

MONDAY 10.21.24 - Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. ¹⁶They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax^[a] to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, ²⁰and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" ²¹"Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

Pharisees and Herodians had little in common other than both wanted to get rid of Jesus. They devised a cunning plan. If Jesus says, "Pay the tax," he offends his Jewish followers. If he says, "Don't pay the tax," the Herodians, who are loyal to Rome will report him. Leading with flattery, they point out that he speaks the truth no matter whom he might offend. He appears trapped.

Many debate interpretations that we can make about our obligations and relationships to the church and the state based upon Christ's response. But the fact that Christ focuses their attention on the denarius is interesting. He points out Caesar's image is on it - Caesar who claimed to be a god. While we live on this earth, we do have an obligation to the government. However, our true citizenship is not of this world. Christ's response is a reminder that we are **'made in HIS image'** and therefore, we need to give ourselves to HIM.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 10:22.24 - Romans 13:1-15

At the end of the 1st century, there was a Christian leader known as Clement of Rome. He wrote a letter to the church in Corinth.

It's not inspired Scripture, but it does contain solid pastoral advice. In the letter, Clement included this prayer to God:

Give harmony and peace to us and to all that dwell on the earth ... while we render obedience to Thine Almighty and most excellent Name, and to our rulers and governors upon the earth. For Thou, O heavenly Master, King of the ages, gives to the sons of men glory and honor and power over all things that are upon the earth. Do Thou, Lord, direct their counsel according to that which is good and well-pleasing in Thy sight.

That's a wonderful prayer not only for the Roman Empire in AD 96, but also for the United States of America in 2024.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 10:23.24 - John 13:18-30

Judas is a name that is often associated with treachery. Although one of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus, Judas decided to betray Christ. He was paid thirty silver coins by the chief priests to hand over Jesus to them. In John 13, Jesus identifies His betrayer during His final Passover celebration.

John Hamby reminds: "It's easy for us condemn the treachery of a man who would betray Jesus for money. But before we dismiss him as a man so far removed from ourselves, perhaps we should look a little closer. Can we honestly say that we have never sold Jesus out? When we have played dumb in the presence of non-believers or we joined in the laughter to avoid the ridicule of being associated with Christ, are we not selling out Christ for selfish gain?"

Let's make a commitment to be faithful followers of Christ, remaining true to Him!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 10:24.24 - Job 23:12

Today's selection is such a beautiful portion of Scripture. The context is the difference between the world where we live and the spirit world where God lives. Yet even with that distinction, it is clear from the passage that God from his spirit world is working in our temporal one.

No one has been so tried as Job, perhaps our oldest example, by losing all his wealth in livestock and his children in one fell swoop. But he claims to have faith in God and God's faithfulness to him. Can we testify to this kind of dedication when times look dark? Though he looks for God's deliverance in the fore, the rear and on either side and sees Him not, he declares that "I have not departed from his commandments" and "I have treasured His words."

That must be our lesson, to treasure His lips and not depart.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 10:25.24 - Psalm 143:10

We often focus on the faithfulness of God. He never leaves, nor forsakes, nor fails us. He is our provider, sustainer, and redeemer. But what about our faithfulness to God? The psalmist expresses a desire to do God's will and to be led by the His Spirit. He prays that God will teach Him how to be faithful. It is more than a sense of duty or gratitude that motivates the speaker. It is love for the Lord. Just as we seek to do things to please our spouses and be faithful to them in deed and spirit because we love them, we demonstrate our love for the Lord by being faithful to Him, by obeying His commands and serving Him, by honoring Him in word and behavior. We fulfill what Jesus said in John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commandments." That is our faithfulness to God.

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** - began September 1st

LOCATION: B8-10 - Lane Kemler - began 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 - Dave Delcamp - begins Oct. 20th.
Bible Studies for Life - Navigating Family Conflict. Discover how we ought to relate to others by studying family relationships in Genesis.

LOCATION: B1-2 - Randy & Treva Hutchison -This 6-week class begins today, Oct.13th.
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 9:40am & 11:00am. 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
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th-8th Grade meet downstairs.
9th-12th Grade meet upstairs.
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

E2 FALL SMALL GROUPS

- Morning E2 Ladies Study** - Began Oct. 3rd at 9am in Rm. B8-10.
- Luke in the Land** - Walking with Jesus, with Brenda Ross.
- Evening Study** - Began Tues. Oct.15th at 6:30pm at the YAC.
- The Titus Ten** - Foundations for Godly Manhood, with Vince DiLoretto & Mike Williams.
- Evening Study** - Began Tues. Oct.15th at 6:30pm in Rm 2.
- Come Home** - This is a study for teen girls. It points us to our truest home, which is found in Him, with Elizabeth Williams.

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

Eight Mistakes Christians Make

Ephesians 6:10-18

The Armor of God

Eight common mistakes that Christians make.

1. Not putting _____

2. Not seeing _____

3. Succumbing to the idea of _____


4. Not understanding _____

5. Not truly _____

6. Not understanding _____

7. Not actively _____

8. Failing to _____

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



October 21 - October 25

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 from October 20th, "Eight Mistakes Christians Make" with Pastor Bob Lehman. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on October 27th, "Faith Expectations" 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