

WEEK FOUR - BADITUDE



PRAYER ADAPTED FROM ALCUIN OF YORK

God, go with us. Help us to be an honor to the church.
Give us the grace to follow Christ's word,
to be clear in our tasks and careful in our speech.
Give us open hands and joyful hearts.
Let Christ be on our lips.
May our lives reflect a love of truth and compassion.
Let no one come to us and go away sad.
May we offer hope to the poor
and solace to the disheartened.
Let us so walk before God's people
that those who follow us might come into his kingdom.
Let us sow living seeds, words that are quick with life,
that faith may be the harvest in people's hearts.
In words and in example, let your light shine
in the dark like the morning star.
Do not allow the wealth of the world or its enchantment
flatter us into silence as to your truth.
Do not permit the powerful, or judges,
or our dearest friends
to keep us from professing what is right.
Amen.

Today: Christians with bad attitudes. Being negative about everything.

"People are not problems to be fixed, but image-bearers to be known." - Eugene Peterson

"What brings credibility to the gospel is not more hour-long sermons. What brings credibility, passion, and, ultimately, belief is seeing the gospel at work ... the incarnate gospel. What will move skeptics, cynics, and critics are Christians who love God and their neighbors—including neighbors who don't look like them—by willingly and humbly serving their needs." - Eugene Cho (Overrated: Are We More in Love with the Idea of Changing the World Than Actually Changing the World?)

POINT: It's impossible to love God when you don't love the things God loves.

POINT: Our inability to love people despite our differences hurts the church's reputation.

Americans, like citizens of most Western nations today, lack agreement about the purpose of our country, the nature of the common good, and the meaning of human flourishing. These differences affect not only what we think but also how we think and see the world. This is the fact of pluralism today: deep and irresolvable differences over the things that matter most. - John D. Inazu, Uncommon Ground

Matthew 5:21-22 NRSV

You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder,' and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire.

Ephesians 4:25-26 NRSV

So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger.

POINT: You are responsible for your outlook. No one is forcing you to be cynical or pessimistic.

POINT: Remember: Our love for our neighbor flows from our love of God.

POINT: Be open to the unexpected places and moments to meet God.

Philippians 4:6 NRSV

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.