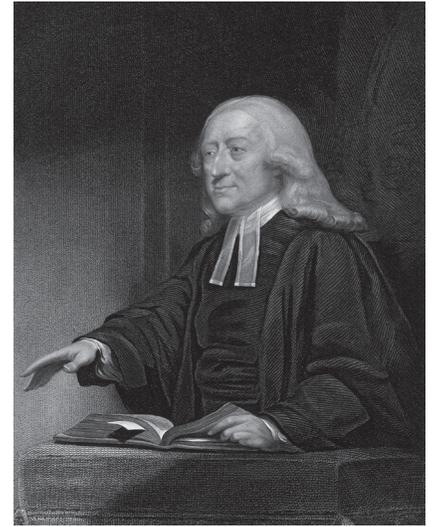


The Wesleyan Way

2023 Lenten Study for Minnesota United Methodists: Week 4

Thank you for journeying through Lent with the Minnesota Conference Cabinet. One of the values we seek to live out as people called United Methodists in Minnesota is to be “grounded in Wesleyan theology.” With that in mind, each of us has selected one sermon from John Wesley’s standard sermons, sought to recap the sermon in our own words, and then offered our reflection on why we believe the sermon’s message matters to us today. For each week, we have provided a scripture verse for the sermon, a 10- to 15-minute video, a link to the original sermon, some questions for reflection, and a hymn composed by Charles Wesley that we believe beautifully illustrates the splendor of Wesleyan theology in lyric.



Wesley’s Sermon: “Upon Our Lord’s Sermon on the Mount”

Preached Oct 22-26, 1740

Wesley’s Sermon Outline: Near the beginning of each of John Wesley’s sermons he generally provides an outline of what he seeks to answer or accomplish in his message. This sermon’s outline is:

- I. Christianity is essentially a social religion and to turn it into a solitary one is to destroy it.
- II. It is impossible to conceal Christianity, our faith, and to try is utterly contrary to the design of God.
- III. Answer some objections.
- IV. Conclude the whole with a practical application.

Opening Prayer: Holy Spirit, may the light of Christ that shone bright in John Wesley illuminate our time of study, warm our hearts, and bring out our God colors in us that we may taste, see, and share God’s savory goodness with family, friends, and neighbor.

Scripture Text: “Ye are the salt of the earth. But if the salt hath lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted. It is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out, and trodden under foot of men.” “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. “Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light to all that are in the house. “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
—Matthew 5:13-16

Sermon Recap & Reflection by Rev. Cynthia Williams,
Superintendent of the Twin Cities District

Questions for Reflection:

- What connection do you see between salt and light?
- In Wesley’s view, what is the purpose and gift of salt and light in our faith walk? In our church?
- Where are you challenged and/or convicted by this study?

Hymn: “Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies,” United Methodist Hymnal #173

Close with Prayer

Scan a QR code with your smartphone camera for quick access.

Watch Today’s Sermon Recap and Reflection

<https://vimeo.com/801401710>



Listen to Today’s Hymn

<https://youtu.be/bs0LrdLtn5M>



For Those Wanting to Go Deeper

Wesley's Original Sermon Manuscript

Did You Know? After seeing his colleague George Whitefield's fruitfulness in field preaching, Wesley embraced the practice, but initially quite reluctantly: Wesley's Journal for Saturday, March 31, reads:

In the evening I reached Bristol and met Mr. Whitefield there. I could scarce reconcile myself at first to this strange way of preaching in the fields, of which he set me an example on

Sunday, having been all my life (till very lately) so tenacious of every point relating to decency and order that I should have thought the saving of souls almost a sin if it had not been done in a church.

A few days later, Monday, Wesley reports:

At four in the afternoon I submitted to be more vile, and proclaimed in the highways the glad tidings of salvation, speaking from a little eminence in a ground adjoining to the city, to about three thousand people. The scripture on which I spoke was this: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor."

Read John Wesley's Original
Sermon Manuscript

<https://tinyurl.com/sermon-mount>

