

**MONDAY 4.2.23 – Mark 16:15**

*15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*

Why do people tend to shy away from sharing the gospel.

People say:

- I let my life be my witness.
- I do not have the gift of evangelism.
- I just don't know what to say.
- I am afraid of what people will think.

Today's scripture clearly called us to preach the gospel. I would like to offer a simple suggestion that I think might help us overcome these excuses. Here it is, "Let our goal be to share the gospel with everyone". If someone tells you that you seem different than most other people, be ready to tell them why that is. More important than having the gift of evangelism is to ask, "what are my gifts, and am I using them to build relationships that will allow me to share Christ"? Don't worry about not knowing what to say, ask God to give you the words. Ask God to replace your fears with His courage.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**TUESDAY 4.4.23 – Revelation 22:17**

Today, we pray for the return of Christ Jesus, and we invite those who are tired of drinking from the pools of unclean water in this world... COME!

Heavenly Father, thank You that Jesus is the Living Water who satisfies the thirsty and offers the gift of eternal life. Thank You that we are all invited to be part of Your church, His Bride. We long for the day when Christ returns to take us to heaven to live with Him for eternity. We pray that others, the many sinful souls who are lost and facing an eternity without God and without hope, would come and drink of the Living Water and be saved through faith in Him. Open their hearts, Lord, that they would choose to leave the desert of their sinful ways and quench their thirst in Your eternal spring. Come, weary sinner, come! Come, Lord Jesus, come! In His name we pray, AMEN!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**WEDNESDAY – 4.5.23 – Mark 16:1-8**

Rejoice in the fact that we serve a risen Savior!

Historian Thomas Arnold of Oxford writes, "The evidence for our Lord's life and death and resurrection may be and often has been shown to be satisfactory. It is good according to the common rules for distinguishing good evidence from bad. Thousands and tens of thousands of persons have gone through it piece by piece as carefully as every judge summing up on an important case. I have myself done it many times over, not to persuade others but to satisfy myself. I have been used for many years to study the history of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is better proved by fuller evidence than the great sign that God has given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead."

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**MAUNDY THURSDAY 4.6.23 – Luke 22:19-20**

Falling on Maundy Thursday, this devotional brings to mind so many meaningful words and phrases. Passover, Lord's Supper, Last Supper, bread and cup, body and blood, covenant, maundy (Latin root for command). Any time we are fortunate enough to take part in Holy Communion, we should gather at the table and search our hearts. What we do at the table is in remembrance of

Jesus Christ. Shouldn't our actions, words, and thoughts away from the table be the same? Do we remember His final command while taking the bread and cup He so willingly gave?

We need to give thanks as we look back at what He did upon being crucified and we need to be filled with confident expectation as we look ahead to His return. "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**GOOD FRIDAY 4.7.23 - Isaiah 53:4-6**

I remember our children using a small terribly overused word. When begging to go somewhere, we were told that "all" their friends were going! ALL? Really? In one of those "gospel in a nutshell" passages, Isaiah uses this small word twice deliberately. He states the condition we were in both BEFORE coming to Christ and AFTER bowing before our Savior. "ALL of us have turned to OUR OWN WAY". We were ALL rebels, committing cosmic treason against the Creator of the Universe. We ALL sat on the throne of our hearts, masters of our destinies.

But, for those found in Christ, "the Lord has laid on him the iniquities of us ALL." On the cross, MY burdens gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away MY sin. Ponder that if you will. MY sin - YOUR sin. He bore on that cross. ALL of it.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:40am**

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level  
*available during the 9:40 service*  
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** SPRING QUARTER BEGINS MARCH 5TH  
LOCATION: B8-10 with Lane Kemler  
**Explore the Bible** - John, chapters 12-21  
LOCATION: B11 with David Hamilton  
**Masterwork** - *Unfailing Love in Uncertain Times, a study of 1 John by J. Ryan Wicker*  
LOCATION: B1-2 with Barry Wills  
**God Owns it All** - *A 6-week study of financial principles that are affirmed by the authority of scripture and tested by the marketplace by author, Ron Blue*

**SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00pm**

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)  
Studying: "The Life of Jesus"  
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)  
*5th-8th Grade meet downstairs*  
*9th-12th Grade meet upstairs*
- Adults** DIVE DEEPER WITH DOUG  
LOCATION: Worship Center

**EVENING E2 STUDIES** - Beginning the week of 3/20

- He Chose the Nails by Max Lucado**
- Wednesdays** LOCATION: Rm B8-10 - 6:30pm

**WOMEN'S STUDIES**

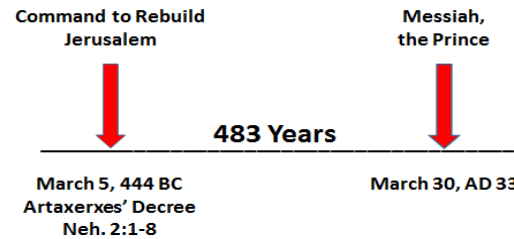
- Thursdays** LOCATION: YAC 9:00am - 11am - Beginning 3/16  
**Jude, by Jackie Hill Perry**
- Mondays** LOCATION: B8-10 - 6:30 - 8:30pm - Beginning 3/27  
**Decluttering by Faith, by D. Madsen & D. Kokku**

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

*As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ~ Luke 9:51*

Jesus came to Jerusalem to present Himself as the Jewish King.

1. Timing of the King's Visit (vv 41-44 cf. Daniel 9:25)



2. Responses to the King's Visit (vv 28-44)

- Disciples Are C\_\_\_\_\_ (vv 28-38)
  - Ears to \_\_\_\_\_
  - Feet to \_\_\_\_\_
  - Will to \_\_\_\_\_
  - Possessions to \_\_\_\_\_
  - Lips to \_\_\_\_\_
- Pharisees Are C\_\_\_\_\_ (vv 39-40)
- Jesus Is C\_\_\_\_\_ (vv 41-44)

The Triumphal Entry is all about a day when the King of Kings was greatly honored. His followers gave Him the very best they had. How about you? Do you give Jesus your very best?

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



**April 3<sup>rd</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup>**

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's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message *The King's Visit: The triumphal entry of Jesus* with Senior Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 4.9.23, *Undeniable Proofs: The resurrection of Jesus* with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE: "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified." Acts 20:32