

**MONDAY 4.11.22 – MATTHEW 6:30-34**

*“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and these things will be given to you as well.” (6:33)*

Corrie ten Boom said, “If Satan cannot make you bad, he will make you busy.” We live in a day where technology, which is promoted under the disguise of making our lives easier and giving us more free time, has only served to make our lives more complicated and harried. If it is not technology, it is something else. I cannot speak to your life, but I bet there are things, perhaps good things, that by keeping you busy, keep you from focusing on God. Let me ask you how much time you spend each day:

- Reading your Bible?
- In Prayer?
- Just being still and focusing on the Lord?

Could you know Christ even better if you spent more time doing these things?

*“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and these things will be given to you as well.” (6:33)*

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**TUESDAY 4.12.22 – PHILIPPIANS 4:8**

We have homework today! Don’t worry. It isn’t anything too taxing. Here is our assignment. Let’s think of our daily routine outside of our spiritual life. When we see the word true, who or what do we think of? How about noble or right? Who or what is pure or lovely or admirable? Finally, what do we think of when we see excellent or praiseworthy? I am certain we all just came up with some pretty awesome people and things that we have in our lives. But even those good, earthly things that we have been blessed with can get in the way of the single true, pure, praiseworthy relationship that means the most to us... Jesus Christ.

Pause. Meditate. Read your Bible. Pray. Be sure to set aside plenty of time to get away from the patterns of this world and really focus on your personal relationship with Jesus.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**WEDNESDAY 4.13.22 – 1 CORINTHIANS 15:14-18**

In the United States, each of the 50 states has a nickname. Pennsylvania is known as the “Keystone State.” New York is called the “Empire State.” The state of Missouri has an interesting nickname. Missouri is the “Show Me State.” Missouri’s nickname can be traced to a speech made in Philadelphia in 1899 by one of her congressmen. The man’s name was Willard Van Diver. Van Diver said, “Frothy eloquence neither convinces nor satisfies me. I am from Missouri. You have got to show me!” That’s what Jesus Christ did through His resurrection—He shows us. Through His resurrection, Christ shows believers that they are truly following the right person, that they are truly forgiven, and that they truly have life beyond the grave. Jesus said, “Because I live, you will live also” (John 14:19).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**THURSDAY 4.14.22 – MARK 14:22-24**

Styrofoam-like wafer... a thimbleful of juice. In its physical form, our communion ritual sure doesn’t seem like much. But, at its source, going back to the root of the practice, it means EVERYTHING. Sometimes, I think we take the meaning and importance of communion for granted. A wafer and juice representing the bread and the cup. The body and the blood of Jesus Christ. Again, the **body of Jesus Christ**. The **blood of Jesus Christ**. Let us go to the table with great anticipation, prepared to receive a great and powerful reminder. In the words of St. John Chrysostom, “Let us return from the table, like lions, breathing out fire, terrifying to the devil!”

PRAYER: Holy Redeemer, the bread and wine of the last supper have become body and blood, given for us. Transform us with Your holy presence. Cleanse us, forgive us, and renew us in Your Word... AMEN.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**FRIDAY 4.15.22 – ISAIAH 53:4-6**

There is no question who Isaiah is talking about. This is the Suffering Servant, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. It’s crystal clear. There are two central ideas in this passage worth seeing:

- First, Isaiah shows us *what Jesus has done*.
- Second, Isaiah shows us that it *has been done for us*.

To be sure, there is a lot happening here. A lot of terrible things – a true curse – targeting the Messiah. Jesus really was the *suffering* servant. He was absolutely afflicted.

But it’s not just that Jesus bore grief, or that He was pierced or crushed or wounded. It’s that He has borne *our* griefs and carried *our* sorrows, that He was pierced for *our* transgressions, crushed for *our* iniquities...

We should beware of distancing ourselves from these words. Instead, we are beckoned to draw near, to hear the Savior say to us, through the description of His ancient pains, *Child of weakness, watch and pray. Find in me your all in all*.

*Your* all in all, Jesus might say. *Your* only hope. Which means, to bring it home a little more, Isaiah 53 is for *you*. Can you feel the weight of these words? The wonder?

Surely He has borne your griefs and carried your sorrows. He was pierced for your transgressions and crushed for your iniquities... and by His wounds you are healed.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

### SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:40AM\*

**Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level  
*\*available during 9:40 **AND** 11:00 services*

NURSERY (through Age 3)  
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level  
*available during the 9:40 service*

**Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

**Adults** EXPLORE THE BIBLE – Room B8-10 (Lower Level)  
*1 and 2 Thessalonians with Jim Kline*  
MASTERWORK – Room B11 (Lower Level)  
*"All Of Grace" with Lane Kemler (3.6–4.10)*  
*"Absolute Surrender" with Jack Devlin (4.17–5.29)*  
PERSON OF INTEREST – Room B1-2 (Lower Level)  
*with Steven Miller*  
**\*MEMBERSHIP CLASS – Room B11 (Lower Level)**  
*with Executive Pastor - Bob Lehman (11:00am)*

### SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00PM

**Kids** KID'S CLUB (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level  
CURRENT SERIES: The Beatitudes

**Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)  
*5th–8th Grade meet downstairs*  
*9th–12th Grade meet upstairs*

**Adults** *–not meeting Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday–*

DIVE DEEP WITH DOUG  
LOCATION: Worship Center  
CURRENT SERIES: Israel Tour

BIG IDEA – SMALL GROUP(S)  
LOCATION: Room B8-10 (Lower Level)  
*Group discussion following the scriptures and themes of Sunday morning's message. Jump in any time as we go through the Book of ACTS together.*

*TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY GROUPS OR CLASSES,  
PLEASE USE THE CONNECT CARD IN YOUR BULLETIN. THANK YOU!*

## SERMON NOTES

### Acts 4:23-5:11

What happens to people physically can also happen to them spiritually. It's possible to have our spiritual vision become fuzzy. So, how do we maintain a clear, spiritual focus?

1. U \_\_\_\_\_ (v 32)

Don't confuse this action with uniformity. Uniformity is when everyone is made to dress alike, act alike, think alike, and talk alike.

2. P \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 24-31)

"Don't pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men and women. Don't pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks." ~ Phillips Brooks

3. E \_\_\_\_\_ (v 33)

The Lord wants us to testify—to be His witnesses—to share the good news of forgiveness of sin and eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

4. G \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 34-35)

This does not mean that everyone sold their houses and possessions so that all became homeless and destitute.

5. G \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 36-37)

Contrast the action of Barnabas to the hypocrisy of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day  
TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



## April 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

#### INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip 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:

This week's readings and will help us walk through Holy Week. Monday's and Tuesday's readings will build on today's message. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help us walk through the events of the Passion and celebrate the Resurrection.

#### KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

"Jesus is *'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.'* Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

–ACTS 4:11-12