

MONDAY 5.26.25 - Luke 6:35

Robert E. Lee was a famous and skilled general of the Confederate armies during the Civil War. On one occasion, President Jefferson Davis asked Lee's opinion of a fellow officer. Lee praised the man in the highest terms. There was another officer nearby who overheard Lee and was astonished by the general's commendation of the man. He commented to Lee, "General, do you realize that the man of whom you are speaking so highly to the President is one of your bitterest enemies and that he never misses an opportunity to condemn you?" "Yes," replied General Lee, "I know. But the President asked for my opinion of him, not for his opinion of me."

Can you do that? Can you love your enemies and do good to them? Can you show mercy to others as God has demonstrated mercy to you? If so, the Lord promises you a great reward.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 5.27.25 - 1 Corinthians 10:24

Today's verse is in the context of idolatry. People know what they want and they want it. We suffer from such a sinful base as well, because we were born in sin. But the Gospel of Christ has set us free from the spirit of sin and death. What the world sees as right is to seek what pleases, what builds themselves up, what puts number one out front and helps grasp life with gusto! Those would be the world's marching orders.

How sweet are the sentiments of the faithful who enter into world conflicts, both familial and commercial, with a goal of building another up and seeking the good of a neighbor. That is the love that our God showed to us and desires us to make an example in the world.

Of course, easier said than done. But with God all things are possible. He calls us to His service and then fully equips us to do it and finish well. Be selfless and put others before ourselves, as He did for us.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 5.28.25 - 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

"I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some."

Paul wasn't a chameleon. Paul did not change his message. He never altered the content of the gospel. Throughout his ministry, Paul's message was always: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Nor does Paul indicate that he was a compromiser. He did not change his morals.

Paul did not claim, "I got intoxicated in order to reach alcoholics for the Lord." What Paul is saying is that he was flexible regarding his methods. He adapted his approach according to the people he attempted to evangelize. That's why Paul says in verse 19: "Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible." Like Paul, be flexible in how you present the good news to others.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 5.29.25 - Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Isaiah prophetically and poetically describes "beautiful feet" carrying the "good news" across the mountainside, that will precede freedom from Babylonian captivity and a return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and temple.

One hundred years later, Nahum foretells Judah's victory over the Assyrians: "Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace! Once again God reigns.

Almost a thousand years later, Paul repeats this imagery of a messenger proclaiming the good news of peace and salvation in Christ: "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:14-15).

All this made me think: Are my feet more likely to carry gossip, or "the Good News?"

Who reigns?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 5.30.25 - Psalm 105:1

Psalm 105:1, Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name. make known among the nations what he has done.

Christ died for your sins. He also died for the sins of those people who are part of the most isolated and obscure people groups of the world, and for those who live in places where Christianity is taboo. He died for them, and he told us we need to tell them. Some of us are called go, perhaps more than are willing. All of us are called to pray. All of us, who have so many material blessings, should be convicted to give. All of us are called to care. All of us have been called to be mission-minded, both in our own communities and around the world. How about you? Are you willing to go? Are you willing to pray? Are you willing to give? Do you care? If God cared enough to die for them; we should care enough to tell them.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **SUMMER QUARTER** – Sunday Mornings at 9:40
LOCATION: B8-10 – Gene Steinruck- begins June 1.
EXPLORE THE BIBLE - Psalms - Let the ancient words meet you where you are. Listen as God speaks to your heart and reminds you how much He cares about you.
LOCATION: B11 Teacher: TBD – begins June 1st.
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE (part 1)
Risk Takers: The Adventure of Walking by Faith - Though exercising our faith can feel risky, see that the God we follow turns it into a grand adventure when we place our trust in Him.
LOCATION: B11 – Teacher: TBD – July 13th & 20th.
Safe and Secure: Our Eternal Security in Christ

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
RESUMES IN THE FALL
- Youth** **NOT MEETING THIS EVENING**
YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

SPRING SMALL GROUPS

THURSDAY EVENING STUDY - beginning June 5th 6:30pm - Rm. B8-B10.
REVELATION: Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom - by Jen Wilkin.
Understand Revelation as the culmination of God's great story.
This is a 10-week study led by Denise Whitfield and Lisa Domenico.
Sign up at the information tables or on the connect card!

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY - began April 23rd - 6:30pm - Rm. B8-10
TOGETHER - Community That Marked the Acts 2 Church - Be transformed by connecting to a community of believers. With Barry Wills

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES,
USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

John 21:1-14

Characteristics of a Committed Christian (Pt. 1)

The disciples went fishing on the Sea of Galilee. They caught nothing because they were relying on their own power and ability. So, Jesus uses this fishing experience to teach them lessons in fishing for men. They are lessons they need to learn for their fishing ministry after He leaves them and ascends to heaven. They are lessons we must grasp as well as we share the gospel.

To successfully fish for men, you must learn:

1. C _____ of need (vv 1-5)

We must acknowledge our need of the Holy Spirit's empowerment as we share the good news of Jesus with others. It's a spiritual endeavor, and it needs to be done in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- 1 Corinthians 2:4
- Ephesians 6:19-20

2. C _____ to obedience (vv 6-8)

We might think it's our responsibility to force people to trust Christ for eternal life. It's not! Our responsibility is to be a witness for Christ. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He said to the disciples: *"You will be my witnesses."* It's our responsibility to share the gospel with others. It's the Holy Spirit's responsibility to convict them of sin and their need for Christ. It's their responsibility to place their faith in Jesus.

3. C _____ to the Lord (vv 9-14)

The picture is one of fellowship. The disciples needed time alone with Jesus. That's what you need! You need time alone with the Lord. You need time to let Him talk to you through His Word and for you to talk to Him through prayer.

The disciples failed in catching fish on the Sea of Galilee that night, but their failure wasn't final. A positive outcome was found. Valuable lessons were learned, and they're lessons we must keep in mind as fishers of men.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



May 26 – May 30

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message from April 25th. "Characteristics of a Committed Christian", with Pastor Doug Lyon. The message on June 1st will be with our Quarterly Missions Speaker, Dr. Dale Marshfield from Grace Global Ministries.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
John 15:12