

MONDAY 9.2.24 - Matthew 11:28-30

The Jewish people were a burdened people. The law, though good, holy and righteous, could not bring liberty. The leaders had codified the Mosaic law into 365 prohibitions and 250 commandments! Those who were under the Mosaic law were said to be yoked to Moses. Those under the authority of the Pharisees were yoked to the Pharisees. Into this setting our Lord speaks a gracious invitation to all who would seek relief, joy, and the blessings of His life through grace and faith. “Come to me”. To those without the Savior, it is a call to believe in Him and find peace with God. To those already believers, it is a call to follow Him. To all, it is a gracious invitation to a relationship with the Savior who is gentle and lowly. It is a call to rest in Him who alone can give peace with God, the Father.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 9.3.24 - Revelation 21:3-4

Revelation 21:3-4, And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” It seems that our society continues to move farther and farther away from God. Each day I hear things that just seem so unbelievable to me and yet it seems that society has come to view these things as quite acceptable. As parents, and now as grandparents, my wife and I are committed to doing all we can to see that God is central in the lives of our kids and grandkids. They need to learn what it means to stand alone for Christ. They need to realize that truth is not subjective but is based on the Word of God. They need to learn that love and tolerance are not the same thing, and to be able to stand up for what is right.

Right now, God is with those who believe and one day we will spend an eternity with Him in a place free from sin. Until then, we need to learn how to live in the world without becoming part of the world.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 9.4.24 - John 12:1-11

Many people, when asked their opinion on which of our five senses is least important, name our sense of smell. However, smells are important. They can delight (freshly baked bread), repel (rotting garbage), comfort (lavender), or warn us (smoke). We often find that even a subtle scent can unlock a buried memory from years ago. In John 12, a scent was powerful enough to create a lasting memory for Jesus and His disciples. Mary poured expensive perfume on Jesus’ feet. So intense was the scent that it filled the entire house with the fragrance. In humility, Mary was demonstrating her honor and devotion to her Lord. Mary probably had no idea of the deep significance of her actions, but they showed her wholehearted worship of the Messiah. Jesus is not asking you to understand everything that He is doing through you. He desires your devotion to Him.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 9.5.24 - Nehemiah 9:5-6

Our worship here is but a glimpse of what it will be ‘when we all get to heaven.’ Even the best of our worship cannot offer to our God what He truly deserves. The Scriptures say that even the stars of heaven declare their God’s majesty. Jesus told the Jewish leaders at the triumphal entry that if people stopped praising, that the rock themselves would shout out.

Here, the people spend half the day declaring and confessing their sins and those of their fathers, pouring out their heartfelt sorrow for their sinful condition. The leaders, the priests, then spoke for the people, again pleading for forgiveness for their sinful condition. But finally, all were called to look heavenward toward their heavenly Father, and sing and shout out their praise to Him from everlasting to everlasting, exalting His glorious name, above all blessing and praise.

Charles Spurgeon said while He deserves a gold crown, all we can offer is silver. Still, that is a model for worship.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 9.6.24 - Psalm 86:9-10

Psalm 86 is prophetic, depicting the time that all nations will bow before the Lord and worship Him. But what is worship? For the believer, worship is telling God we love Him. For those brought before Him in forced subjugation, it is the final acknowledgement that Jesus is Lord and our God reigns supreme. When we come together to worship, our foremost thoughts should be on the majesty of Jesus, our Savior, and the privilege we have of offering our praises to Him. We are but a tiny foreshadowing of that day when everyone from all time will join in that great call to worship expressed in the carol, “O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.” The whole world will join the elders and the 4 creatures (Revelation 4) exclaiming, “Holy, holy, holy!” All will recognize the worth-ship of God--His holiness, power, and perfection--and stand or bow before Him in awe.

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 **FALL QUARTER** – begins September 1st

LOCATION: B8-10 - Lane Kemler - begins Sept.1st.
Explore the Bible - Acts 13-28. As we study the missionary movement of the early church, we're reminded of our own call to share the gospel - our own responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission.

LOCATION: B11 - David Hamilton - begins Sept.1st.
Bible Studies for Life - Thrive: Living on a Purpose. See how life takes on a meaning and richness the world cannot offer when we discover our purpose in Christ.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

Kids MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
*** Summer Break* Resumes in the fall**

Youth YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th–8th Grade meet downstairs.
9th–12th Grade meet upstairs.
*** Summer Break* Resumes in the fall**

Adults Summer Sunday Special Speakers
LOCATION: Worship Center

E2 FALL SMALL GROUPS

Evening E2 Ladies Study - Begins Aug. 8th at 6:30pm in Rm. 2.
Luke in the Land, Walking with Jesus in His First-Century World by Kristi McLelland with Elizabeth Williams.

Evening Study – Begins Wed. Sept. 4th at 6:30pm in Rm. B8-10.
Philippians – Rejoice in the Lord, by Juan Sanchez. Learn the joy of partnership for the sake of the Gospel. With Barry Wills.

Morning E2 Ladies Study - Begins Oct. 3rd at 9am in Rm. B8-10.
Luke in the Land, Walking with Jesus in His First-Century World by Kristi McLelland with Brenda Ross.

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

John 11:1-57 **Back From Beyond**

Man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward
~ Job 5:7

How to respond to adversity:

1. R_____ Jesus' C_____ (vv 1-3)

When you experience trouble in your life, Jesus wants you to tell Him about it because He loves you. Come to Him in prayer.

2. R_____ Jesus' C_____ (vv 4-16)

The purpose of Christ's delays is for two reasons. First is God's glory (v 4). The second reason is for your spiritual growth (v 15).

3. R_____ Jesus' C_____ (vv 17-37)

In times of trouble, Jesus ministers to you by His ...

- S_____ (Romans 15:4)
- S_____ (Romans 15:13)
- S_____ (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)


4. R_____ Jesus' C_____ (vv 38-44)

Jesus will demonstrate His love for you. He will see you through your crisis—no matter what you're facing.

Responding to the person and work of Christ, you can either ...

- I_____ (v 45a)
- O_____ (vv 53, 57)
- F_____ (v 45)

Which choice will make your life extraordinary?

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



September 2 – September 6

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 on September 1st, "Back from Beyond" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on September 8th, "Sacred Scent" with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
John 10:10