

MONDAY 8.15.22 — John 15:13-17

“What a friend we have in Jesus!” How great it is when we can declare that promise together in worship! Or, as we just sang together recently, “Jesus! What a friend for sinners! What a strength in weakness! What a help in sorrow!”

And here’s the best part, this isn’t just some nice thought we sing together, Jesus Himself declared saying, “You are My friends…” (vs.14). But the very next word is incredibly important. “If,” “if you do what I command.”

Being a Christian doesn’t just mean we get to spend eternity in Heaven with Jesus someday in the future, it also means that we follow Him right here and now. It means we walk in obedience to all He has taught and all that He commands. Jesus is our Savior, and He is also our Lord and King!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 8.16.22 — Romans 12:10

I love the ESV translation of this verse. *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.* Not just affection, brotherly affection! Over and above. Not the kind of love reserved for your favorite food or your favorite book. The kind of love that overlooks differences and preferences. The kind of love that can be felt over time and distance. The kind of love that is bound by family... by blood. The blood of Christ! I often tell the teams I coach that the players need to treat their teammates less like friends and team members. They need to be united as a family, like brothers on the field. Only then will the true potential of their team be realized. The same can be said for this earthly life. Only when we band together as brothers and sisters, overlooking the things that separate us from one another, only then can our true spiritual potential be unlocked.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 8.17.22 — Acts 16:11-40

Unfortunately, most people only possess a hope-so salvation. They hope that they are right with God. They hope that their sins are forgiven. They hope they will go to heaven when they die. They live their lives in spiritual uncertainty. However, the Bible is clear that a person can possess a know-so salvation. Paul told the Philippian jailer, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31). Through faith in Jesus, an individual can know for certain that their sins are forgiven, they possess eternal life, and they will be present with the Lord in heaven the moment they close their eyes in death. Do you experience the confidence and joy of knowing that you have eternal life? If so, share this tremendous spiritual truth with others so that they can move from a hope-so to a know-so salvation!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 8.18.22 — 1 Samuel 30:6

“David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.” –1 SAMUEL 30:6

I had a friend give me a book mark this morning and it was a very timely gift. She said it was a help to her when she was feeling down or discouraged. Like I said, it was a timely gift. The bookmark read:

- Celebrate God’s Goodness
- Ask God for help
- Leave your concerns with God
- Meditate on good things.

As I read each of these statements and purposefully did them, I found my spirit being lifted. God knows when you are hurting, and He wants you to come to Him at those times. He wants you to celebrate all the good He has done in your life. He wants you to ask Him for help. He wants you to leave your concerns with Him. Finally, He wants you to meditate on the good things in your life. Our savior and the God of the universe not only knows what is going on in your life, He also cares about what is going on in your life, and He wants to help. I hope you find that thought as awesome as I do.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 8.19.22 — Psalm 34:17-20

HOW GOD KEEPS US SAFE. Verses 17 and 19 seem to promise believers exemption from troubles, but other psalms say God is with us in our troubles (Psalms 23:4 and 91:15). Indeed, verse 18 says we can be broken and crushed by life. But these sufferings bring God’s presence near in a way nothing else can (verse 18). Afterward, sufferers come to realize that they could not have received their deeper joy in God any other way. Verse 22 says the Lord “will rescue his servants.” Only the New Testament reveals what this promise cost God. On the cross Jesus secured “no condemnation” (Romans 8:1) for those who take refuge in him—to a degree David could not have imagined.

PRAYER: Lord, it is not exactly right to thank you for my sorrows, for you did not create a world filled with evil, and my grief causes you grief. And yet I do thank you for the many riches I have found in these dark mines: patience, courage, self-understanding, and most of all your love and presence. Amen.

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 Kings with Lane Kemler
MASTERWORK—Room B11 (Lower Level)
Mere Hope: Life in the Age of Cynicism with Shawn Devlin
You Are Never Alone—Room B1-2 (Lower Level)
with Joel Day

SUNDAY EVENINGS — 6:00PM

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Ages 4 — 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level
CURRENT SERIES: 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: Journeys of Paul
- BIG IDEA — SMALL GROUP(S) - **Resuming in August**
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

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? (Beginning July 6th)
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

SERIES: POWER: A Continued Study in Acts 12-18
SERMON: "Famous Pairs" (Power in Togetherness)
SCRIPTURE: Acts 15:36-16:10

Certain items seem to go together. Acts 15 and 16 present four famous pairs.

- Paul and Barnabas (15:36-39)
 - A lesson in _____
 - When both sides of an issue have _____ support, seek a wise _____.
- Paul and Silas (15:40-41)
 - A lesson in _____
 - You are to _____ God and _____ Him to accomplish His _____ in your life.
- Paul and Timothy (16:1-3)
 - A lesson in _____
 - Your actions _____ others so be careful how you _____ your _____.
- Paul and the Holy Spirit (16:4-10)
 - A lesson in _____
 - Faithfully _____ the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to _____ as He sees fit.


Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



August 15th — August 19th

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 on today's message from Acts 15-16 and the Power in Togetherness. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us to continue in this series as we continue in Acts 16 and consider the Power in Weakness.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

"All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name."

—ACTS 10:43