

MONDAY 3.25.24 - Luke 18:13-14

¹³ *“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’*

¹⁴ *“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”*

As we read in Luke verses 9-14, it is evident that Jesus wants to teach the importance of praying with the right attitude. Notice the drastic contrast between the prayer of the Pharisee and the attitude of the tax collector. The Pharisee did not humble himself even before the God he was addressing, and he looked down on his fellow- man. This was not a prayer at all, rather, it was a statement of self-praise and Christ would hear none of it.

The tax collector approached God in the absolute humility that we all must exercise as we seek God’s mercy, and yet we too often fail to do so, as we simply enter his presence with our list of wants. Over and over throughout Scripture the importance of humility is emphasized. We see it here and are reminded of John the Baptist saying, “He (Christ) must become greater, I must become less.” It is good to be mindful of who we are in God’s presence.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 3.26.24 - 1John 5:11-13

1John 5:11-13, ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

“Whoever has the son of God has life”. What a wonderful promise. Do you have the son of God? If so, then according to this verse you are destined to spend entirely in heaven with God. Unfortunately, today scripture does not stop there. It goes on to tell us that if we do not have a personal relationship with Christ, we are destined to spend an eternity separated from God in a place of eternal torment. If we believe this verse and have people in our lives that we care about, but we are not sure they

know Jesus, how can we not share? This is one area of life that is totally black and white. If we know Christ as savior we are saved, if we do not know Christ we are condemned. There is no gray area. As you consider this today ask yourself this question, how can I say I care and not share?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 3.27.24 - Matthew 28:1-20

Ken Davis tells the story of a woman who looked out her window and saw her German shepherd shaking the life out of a neighbor’s rabbit. Her family didn’t get along well with these neighbors, so she knew this was going to be a disaster. She forced the dog to drop the dead rabbit from its mouth. She grabbed the rabbit, bathed it, blow dried it to its original fluffiness so it looked like a rabbit again, snuck into the neighbor’s yard, and propped it back up in its cage. An hour later, she heard screams coming from next door. She asked her neighbor what was going on. “Our rabbit! Our rabbit!” her neighbor cried. “He died a few days ago. We buried him, and now he’s back!”

Unlike that rabbit, Jesus Christ died and truly became alive again. Praise God for our Living Lord, the Victorious Conqueror of Death!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 3.28.24 - Mark 14:22-24

“Do this in remembrance of Me” (Luke 22:19). *Remembrance* is an active bringing of a past experience to the forefront of our consciousness and actions. When we think about Jesus’s

sacrifice – His broken body and spilled blood—we are to personalize that sacrifice for ourselves, applying that recollection to our spiritual cleansing and growth. That is why we prepare to celebrate the Lord’s Table. We must be like David in Psalms 139 asking the Lord to search His heart for wickedness then “create in (him) a pure heart,” “a broken and contrite heart that God will not despise.” The apostle Paul echoed that in Corinthians 11:27-29 when he cautioned believers to examine themselves before partaking of the Communion elements lest they sin “against the body and blood of the Lord” and “drink judgment on themselves.” The Communion remembrance is a sacred and holy celebration to revere and honor Jesus.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 3.29.24 - Isaiah 53:4-6

Is this not the saddest of all verses in the Scriptures? Whatever version is employed, only dark despair and grievous tortures lunge out at the reader, grasping the heart and wrenching it. Why? Because the verse speaks to all of us every time we read it. Even though I am a forgiven believer, my daily sin is still ever before me. Not that I do not trust in my forgiveness, but that I am always aware of my depraved heart. Repent though I do, it is insufficient.

While I know that Sunday, Easter, is coming, Friday must occur first. Before the redemption must come the payment. Oh, how I belong on the cross and to suffer the pain and receive the death sentence. But alas, to my gain, He receives it, bears it, suffers it. Sunday is coming. But first, this dreadful, terrible, awful, necessary Friday. Praise Jesus!

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** **SPRING QUARTER** - March 3rd - May 26th
LOCATION: B8-10 with Dave Decamp
Explore the Bible - *Genesis 20-50*.
LOCATION: B11 with Shawn Devlin
Bible Studies for Life - "It's All About Jesus"
LOCATION: B1-2 with Chris Domenico
"Kingdom Authority"

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh 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 Deep with Doug
LOCATION: Worship Center

E2 SPRING SMALL GROUPS

- Women's THURSDAY MORNING STUDY** - Beginning March 14th.
A study on **Isaiah** by Melissa Spoelstra
with Brenda Ross - at 9:00am in B8-10.
- Women's THURSDAY EVENING STUDY** - begins March 14th at
6:30pm at Kulp UMC, 1395 Old Reading Road, Catawissa.
(Take note of the location) 10-session study of Exodus 19–40
with Elizabeth Williams. Sign up on the Connect Card.
- Men's Bible Study** - begins April 16th
Wild at Heart by John Eldredge
with Vince DiLoretto - at 6:30pm in the YAC.

EVENING GROUP STUDY

- Wednesday Evening Study** - begins April 3rd
Body of Proof by Jeremiah Johnston
with Barry Wills - at 6:30pm in B8-10.

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

John 4:1-14, 39-42 **Living Water**

The Jews went out of their way to avoid Samaritan territory. Jesus needed to go from Judea to Galilee, and He deliberately went through Samaria so He could talk to a Samaritan woman at a well.

Jesus shares four characteristics of eternal life:

1. It is absolutely free (v 10)

Eternal life is a gift—a free gift. It isn't earned or deserved. A gift is both freely offered and freely received.

2. It is available only through Jesus (v 14)

This exclusivity is expressed by Jesus later in John's Gospel when He stated, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (14:6).

3. It is offered to all (v 14)

- It doesn't matter how much _____ you have
- It doesn't matter how much _____ you have
- It doesn't matter what kind of _____ you have


It doesn't matter who you are or what you've done. Jesus Christ offers you forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

4. It is received by faith (vv 14, 39-42)

The word "believe" appears three times in verses 39-42. It's synonymous with "faith" and "trust." The way you receive eternal life is by faith—by trusting in Jesus Christ alone to give it to you.

Jesus says, "but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Did you drink this spiritual water that Jesus freely offers to you?

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



March 25th - March 29th

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, "Living Water" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on March 31st, "News You Can Use" with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
John 20:31