

MONDAY 4.25.22 – MATTHEW 28:18-20

Something happened in the lives of those first disciples. Something big. Something transformational. Something changed their lives. Fishermen became missionaries. A tax collector became a teacher. A small group of disciples, huddling in fear behind locked doors, began boldly telling the Jesus story in the the public square. Why?

They could hardly help themselves. They were so overwhelmed – despite their doubts and misgivings – by the power of Jesus, the hope of the resurrection, and the personal transformations they saw in their own lives, that they felt compelled to do it. They couldn’t keep it to themselves. Nothing mattered more than sharing the story, than living the Jesus way, than becoming part of this radical new community of love, grace and peace.

But what about you and me? What would happen if we took these verses to heart?

PRAYER: Sometimes Lord, we worry. We worry that we can’t do what You have called us to do. We sense that we can’t will ourselves to do Your will. So we need the fire of Your Holy Spirit to come upon us. We need You to walk through the locked doors of our hearts. Use us as to carry the message of Your love into the lives of the people You call us to. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 4.26.22 – COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

How many of us came to a saving faith in Jesus Christ without the aid of any other? I would argue that none of us did. All of us come to Christ through the influence of others who share the Gospel with us, pointing us to Jesus Christ. And that’s why we have an obligation to share the gospel, too. But how do we do that?

In Colossians 4:2-6, Paul lays down three important principles for showing or sharing the Gospel. First, he says we should talk to God before we talk to others. Second, he says we should walk the walk before we talk the talk. Third, he says we should spread the word before our lips fall forever silent.

May God help us to show the gospel more effectively by talking to God before we talk to others; by walking the walk before we talk the talk; and by spreading the word before our lips fall forever silent. Amen.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 4.27.22 – ACTS 5:12-42

“We must obey God rather than men!”

Middle and high school students aren’t the only ones who face peer pressure. Adults are encouraged to perform unethical practices at their place of employment and among acquaintances. A desire to be liked and to fit in wars with a desire to obey God.

What will help you to obey God rather than men?

- ◆ Know God’s Word. You can’t obey the Lord if you don’t know what He wants you to do. When Satan tempted Jesus, He answered with Scripture. How much Bible have you hidden in your heart? How diligent are you to read and study God’s Word?
- ◆ Depend on God’s people. Reliable Christian friends serve as a sounding board and a source of encouragement as you face the temptation not to obey God. They offer helpful accountability and loving support.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 4.28.22 – ECCLESIASTES 12:1-14

Throughout Ecclesiastes, Solomon takes us on quite the journey to find purpose. To find meaning, hope, and fulfillment in this life “under the sun” where sins, struggles, and trials abound. During our short lives we long and look for meaning in all sorts of places (pleasure, money, work,

achievements, relationships, etc.) other than the one place it is truly found—God.

When we look to the things of this world to provide ultimate meaning and purpose, at best our longings are temporarily appeased, but we are never truly satisfied. We move from one thing to the next in a vain search for fulfillment, and then we die. This type of life can only elicit despair.

But Solomon says there is a better way to live “beyond the sun” with a hope and satisfaction firmly rooted in God (and in Christ) that gives us an eternal eternal. This is where we find our meaning, this is where we find our purpose.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 4.29.22 – PSALM 138:1-8

HE LOOKS UPON THE LOWLY. David turns away from the “gods”—high and powerful beings and people (verse 1). He perceives that though high and exalted Himself, God is always close to the lowly (verse 6)—in two senses. He loves the poor and the widowed (cf. Psalm 113:7-8). And He comes into the hearts and lives only of those humble enough to know they need a savior (Isaiah 57:15; 1 Peter 5:6; Matthew 5:3). It is people without resources who know best the lavishness of God’s love. Self-sufficient people don’t go to God with the same desperation and so never discover His love and His power on their behalf.

PRAYER: Lord, I live in a culture that calls for self-assertion. Yet if You withdrew Your upholding strength I would cease to exist in the blink of an eye. I confess that I forget that and think I am holding myself and the world together. I ask that You would heal me of all self-sufficiency.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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)
"Absolute Surrender" with Jack Devlin (4.17–5.29)
PERSON OF INTEREST – Room B1-2 (Lower Level)
with Steven Miller

SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00PM

Kids KID'S CLUB (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level
CURRENT SERIES: Messiah's Kids – Answers for Kids

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

Adults DIVE DEEP WITH DOUG
LOCATION: Worship Center
CURRENT SERIES: **Exodus**

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.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS – 6:30PM

THE POWER OF KNOWING GOD (beginning May 4th)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

WOMEN'S STUDY – THURSDAYS at 9:00aM

JESUS & WOMEN (April 21 – June 2)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

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

SERMON NOTES

The Unfinished Work of Christ

JOHN 17

John 17 is truly The Lord's Prayer.

1. Jesus prays for Himself (1-8)
2. Jesus prays for the Apostles (9-19)
3. Jesus prays for the Church (20-26)

I. JESUS PRAYS FOR HIMSELF (1-8)

A. The Place of the Prayer

JOHN 17:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You..."

JOHN 18:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered.

B. The Purpose of the Prayer

Jesus prayed that the glory He laid aside when He took 'the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men', would be restored in God's presence to Him.

The emphasis is upon the glory of God, for the word "glory" appears 8 times in this chapter.

JOHN 17:1 Father, the hour has come.

JOHN 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

C. The People in His Prayer (vs. 2-5)


JOHN 17:2-3 ...since You have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

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



April 25th – 29th

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:

Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up to our Quarterly Missions Sunday. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us to jump bak into the book of Acts next Sunday as we look at Steadfastness in Purpose in Acts 5.

KEY/MEMORYVERSE:

"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