

Let's Worship God

25th-30th January 2021
John





THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Monday - John 11:17-29 - Real Believers

The hearts of true believers are filled with a lot of grace and a lot of weakness. Martha and Mary are perfect examples. Both of these women believe that Jesus has the power to stop their brother from dying. But neither of them understand that Christ does not have to be physically present in order to help. Jesus can prevent Lazarus' death without ever coming to Bethany. Both Martha and Mary's belief is mixed up with a lot of unbelief, but both are genuine children of God and true Christians. It's good for us to remember what true Christians really are. We can fall into the trap of expecting out of ourselves and others behaviour and attitudes we'll not see till heaven. We are sinners, changed and growing in our faith, but still sinners and will be till we die. Like Mary and Martha our faith is often mixed up with a lot of unbelief.

A clear view of who Christ is and what He has the power to do can give us much comfort and peace. The more we understand about Christ's love and power toward them that believe and the riches He has, the greater will be our faith. We are too often like Martha. A little general knowledge of Christ as the only Saviour is often all that we possess. But of the fullness we can have in Him, of His resurrection, His prayers on our behalf, His unfailing compassion, we have tasted little or nothing at all. We should be ashamed that we've called ourselves Christians for so long and yet know so little about Christ. No wonder we don't get much comfort out of our Christianity. Let us work hard at knowing more and more about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We will soon discover that there is more of heaven to be enjoyed on earth than we have ever thought possible.

Questions

1. What does Martha not understand?
2. What is the key to finding comfort in our faith?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would discover more and more about who Jesus is.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers;"
John 15:6a

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 7 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Tuesday - John 11:30-37 - Sympathy

The house of Mary and Martha at Bethany is filled with mourners when Jesus arrives. Many of them, no doubt, know nothing of the faith, the hope, the love of Christ, or the discipleship of these women. But they feel for them in their great sorrow and kindly come to offer what comfort they can. By so doing they reap a rich and unexpected reward. They see the greatest miracle that Jesus ever does. They are eye witnesses when Lazarus comes out of the tomb. To many of them that day is a spiritual birth. The raising of Lazarus leads to a resurrection in their souls. If these people had not sympathised they might never have been saved. To show sympathy and kindness to the sorrowful is good for our souls whether we know it or not. To weep with those who weep, to try to bear one another's burdens, and lighten cares - all this will not save us and bring us to heaven. But it is part of living obediently as a Christian, and it shouldn't be taken lightly.

Christ has a sympathy so tender towards His people. He knows perfectly well that the sorrow of the family of Bethany will soon be turned into joy, and that Lazarus in a few minutes will be restored to his sisters. But though He knows all this, He weeps. The weeping of Christ shows us that it is not sinful to cry. It shows us that deep feeling is not a thing we need to be ashamed of. It shows us, above all, that the Saviour in whom we trust is a tender and feeling Saviour. He has sympathy for us. When we turn to Him in the hour of trouble, and pour out our hearts before Him, He knows what we go through. And He is One who never changes. Though He now sits at God's right hand in heaven, His heart is still the same that it was on earth. We have an Advocate with the Father, who, when He was upon earth, could weep.

Questions

1. What blessing do those who have come to comfort Mary and Martha receive?
2. What do we learn from Jesus' weeping?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for those in the congregation struggling with sadness.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers;"
John 15:6a

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
J O H N

Wednesday - John 11:38-46 - Lazarus

Why does Jesus tell them to move the stone? It's as easy for Him to command the stone to roll away untouched as to call a dead body from the tomb. But He chooses to give man something to do. He is teaching the lesson that His almighty power is not meant to destroy man's responsibility. In doing good to others, in raising our children in the ways of the Lord, in seeking to live obediently, it is true that we are weak and helpless and can do nothing without Christ. But still we must remember that Christ expects us to do what we can.

Martha's faith completely breaks down when the cave where her beloved brother lies is about to be thrown open. Jesus reminds Martha of the duty of always believing. How easy it is for our faith to break down in times of trial. Let us take to heart what Jesus says here. Let us pray for strong inward faith, that when our turn comes to suffer, we may suffer patiently and believe all is well.

When Jesus speaks to God it is different from anything else the Apostles or Prophets ever say when they work miracles. It implies a constant bond between Jesus and His Father in heaven that we just can't explain or understand. Jesus is teaching those around Him that there is complete unity between Him and His Father in everything He does as well as in everything He teaches.

The loving Saviour of sinners, on whose mercy our souls entirely depend, is one who has all power in heaven and earth, and is mighty to save. There is no sinner too far gone in sin for Christ to raise and convert. And when we lie down in the grave, we may lie down in the full assurance that we shall rise again. The voice that calls Lazarus forth will one day pierce our tombs, and call soul and body together.

