

## MONDAY 3.31.25 - Luke 14:26-27

If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Living the Christian life is easy. “April fools!” Being committed to Christ means being willing to give up everything for His sake. Throughout the Old Testament God was willing to tolerate a lot when it came to the behavior of Israel, but the one thing He would not tolerate was their worship of false Gods and Idols. God is a jealous God and wanted Israel to worship Him and Him alone. The same is true for us today. God is saying, I want your worship, praise, trust, loyalty, faith, and service, to be to me and only me. Are there things in your life that you are putting before God? If so, are you willing to give them to God and say to Him, Lord, I will worship you and you alone. Being a disciple of Christ is costly and requires sacrifice, but it is nothing compared to the price He paid and the sacrifice He made for you.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## TUESDAY 4.1.25 - 2 Timothy 2:3-4

Today’s verses help us focus on the direction of our mission. Soldiers have been given instructions; they know the mission and the goal and take actions only consistent with accomplishing that goal. Distractions divert from the mission, wreak havoc and cause defeat. In a similar manner, God has given us a mission. That is to obey Him, glorify Him and praise Him. We are a billboard about Him to the watching world. Consistent with our mission, we should be mindful to make life choices to accomplish the mission. Pursuits that take us elsewhere wreak havoc and cause defeat. So, the message, stay faithful and remember the mission. As Peter teaches in, 1 Peter 2, put off bad behavior and put on good behavior, that the world may see your good works and glorify God.

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## WEDNESDAY 4.2.25 - John 19:17-37

In June 2023, Courtney Dauwalter set a woman’s record finishing the Western States 100-mile race. The previous record had stood for 11 years. When making the final turn toward the finish line, Dauwalter stated, “That was the moment I let myself actually believe that we had finished.”

On the cross, Jesus cries out, “It is finished.” Some people could make the mistake of thinking that Jesus was referring to His earthly life, saying His life had ended. However, the term was used in Greek commercial life to signify the discharge of a debt by a completed payment. By His death, Jesus accomplished what we sinful humans could not. He lived a sinless life and offered Himself as a sinless sacrifice in payment for our sins. “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## THURSDAY 4.3.25 - Genesis 3:15

This verse speaks out in such odd verbiage that it is easy to read over it and move on to others. It is God speaking and He speaks language that we know is higher than ours. All in all, this verse, packed with wonderful, good news, passes easily by. Mankind has just sinned for the first time, and Satan is being cursed. God asks him no questions nor ponders any answers from him. God’s words demonstrate a plan already constructed. Enmity, we get the word enemy from it, is put between Satan and an heir of Eve.

Imagine, God shared Good News with mankind at the first sin. Satan would hate us but one of us would ‘bruise his head’. While Satan one day hence, would kill the human body of Jesus,

Jesus would win the victory three days later. Righteousness would win over sin and death. Shared with us by God, himself, on that early day so long ago.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## FRIDAY 4.4.25 - Psalm 22:14-18

<sup>14</sup> *I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me.*  
<sup>15</sup> *My mouth<sup>[a]</sup> is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth, you lay me in the dust of death.*  
<sup>16</sup> *Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce<sup>[b]</sup> my hands and my feet.<sup>17</sup> All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. <sup>18</sup> They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.*

We read Psalm 22 and know we are reading of Christ’s crucifixion. Yet, how could David describe the wounds of crucifixion hundreds of years before the Romans adopted the Persian practice. It seems impossible. As David wrote of his own suffering, the Holy Spirit inspired him to write prophetically of the Lord’s crucifixion, as confirmed by John 19:24.

Can you imagine every square inch of the state of Texas covered in silver dollars to a depth of two feet. Now let’s send you wandering the state blindfolded, assigned the impossible task of finding the only dollar marked with a red X. The odds of you finding that dollar, are the same as the chances of just **eight** Biblical prophecies coming true, or one out of 100,000,000,000,000,000 Yet over **three-hundred** Biblical prophecies were fulfilled in the birth, life and death of Christ. That is impossible! But remember: No matter what giant you now face - Nothing is impossible for our God. Turn to Him.

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** **SPRING QUARTER** - began March 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
LOCATION: B8-10 - Lane Kemler- began March 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**EXPLORE THE BIBLE - 1,2 Peter & Jude** - These books were written primarily to address suffering caused by persecution and to combat false teachings.  
LOCATION: B11 - Dave Delcamp - began March 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE - part 1**  
**All Signs Point to Jesus** - The Gospel of John points to many signs that highlight who Jesus is, and as we look at these signs you will be drawn to a renewed awe and worship of Jesus Christ.  
LOCATION: B1&2 - Chris Domenico - began March 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**EVERYDAY EVANGELISM**  
**Pursuing Hearts, Not Arguments** - This six-week study will equip you with practical, effective ways to share the gospel. The way to do that is by engaging others with love, respect, and truth.

### 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)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

### WINTER E2 SMALL GROUPS

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** April 12<sup>th</sup> - 7:30am in the YAC  
Sign up at the Information Tables.

**REVELATION - WOMENS STUDY:** "Revelation: Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom", by Jen Wilkin. Thursday Mornings at 9:00am in B8-10. Started February 20<sup>th</sup>.

### UPCOMING EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday Baptism Service- April 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm, refreshments to follow  
Family Communion- April 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm-8:00pm  
Good Friday- April 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm  
Easter Sunday- April 20<sup>th</sup> 8:20am, 9:40am, and 11:00am

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

## **John 19:1-16** ***The Evil of Expediency***

Question: How did Pilate move from acquitting Jesus (John 18:38) to condemning Jesus (John 19:16)?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. THE ROOT (vv 12-13)

Pilate knew the right thing to do. Mark 15:10 informs us that Pilate knew that the chief priests had handed over Jesus because of envy.

Why should Pilate do the right thing? Because it was the right thing to do! However, many people don't think that way anymore. Most people base their actions on how it will benefit them.

Pilate wanted to release Jesus. He knew that Jesus was innocent, but Pilate caved in to the threats of the Jewish leaders.

### 2. THE ROUTE (vv 1-6)


If Pilate found no fault in Jesus, then why did he order Jesus to be flogged? We call that compromise. When you compromise truth, you produce error. Right and wrong are not on the same plain, and once you do a little wrong, it's easier to do more wrong.

### 3. THE FRUIT (vv 7-11, 14-16)

When you yield to peer pressure, it produces fear and confusion in your life.

*Jesus is standing in Pilate's hall  
Friendless, forsaken, betrayed by all:  
Listen to the sudden call!  
What will you do with Jesus?*

*What will you do with Jesus?  
Neutral you cannot be;  
Someday your heart will be asking,  
"What will He do with me?"*

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



March 31 - April 4

#### 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, March 30<sup>th</sup>, "The Evil of Expediency", with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on April 6<sup>th</sup>, "Death of Jesus", with Pastor Doug Lyon.

#### KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.  
John 15:12