

MONDAY 5.6.24 - Matthew 22:37

What does it mean to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind? How can we obey this command? We are mere humans made from the dust of the earth. God created us, the world, and the entire universe; He became flesh, suffered and died to redeem us. He loved us totally, and we are commanded to love Him completely in return. The problem is how are we capable of loving God as He should be loved? God again provides the way. When we accept the Lord, the Holy Spirit indwells us. What a miracle! The Lord not only redeems us from sin, but we carry Him with us all the time. It is the Holy Spirit, part of God Himself, that enables us to love Him and keep His commandments as shown in Romans 5:5, John 14:15 and 21. What is impossible becomes possible through God Himself.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 5.7.24 - Romans 12:1-2

Oh, the excitement that overtook all of us when we first discovered Christ and became one with Him, as He came to live inside our bodies and minds by that unfathomable idea of 'indwelling' by the Holy Spirit. That excitement brought about almost instant changes in our lives, and we knew that we had become new creatures, as the Scriptures said. Over time, we lost some of that enthusiasm and sadly compromised some of the standards which we had adopted. We want to look like the world, but our Lord says we should not.

Yet today's verses call us to renew that early commitment. Life is hard and Jesus knew that. We are not given a smooth understanding of how to be holy, but rather directed to 'test' each desire, offering, act, word, and step. God will daily show us what is right as we seek it in a hard life. That's commitment.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 5.8.24 - John 5:31-47

Have you ever been summoned to a court of law as a witness to give testimony in a trial? You are asked to swear an oath. "Do you solemnly affirm that you will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?" If you answer in the affirmative, you are bound by your oath to tell the truth. If a witness is later found to have lied while under oath, they can be charged with the crime of perjury.

In John 5, Jesus makes several claims as to His person and power, and He calls forth witnesses to testify to the veracity of His statements. These witnesses are God the Father, John the Baptist, Jesus' miracles, and the Old Testament Scriptures. However, Jesus' audience refused to believe them (vv 43, 47). Don't make the same mistake that they did. Believe the testimony of these reliable witnesses.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 5.9.24 - Isaiah 40:3-5

"In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

We know that the prophet Isaiah was using figures of speech to paint a picture for us, but what a beautiful picture he paints. Life has many valleys where we find ourselves in despair, and many mountains that we must climb. It is filled with rough ground and rugged places we must travel.

Often, I ask myself how people can go through this life without Jesus, but praise God that we can say, as Ira Stanphill did, "Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand; But I know who holds tomorrow, And I know who holds my hand." I want to close with one of my favorite verses.

"John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Just as a side note, that verse is in red letters in my Bible.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 5.10.24. - Psalm 2:12

A king. Ultimate sovereignty. Unchallenged authority. Absolute rule. Esther understood that to even go into the king without being summoned mandated death.

In our passage for today, though, a strong word is boldly addressed to the kings! *Kiss the Son*. There is One sovereign over you. There is One who has authority over you. There is One to whom all people owe honor, adoration, affection, submission.

The Son, Jesus Christ is this One. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords! He is the One to whom blessing, and honor, glory and power is due.

It is to each one's peril that they turn away from this homage. The Scriptures are clear that there is a day of wrath to come. There is a day when every knee will bow.

But God's grace beckons us to take refuge in Christ through faith. In Christ alone our Hope is found!!

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 Lane Kemler
Bible Studies for Life - "It's All About Jesus"
Began April 14th "Being an Authentic Church"
LOCATION: B1-2 with Joel Day - Beginning April 14
"When Your Way Isn't Working" by Kyle Idleman

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 EVENING STUDY - Began March 14th
6:30pm at Kulp UMC, Exodus 19–40 with Elizabeth Williams.
- Men's Bible Study** - Began April 16th at 6:30pm in the YAC.
Wild at Heart by John Eldredge with Vince DiLoretto

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 5:17-30 **Radical Claims**

The Jews begin to persecute Jesus, but He does not back down. He reveals who He is and what He came to do. Jesus makes several claims as to His person and work.

1. I am _____ with _____ (vv 17-21)

Throughout this passage, Jesus doesn't refer to God as "our Father." Rather, He calls Him, "my Father" or "the Father." Jesus claims a unique relationship with God, and the Jews recognized the implications of this claim.

2. I am the final _____ (vv 22-23)

Most people believe that they will be judged by God the Father in the End Time, but that's not correct.

3. I am _____ of _____ (v 24)

If you place your trust alone in Jesus alone for eternal life, then when you die, you will go to heaven.


4. I will _____ the _____ (vv 25-29)

All who are in their graves will hear the voice of Jesus and be exhumed. In God's Word, we discover that this won't be one, general resurrection. Rather, there will be three resurrections.

5. I do the _____ of _____ (v 30)

Make it your aim to please the Lord as a believer in Jesus.

"God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." ~ Philippians 2:9-11

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



May 6th - May 10th

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, "Radical Claims" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on May 12th, "Evidence That Demands A Verdict" 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