, "I carried you on eagles' wings." A literal reading of this statement would lead to absurdity—God did not use real eagles to airlift His people out of Egypt. The statement is obviously symbolic; God is emphasizing the speed and strength with which He delivered Israel. This leads to another rule of biblical interpretation: a symbol will have a non-symbolic meaning. In other words, there is something real (a real person, a real historical event, a real trait) behind every figure of speech.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/biblical-symbolism.html>

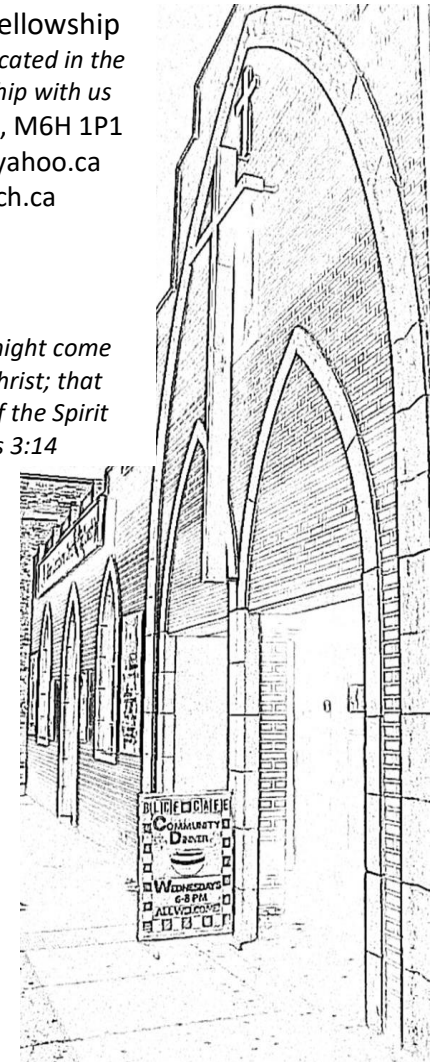
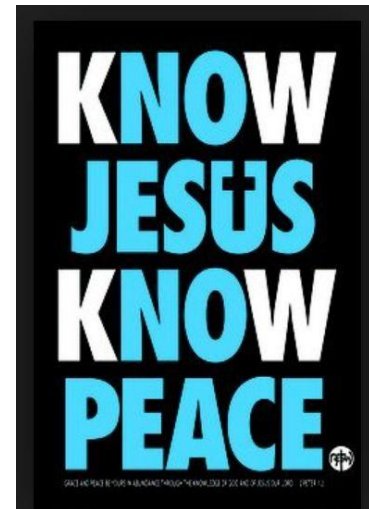
Bloor Lansdowne Christian Fellowship

11 AM Sunday † October 15, 2017

Bloor Lansdowne Christian Fellowship
An Evangelical Church of Christ - located in the heart of Toronto: Come and worship with us
1307 Bloor Street West, Toronto, M6H 1P1
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Twitter: @blcfca



That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. — Galatians 3:14



- ❖ Wednesday ~ 11:30AM Prayer and Bible Study
- ❖ Wednesday ~ 6:00-8:00 PM: BLCF Café Community Dinner
- ❖ Online Sermons: bloorlansdownechristianfellowship.wordpress.com

Sunday Praise and Worship Service

† Order of Service 



Announcements and Call to Worship; Prayer

Opening Hymn #182: *Marvelous Message We Bring*; Choruses

Prayer and Tithing Hymn #572: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings*

Responsive Reading #624: *The Great Commission*
(- from Matthew 28, Luke 24, Acts 1, and Mark 16)

Message by Steve Mickelson:
'The Miracles and Parables of Jesus'

Closing Hymn #158: *I Serve a Risen Savior*

Benediction – (Philippians 4:7):
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus

John 20:24-31 (ESV) *Jesus and Thomas*

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin,^[a] was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Footnotes: a. [John 20:24](#) Greek *Didymus*

Bloor Lansdowne Christian Fellowship

11 AM Sunday † October 15, 2017

Matthew 16:1-12 (ESV) *The Pharisees and Sadducees Demand Signs*

16 And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. ² He answered them,^[a] "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' ³ And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. ⁴ An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." So he left them and departed.

The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

⁵ When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. ⁶ Jesus said to them, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ⁷ And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, "We brought no bread." ⁸ But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? ⁹ Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? ¹⁰ Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? ¹¹ How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ¹² Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Footnotes: a. [Matthew 16:2](#) Some manuscripts omit the following words to the end of verse 3

Matthew 13:10-16 (ESV) *The Purpose of the Parables*

¹⁰ Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:

““You will indeed hear but never understand,
and you will indeed see but never perceive.”

¹⁵ For this people's heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed,
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them.’

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

Parables

- Jesus used metaphors or similes drawn from common life experiences or nature to illustrate moral or spiritual truths. These accounts would challenge the audience to make a radical choice about entering the "Kingdom of God". Many times the parable would follow a question.
 - Parables about the Kingdom
 - Parables about forgiveness