Questions

1. Why does Jesus tell them to roll the stone away?
2. What does Jesus teach when He speaks to God?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Christ's power.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers;"
John 15:6a

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 9 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Thursday - John 11:47-57 - Unbelief

A mighty miracle is done within an easy walk of Jerusalem. A man four days dead is raised to life, in the sight of many witnesses. The fact is unmistakable, and can't be denied; and yet the chief priests and Pharisees will not believe that He who does this miracle is the Messiah. In the face of overwhelming evidence, they shut their eyes and refuse to be convinced and even take steps to kill Him. These verses show that miracles alone have no power to change hearts and make men and women Christians. It is the grace of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and not miracles that we need. The Jews of our Lord's day are a proof that men may see signs and wonders and yet remain hard as stone. Man's unbelief will stand against logic, facts, reasoning, arguments, and behaviour. Nothing can melt it down but the grace of God.

The rulers of the Jews argue that if they don't kill Christ, the Romans will attack them. They rush madly on the path they have chosen, and the very thing they fear comes to pass. They crucify Christ, and what happens then? After a few years, the very calamity they dread takes place: the Roman armies do come, destroy Jerusalem, burn the temple, and carry the whole nation away into captivity. God can make the designs of His enemies work together for the good of His people and cause the wrath of man to praise Him. In days of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy, believers may rest patiently in the Lord. The very things that at one time seem likely to hurt them, shall prove to help them in the end.

Questions

1. How do the Jewish rulers react to Jesus' miracle?
2. What do people need in order to be saved?
3. What were the Jews afraid of?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for Christians being persecuted in other countries.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers;"
John 15:6a

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 10 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Friday - John 12:1-11 - Generosity

We read of a supper at Bethany where Lazarus sits among the guests - Lazarus, who has been publicly raised from the dead, after lying four days in the grave. Here is the same Lazarus, after several weeks, sitting among men with a real body and eating and drinking real food. This is a proof of Christ's power that even Jesus' enemies can't argue with.

Mary, the sister of Lazarus, anoints the feet of Jesus with costly perfume and wipes them with her hair. She does it out of love and gratitude. She thinks nothing too great or good to give to such a Saviour. Sitting at His feet in days gone by, and hearing His words, she has found peace for her conscience, and pardon for her sins. At this very moment she sees Lazarus alive and well, sitting by her Master's side - her own brother Lazarus, whom He brought to her from the grave. Greatly loved, she thinks she cannot show too much love in return. Having freely received, she freely gives. But some find fault with what Mary does and blame her. They have low views of who Christ is and our obligations to Him. A cold heart and a stingy hand generally go together. We must not allow ourselves to be deterred in serving Christ by the unkind remarks of some. We can't expect men and women to do much for Christ, when they have no sense of being in debt to Christ. We should pity their blindness and work on.

There is terrible unbelief and hardness in the hearts of men. The chief priests would rather commit a murder and kill Lazarus than admit that they are wrong, and Jesus is the Messiah. Judas Iscariot spends three years following Christ, seeing His miracles, hearing His teaching, receiving His kindness, but is a traitor in the end. Let us thank God for the faith He has given us and pray that it will grow.

Questions

1. Why do the Jews want to kill Lazarus?
2. Why does Mary anoint Jesus' feet?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would serve Christ wholeheartedly.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers;"
John 15:6a

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 11 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Saturday - John 12:12-19 - Voluntary

The time has come at last when Christ is to die for the sins of the world. The time has come when the true passover Lamb is to be slain, when the true blood of the atonement is to be shed, when the Messiah is to be cut off, when the way into the holiest is to be opened by the true High Priest to all mankind. Knowing all this, our Lord purposely draws attention to Himself. If ever there is a transaction in our Lord's earthly ministry which is public, it is the sacrifice He offers up on the cross of Calvary. He dies at the time of year when all the tribes are assembled at Jerusalem for the passover feast. This isn't all. He dies in a week when by His remarkable public entry into Jerusalem He has caused the eyes of all Israel to be specially focused on Him.

Christ willingly suffers in order to purchase redemption. He has undertaken to give His own life as a ransom, that we might live for ever, and He lays it down on the cross with all the desire of His heart. He does not bleed, and suffer, and die, because He is defeated by superior force, and can't help himself, but because He loves us, and rejoices to give Himself for us as our Substitute. He does not die because He can't avoid death, but because He is willing with all His heart to make His soul an offering for sin. He is just as willing now to receive sinners who come to Him for peace.

Riding into Jerusalem on a donkey might seem unremarkable. But when we turn to the Old Testament, we find that this very thing has been predicted by the prophet Zechariah five hundred years before (Zech. 9:9). The smallest prophecy and detail about Christ is fulfilled.

Questions

1. Why does Jesus draw attention to Himself?
2. Is Christ forced to die?
3. What is Christ still willing to do?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers;"
John 15:6a

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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