

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OR WORDS OR GIFTS

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH 1999-2000 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Class #25 Sunday, March 26, 2000

Peter J. Jessen

St. Luke theme for 1999: **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

St. Luke theme for 2000: **"EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR LIVING"**

Spiritual Practice: 1. Breathe, concentrate on a verse: "The Lord is my shepherd"
2. and on "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

When in a quandary, negative attitude, angry, or fearful, (1) pause, (2) breathe deeply, slowly, and (3) pray: "Help me to feel your love, Lord, help me to respond with love."

"Help me to know who I am and to live the Gospel with my deeds, and even words sometimes."

Key Q: How TO find balance, purpose, and meaning in life & unlock the power within us? **God3!**

Class purpose = "equipping the saints for living". What do you perceive that to be? St Luke Confirmation: to fulfill the church's stewardship of time to help clarify the gifts God has been given you.

- **Pastor Knapp's sermon question** of 1-9-00: **Do we know who we are? If we know who we are, we live the gospel: we serve and love others!** Relates to "equipping the saints for living."
- Learning the **tools** for Christian living/love/service/success

For 2000: New Year, New Decade, New Century, New Millennium: wonderment or bewilderment?

- Same/new? Born Again, Transformation, Personal Development, etc.
- New Year's Resolutions: Pause & reflect where we've been and where we want to get to, & how.

The lesson for the day from "The Whole People of God" curriculum (today's lectionary readings)

OT lesson: Exodus 20:1-17: **Pastor Knapp's sermon: The 10 Commandments as 10 Gifts:**

<u>Commandment</u>	<u>Gift</u>	<u>Commandment</u>	<u>Gift</u>
1 No gods but God	God	7 No stealing	possessions
2 Don't take God's name in vain	God	8 No false witness	reputation
3 Keep Sabbath holy	rest	9 Don't covet your neighbor's house	receive from neighbor
4 Honor mother & father	leadership	10 Don't covet any thing of your neighbor	not advertisements
5 Do not kill	life		community
6 No adultery	intimacy		

Peter Berger asks: , (1) "Who are we?" (**God's**) and (2) "How are we to live together?" (not Egypt's exploitative relationship among people; freed from slavery. Now what rules/"words"/roles? 10 =are gifts re how to figure it out.

NT Epistle: I Cor 1:18-25: have same mind/purpose in Christ. ID in X to supercede all others (Jew or Greek/gentile, rich or poor, slave or free, male or female. BUT: God not impose w/force, not avoid suffering (sin). See wall chart with Bible verses.

NT Gospel: John 2:12-22: den of thieves; problem = temple system; churches can too; drove out noise of animals and business of money changers, where system put intermediaries (priests, sacrifices, money changers) between people and God (later Luther same thing)

Discussion: Turning tables in each reading; what challenges to establish order do they represent? God started in garden & again w/Noah and w/Abraham; each ended/lost. Jesus: no break in over 2K yrs

Close with circle prayer, with all students invited to participate.