

**MONDAY 5.20.24 - Matthew 3:16-24**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor, professor, and theologian who opposed Hitler during World War II. Bonhoeffer was arrested and placed in a concentration camp. He was hanged on April 9, 1945. He was 39 years old. Bonhoeffer made this astute observation: "Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life." This statement is simple, scriptural, and spiritually significant. It's vitally important that we make a distinction between the concepts of salvation and discipleship. To combine them is to invite confusion into our Christian life. Salvation and discipleship are two separate issues. Salvation has to do with how we enter God's family; discipleship has to do with how we grow and develop as God's children. Salvation is received by faith alone; discipleship involves works. Salvation is a one-time event; discipleship is an on-going process. In salvation, we trust Christ as our Savior. In discipleship, we follow Him as our Lord.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**TUESDAY 5.21.24 - James 4:7**

What a wonderful verse to study the topic of yielding to God. The reason we do not yield is because we are filled with passions of greed and selfishness. We know number one and seek to build him/her up. Our own pride is our own source of difficulty because God opposes or resists the proud. Scripture says so in verse 6. That means He would oppose us. But we must resist the devil, who is the fountain of pride. His ignominious "I will" statements are burned into us like a brand. Yet we are not left powerless.

Verse 6 further claims that God gives grace to the humble. That empowers us to resist. And God's promise is that if we resist the Devil, he will flee from us.

Flee from without and flee from within. What freedom then is ours to draw near to God and yield to Him.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**WEDNESDAY 5.22.24 - Philippians 1:21**

The Apostle Paul was so passionate about Christ and what Christ had done for him that his desire to serve Christ was motivated by his love for Christ. He was willing to live a self-sacrificing life for the furtherance of the Gospel. If he was concerned only about himself there would have been many times when he prayed "Lord take me home". He was always willing to forgo his home going for the privilege of being used by God to bring one more person to the saving knowledge of Christ. Unlike Paul, it seems that for many of us, we are confident of where we will go after death, but our actions show little willingness to live for Christ this side of heaven. Is Christ your savior? Great! Is He your Lord? If so, you, like the Apostle Paul, can say "for me to live is Christ and for me to die is gain.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**THURSDAY 5.23.24 - Deuteronomy 12:32**

Over 600 laws! Read that again! That's how many commandments that God gave to Israel! Did every Israelite keep those laws? No. But God told them to!

The place of the Old Testament law in our "New Testament" lives is debated among theologians far above my pay grade! So, what can we take away from our passage today as we live for Christ?

God is serious about what He has commanded us! He said in John 14 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." The unmistakable meaning is that obedience to Christ's commandments is both a sign and a test of our love for Christ.

The Israelites did not keep His commandments. We do not either, do we? They had the sacrifices. We have Christ, the perfect sacrifice. We live lives of obedience because He first loved us and gave Himself for us.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**FRIDAY 5.24.24. - Psalm 42:1-2**

Psalm 42 begins with a deer panting for water. What would cause this extreme thirst: fear, panic, a chase or run for survival? Water is necessary to sustain life. Paralleling the deer's need, the psalmist, who is in great distress, frantically searches for God as he remembers the "shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng" worshipping together in better times. As the psalm progresses, the psalmist expresses his longing and despair, but ultimately resolves to "yet praise Him, my Savior and my God" and encourages others to put their hope in God. The deer's desire for water is, of course, a picture of what our thirst for living water should be. Jesus is the living water that He offers to all of us in our sin and despair, just as He did the Samaritan woman at the well. We need not ever "thirst"; we have the hope of the Lord.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## 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 2<sup>nd</sup>  
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 19<sup>th</sup>**
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)  
5<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> Grade meet downstairs.  
9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> Grade meet upstairs.  
**\*Last meeting before Summer Break - May 19<sup>th</sup>**
- Adults** Dive Deeper with Doug  
LOCATION: Worship Center

### E2 SPRING SMALL GROUPS

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

### EVENING GROUP STUDY

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

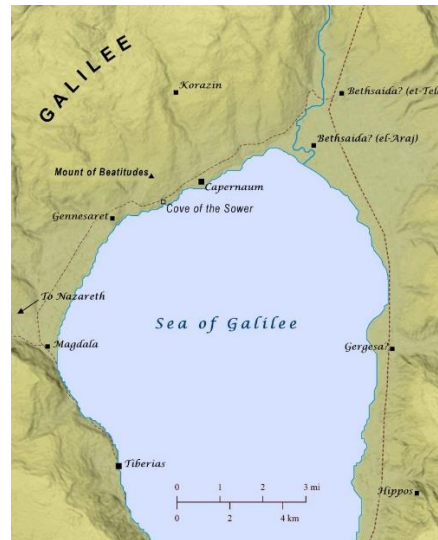
TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES, USE THE CONNECT CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU

## **John 6:1-13** **Little Is Much**

The Gospel of John records miracles that Jesus performed as signs. The purpose of these signs is to promote belief in Jesus for eternal life. John's purpose statement is found in 20:30-31: "*Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 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.*"

So, John records these miracles so that his readers will place their trust in Jesus for eternal life. There are eight miraculous signs that John records in this book. They are: Changing Water into Wine—chapter 2, Healing the Nobleman's Son—chapter 4, Healing the Lame Man—chapter 5, Feeding of the 5,000—chapter 6, Walking on Water—chapter 6, Healing a Man Born Blind—chapter 9, Raising Lazarus from the Dead—chapter 11, and Jesus Rising from the Dead—chapter 20.

No one gospel writer gives a complete account of the miracle of the Feeding of the 5,000. You must read all four gospels to get a full picture of what transpired. The miracle is recorded in John 6:1-13, Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:32-44, and Luke 9:10-17.



**E2** Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



May 20th – May 24th

#### 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, "Little is Much" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on May 26<sup>th</sup>, "Living for Christ" with Pastor Bob Lehman.

#### 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

"Little is much \_\_\_\_\_"