

**“The Character of a Methodist”
“Loving God with All Our Mind”**

We began a new sermon series “The Character of a Methodist.” This sermon series invites us to recommit our lives and our hearts to Christ. In both the Hebrew Scripture and the words of Jesus, we are reminded that the greatest commandment is “to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength and to love your neighbor as yourself.” This week, we are confronted with a Jesus who not only heals but is with religious leaders whose minds were filled with questions and with anger by Jesus’ healing power. Now only are we called to love God with all hearts and souls, but also with minds. Sometimes it is the mind that has the most trouble being open enough to believe that God is doing a new thing. May this week bring us to love God and serve God with not only hearts and souls but with our minds as well. ---Pastor Cindy

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Loving God with All Our Mind”**

Prayer for the Week

Come, divine Interpreter, bring me eyes thy book to read, ears the mystic words to hear, words which did from thee proceed, words that endless bliss impart, kept in an obedient heart. All who read, or hear, are blessed, if they plain commands we do; of thy kingdom here possessed, thee we shall in glory view when thou comest on earth to abide, reign triumphant at thy side. Amen
Charles Wesley 1762 (*Come, Divine Interpreter*, #594 United Methodist Hymnal)

This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, January 29, 2018 Mark 2: 1-2

In the first chapter of Mark so much has happened so quickly; Jesus' baptism and temptations, the arrest of John, the calling of the disciples and countless healings and encounters. Enough so, Jesus, at one point, hides from the crowds in order to pray. (Mark 1: 35-37) So he is back in Capernaum (where last week's gospel was placed (Mark 1: 21-28) and where Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law). The place was packed, standing room only at the home where he was staying. Jesus was speaking the word to them and feeding the hunger in their hearts, their souls and their minds. *How do you open your heart, your soul and your mind to hear the word Jesus has for you?*

Tuesday, January 30, 2018 Mark 2: 3-7

Not only has Jesus become a "superstar" who packs the house and there is only standing room in the house to hear him, he has also become well known for his healing. These four friends were desperate enough to tear off part of a roof to get their friend to Jesus. What were they thinking? What was going on in their minds that they were willing to damage property and risk their friend by lowering him through a roof? So much of the time we talk about heart and spirit in terms of our faith, but there is also an element of our intellect that is required. While some might compartmentalize mind and spirit, that is not something Jesus wants us to do. Our minds are one part of what it takes to love God and love each other. These friends loved so much they were willing to do anything to have their friend healed. *What are you willing to do to love God with all your heart, soul AND mind?*

Wednesday, January 31, 2018 Mark 2: 8-12

The religious leaders were unimpressed and in fact angered by Jesus words. He told the paralytic his sins were forgiven which came across as blasphemy. Jesus asks what is in a word? What does it matter if I say your sins are forgiven or that you can get up and walk? So Jesus says both, but does so as he challenges the religious leaders thought processes and their theology. The people were amazed and praised God. How often do we allow our minds to discount what is happening in our minds and spirits? Or how often do we stick to our arguments, even when they might not make as much sense as they used to? *Today, find new ways to be amazed at what God is doing in your life, in your heart, in your soul and in your mind.*

Thursday, February 1, 2018 Romans 12: 1-2

These verses were written in my third grade bible a very long time ago. *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."* So often we do not take our mind into consideration when celebrating and acknowledging our faith. Certainly, religious leaders of Jesus day and Paul's day didn't want a renewal of minds, they wanted certainty of mind and spirit. Here Paul invites a renewal of the mind in order to be open to the will of God and to make real what is good, right, loving and perfect. It is having an open heart, an open spirit and an open mind in which God can show us a more perfect way, the way of love and faith. *How do you renew your mind in Christ Jesus? How open are you to your mind, heart and spirit being changed in order to love God more?*

Friday, February 2, 2018

*Agreeable to this a "Methodist's" one desire, is the one design of their life, namely, "not to do his or her own will, but the will of Him that sent them." Their one intention at all times and in all things is, not to please themselves, but Him whom their soul loveth.....All that is in the soul is holiness to the Lord. There is not a motion in their heart, but is according to God's will. Every thought that arises points to God and is in obedience to the law of Christ. Taken from **The Character of a Methodist by John Wesley*** John Wesley believed that we could be perfected in love and that everything that came from our hearts, souls and minds could point to God and our faith in God. *How is it with your heart, with your soul and with your mind today?*