

## MONDAY 9.9.24 - Luke 4:5-8

Recently, my husband and I had the opportunity to spend a few days in the panhandle of Idaho, driving through the Selkirk and Green Monarch Mountains, and boating on Lake Couer d'Alene. What repeatedly ran through my mind as I witnessed the beauty and splendor that surrounded me during those few days was "GOD made this! Praise GOD!" From the tiniest microscopic organisms in the lake water to the tallest majestic Red Cedars on those peaks, and everything in between, seen and unseen, God created it all. None of that beautiful land and water would exist had He not spoken it into being. I was reminded of this scripture as I took in those amazing mountain top views, and how Jesus responded to Satan on the mountain top. Satan tempts us to worship "things" other than God, and our response should be like Jesus' in the wilderness. God alone is worthy of our worship and our service.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## TUESDAY 9.10.24 - Revelation 4:8-11

<sup>8</sup> Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,' who was, and is, and is to come."

<sup>9</sup> Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:<sup>11</sup> "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

I am sure you have heard the phrase "Take time to smell the Roses." For the Christian, I think it would better read "Take time to worship God". Today's scripture describes a glorious worship service that will take place in heaven for eternity, but God wants us to worship Him today.

We should not just reserve our worship of God for a time in the future when we are with Him in heaven. Nor should we reserve our worship for a Sunday morning worship service.

God desires our worship every day, and it is good for us to do so. Worship puts your day into perspective and invites the peace that comes from God in your life. Look at the wonder of God's creation today and take a few minutes to acknowledge His greatness, goodness, love, mercy, power, etc. Worship God today. It will be pleasing to God and good for you.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## WEDNESDAY 9.11.24 - John 12:12-28

"Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

Jesus Christ did not advocate a salvation by works. Here, He taught a discipleship principle similar to that in Luke 14:26-27. In discipleship, love and loyalty to Christ must have priority over love and loyalty to one's own life. If we live in a way to protect and prioritize the things of this life, we lose the things that are of eternal value and eternal reward.

*Father, we do desire to be servants of your Son. May we make a commitment to discipleship and follow Christ day by day regardless of the comfortable or difficult circumstances we find ourselves in. Amen.*

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## THURSDAY 9.12.24 - Joshua 22:5

Sometimes it is clear what the Lord wants us to do. Sometimes not so much, and we need to do some discovery. That may include asking God Himself, or an advisor like our good pastor or another Christian friend. Whatever we conclude, the Lord has called us to follow that path with "diligence as unto the Lord." The bottom line is that our

Lord came to earth demonstrating a servant's heart that we should emulate.

What does that service look like? Today's verses describe it as 'being very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.' If we would actually do this, our service and our life would be God honoring.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## FRIDAY 9.13.24 - Proverbs 19:17

<sup>17</sup> *Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.*

The meaning of this verse seems very straightforward at first glance. When we choose to be kind to those who cannot repay us, we are showing kindness to the Lord. For this reason, we will receive a reward.

Jesus essentially repeats the same in Matthew when he tells his followers: "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

However, do not overlook the concept of "lending to the Lord." If we are **lending** to the Lord, it follows that HE is in our debt. The poor are incapable of repaying us, but the Lord says, "he will reward us."

Our motivation to be "generous" should never be so that we will receive, but rather, to become more Christlike. I don't know of anyone that has been able to "outgive 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** **FALL QUARTER** – began September 1<sup>st</sup>  
  
LOCATION: B8-10 - Lane Kemler - began Sept.1<sup>st</sup>.  
**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 - began Sept.1<sup>st</sup>.  
**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.  
  
LOCATION: B1-2 – Randy & Treva Hutchison – this 6-week class begins Oct.13<sup>th</sup>. Parenting: Getting it Right. This study helps parents of children from newborn through high school identify and embrace their *IT*; their win as parents. Offered at 9:40 & 11:00. Childcare is provided for Nursery to grade 4.

### SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level  
**Resumes this Sunday Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>**
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)  
*5th–8th Grade meet downstairs.*  
*9th–12th Grade meet upstairs.*  
**Resumes this Sunday Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>**
- Adults** Summer Sunday Special Speakers  
LOCATION: Worship Center

### E2 FALL SMALL GROUPS

- Evening Study** – Began Wed. Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9am in Rm. B8-10.  
**Luke in the Land**, Walking with Jesus in His First-Century World by Kristi McLelland with Brenda Ross.

## **John 12:1-11** **Sacred Scent**

We are introduced to Jesus in John chapter 1. He is about 30 years old, and He is beginning His ministry. That three-year ministry is covered in chapters 1-11, focusing on the words and works of Christ. The next nine chapters—chapters 12-20—cover only seven days in Jesus' life. They focus on the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

So, what event marks the beginning of the last week of Jesus' life prior to His resurrection? The answer is: An extravagant act of worship that is characterized by ...

1. G\_\_\_\_\_ (vv 1-3)

No matter what your station in life, Jesus deserves your very best. Jesus deserves a lavish expression of worship.


- 2 Corinthians 9:6, 10

The harvest that Paul describes is a spiritual harvest. As a result of your giving, the gospel will go forth and people will be saved. Also, you will receive reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ because of your sacrificial giving to the Lord's work.

2. G\_\_\_\_\_ (vv 4-11)

Why does Mary pour out expensive perfume on Jesus' feet? It is not hard to figure out, is it? You just have to look back to the previous chapter. What did Jesus do in chapter 11? He raises Mary's brother, Lazarus, from the dead! Yet, Judas criticizes Mary for her act of worship.

There are always those who will find fault with the Christian who is sold out to Jesus Christ. When you give of yourself sacrificially, people will criticize you. They may even condemn you for it. So, expect it, knowing that it is not the critic who counts. The one who counts is the person spending themselves in a worthy cause.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



## September 9 – September 13

### 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 8<sup>th</sup>, "Sacred Scent" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on September 15<sup>th</sup>, "Seeing Jesus" 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