

MONDAY 5.13.24 - Matthew 3:16-17

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. *17* And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Notice the presence of the Holy Trinity as Christ was baptized by John the Baptist. The Holy Spirit descends like a dove upon Christ and the Father speaks from heaven, as the Son comes out of the water and His ministry begins on earth.

But what does all of this have to do with us?

Though Christ was sinless, He submitted to baptism as an act of obedience to fulfill all righteousness. (Matthew 3:15).

We too are called to obey God's commands and follow His will for our lives. By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we are empowered to live a life that honors God and serves others. Just as Christ's ministry began at His baptism: we are called to love others, share the Gospel and continue His ministry on earth. Finally, as adopted sons and daughters, God delights in us as well.

Isn't it wonderful to bask in the unconditional love and acceptance of our heavenly Father?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 5.14.24 - Luke 24:25-27

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! *26* Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" *27* And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Moses was the earthly author of the first five books of the Old Testament. Essentially what today's scripture is telling us is that

Christ worked His way through the entire Old Testament showing them what the scriptures had foretold about Him.

It is amazing that hundreds of years before His birth the scripture foretold of His life, death, and resurrection. Despite this most of His audience never realized and accepted who He was. As we look back on the life of Jesus, there is more written, both biblically and extra biblically regarding the life, death, and resurrection of Christ than of any other individual in history. Despite all this evidence, people still do not realize and accept who Jesus is and what He has done for them. Have you come to the point of realizing who this man is and what He did for you? Have you accepted Him? Are you living for Him?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 5.15.24 - John 6:1-13

"Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" Jesus expected an answer from Philip, but His intent was not to stump or to embarrass him. Rather, Jesus wanted to stretch Philip's faith and to help him to grow stronger spiritually. Philip's test is explained by the words "for He Himself knew what He was intending to do." Like a brilliant chess player that thinks several moves ahead, Jesus plots a strategy to build the faith of His disciples. Likewise, your circumstances are ruled by a King who seeks your highest good. Is that how you view the situations that pressure you or bring you unexpected challenges? God is at work in your life, and His strategy is to stretch your faith so that you will "consider it all joy when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance ..." (James 1:2-4).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 5.16.24 - Job 22:21-22

Today's topic is more difficult than one might think. First, it is not in our human spirit to be given easily to yielding.

We want to be 'number one' and to care for ourselves. But we are also Americans of the 20 and 21st centuries, and 'we have our rights' and can 'live with gusto' and 'get the good life.' Yielding to anything or anyone is a difficult proposition for us, more than some other cultures. But the scriptures say that we should, indeed, yield to the Lord for He is good.

And what is yielding to God anyway, but agreeing with Him that His ways are higher than ours, that His thoughts are beyond ours and that His plans for us are for our good. "Agree with God", stop fighting, debating, compromising and dealing. Just yield and 'see what the Almighty can do.'

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 5.17.24. - Psalm 46:10

We have here a favorite verse of many - even a life verse for some! We quiet ourselves before Him. We wait upon His timing, His answers. And these are good practices, for sure.

When we look deeper into the text, however, the meaning goes much further than just silence. One commentator translated it "Shut up! Be quiet! Hold your mouths! I am the Lord!" It is a call to **silence**, not merely calmness.

Silence in the presence of the power of the Almighty!

With all of the turmoil of this fallen world, we can easily fret and fume! We become anxious. We are prone to worry. At least I am! We voice these concerns as we cry out in prayer!

"SILENCE!! Be quiet! Stop your striving! I **WILL** be exalted among the nations and in the earth!"

Oh, Christian! Rest in knowing our God reigns!!

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** **SUMMER QUARTER** - begins June 2nd
LOCATION: B8-10 with Lane Kemler
Explore the Bible - Acts 1-12. Get a step-by-step account of how our legacy as Christ followers was built and why it has survived for more than 2000 yrs.
LOCATION: B11 - Randy Hutchison & Shawn Devlin
Bible Studies for Life - Promises We Can Count On - See that nothing offers more security than a relationship with the One who is faithful to His promises to us.
LOCATION: B1-2 with John Vance
Seeing God as a Perfect Father, and seeing you as loved, pursued, and secure - by Louie Giglio

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
***Last meeting before Summer Break - May 19th**
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th–8th Grade meet downstairs.
9th–12th Grade meet upstairs.
***Last meeting before Summer Break - May 19th**
- Adults** Dive Deeper with Doug
LOCATION: Worship Center

E2 SPRING SMALL GROUPS

- Men's Bible Study** - Began April 16th at 6:30pm in the YAC.
Wild at Heart by John Eldredge with Vince DiLoretto
- Women's Bible Study** - Begins June 6th at 9am in B8-10
James "What You do Matters" with Brenda Peters

EVENING GROUP STUDY

- Wednesday Study** - Began May 1st - at 6:30pm in B8-10.
"Contagious Faith" by Mark Mittelberg - with Barry Wills
Learn to share the Good News of Jesus effectively.

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

John 5:31-47 ***Evidence That Demands A Verdict***

The Jewish leaders accused Jesus of violating the Law by healing a man and telling him to carry his mat on the Sabbath. Also, they accused Him of blasphemy because He claimed equality with God.

Therefore, Jesus calls five witnesses to the stand to testify on His behalf.

Witness #1— _____ (vv 32, 37-38)

- Matthew 3:17
- Mattew 17:5
- John 12:28

Witness #2— _____ (vv 33-35)

- John 1:29-34

Witness #3— _____ (v 36)

- John 20:30


Witness #4— _____ (vv 39-44)

- Micah 5:2
- Isaiah 35:5-6

Witness #5— _____ (vv 45-47)

- Deuteronomy 18:15, 19

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." ~ C. T. Studd

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



May 13th – May 17th

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, "Evidence That Demands A Verdict" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on May 19th, "Little is Much" 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