

**Inspired**  
**Micah 6: 6-8**  
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**Who inspires you?** Sometimes we say we are inspired by someone, but we are not inspired enough to follow their lead. Is your life lived as a result of inspiration? Who do you inspire? How does who you are, what you believe in and how you act, inspire children and others towards faith in Jesus Christ?

I looked on the internet for **'100 people who changed the world'**. The majority of the people on the list we would recognize. The first person mentioned on the list was – you guessed it, Jesus Christ. The author of the list made the qualifier saying that the list is not a judgement of who is best. Yet, Jesus was still the first person mentioned.

**Why was/is Jesus so influential** you ask? Jesus spoke like no one else spoke. He confidently acted in justice and love against the values of the prevailing culture. For example, he hung around all the wrong people. He asked to come to the home of the hated tax collector Zacchaeus. He spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well (Jews were not to speak with the hated Samaritans). He said in a large group of people crowded around him “who touched me?” His disciples were astonished with his question because so many people were touching him. Jesus showed love and compassion to those he met and healed. He willingly suffered as he stood up against the injustices of the day; he was kind to children - those with little status and those who were often treated in the culture with judgement and scorn; he humbly walked with God and humbled himself even to death on the cross. Jesus was inspiring because he served with deep selfless, sacrificial love!

**Love is the greatest healing power in the world.** No political power or military might can surpass the power of love: **“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,<sup>[a]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing (I Corinthians 13: 1-3).”** Love is at the core of the creator, and Jesus is the embodiment, the incarnation of that love.

Today our new members have said, in effect, that each of them are on **a life journey to know Jesus more** – to strengthen their relationship with Him. He is their saviour, their redeemer, and their friend. Jesus lived a life of love and forgiveness that changed the world and is changing the world through his inspired followers. Inspired by Christ’s unfailing love, his followers are meant to inspire others to be passionate followers of Christ.

In our scripture reading today from Micah 6: 6-8, the prophet Micah makes it clear that God does not just want us to worship him on Sundays, and then on Monday live like our faith makes no difference in our lives (also known as 'Sunday morning Christians'). This is not inspiring. For our faith to make a difference in our lives, God meant it to be a way of life. The worship service on Sunday is meant to feed and nurture us to go out into the world and bring healing to the world. **What does the lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6: 8b).** In other words, do what Jesus did.

You may say that Jesus does inspire you, but you find it too hard to do these things. Good! You are honest! You are aware that you cannot do it on your own. Jesus wants you to come to that place of need, and he will help you to do what is required. In his love for you, he answers your prayer for wisdom and strength to gain confidence in doing his will.

This past Wednesday morning, I taught the Bible Story at VBS with one of our youth, Rebecca Myette. The theme for the day was **"God is always with you!"** When that is said repeatedly by Sonia (our church Children's Ministry leader) and all the leaders, the children respond enthusiastically with, "Wow, God!" God is certainly always with us, but we put up barriers because we have not invited Jesus in, or listened to him in prayer. Perhaps we have not been in prayer conversation with him, so we do not hear his voice or even feel his presence. Christ's presence comes to us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our Guide and counselor. The Holy Spirit is also said in scripture to be 'The breath of God'.

The evidence of God's breath, the Holy Spirit, is in the Scriptures from the very beginning of the Bible.

**Genesis 1:2 -"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters (NIV)."**

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and offered his peace and encouragement to them. **"When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (John 20:22 NRSV)**

When we receive Christ into our hearts, we receive the Holy Spirit. He lives as a permanent resident in our bodies. The Holy Spirit was always there with you, but now you have invited him in.

**1 Corinthians 3:16 - "Don't you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells (lives) in you (NRSV)?"**

Who inspires you? Jesus Christ. How do you want to live? I want to live as His passionate follower. How do I do that? You can do that by being aware of His steadfast presence; and the hope, the peace, the joy and the steadfast love of the Holy Spirit that accompanies that presence. Wow, God! Amen.