Let's Worship God

8th-13th February 2021 John



J C H N

Monday - John 13:16-20 - Imitate Christ

Jesus is teaching His disciples that they must not be ashamed of doing anything He has done. Puffed up with their old Jewish expectations of thrones and kingdoms in this world, secretly self-satisfied with their own position as our Lord's friends, the disciples are startled at the idea of washing people's feet. They can't believe that the Messiah's service entails work like this. They can not yet take in the grand truth, that true Christian greatness consists in doing good to others. So, they need Jesus' warning here. If He humbles Himself, they should do the same.

Are we any different than the disciples? We are all too ready to dislike any work which seems to entail trouble, self-denial, and helping those we consider beneath us. We find it easy to hand on that work to others and to excuse ourselves by saying, "It's not convenient." We need to remember Jesus' example and not think it beneath us to show kindness to anyone. We shouldn't hold back because the objects of our kindness are ungrateful or unworthy - remember Jesus washes the feet of Judas as well as Peter.

Jesus is also teaching His disciples that it's not enough to know things in your head, you have to put them into practice. Knowledge is important, we need to understand who God is and who we are. But if it doesn't affect what we do, it's useless.

Jesus has perfect knowledge of every person. He knows who the Judases are, and He knows the true heart of the Peters. You can't deceive Him, even if you deceive everyone else, but on the flip side, when the world misunderstands you, He knows the real state of your heart. Those who reject Christ's servants are rejecting Him.

Questions

- 1. What lesson is Jesus teaching His disciples?
- 2. What might you do to serve others?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that we would take every opportunity to do good to others.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 19 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Tuesday - John 13:21-30 - Night Falls

We can't even begin to understand the hardship, trouble, grief, and suffering our Lord endures on our behalf here on earth. His suffering and death on the cross are only the climax of His trouble-filled life. But the hardship described in these verses is a unique one. It is the bitter sorrow of seeing a chosen disciple deliberately turn his back on God and betray his Son. Yes, Jesus knows all along that Judas will betray Him, but sorrow is still just as sharp even if you know it's coming. It's truly amazing to think of all the sorrow Christ has to go through to save us. It shows us how little reason we have for complaining when friends fail and disappoint us. But when that does happen, we have a Saviour who knows exactly what it feels like.

These verses also show the great power and wickedness of the devil. At the beginning of this chapter we are told that Satan prompts Judas to betray Christ, now we are told that he enters into him. First he knocks at the door of Judas' heart and asks permission to come in, then when he is allowed in, he takes complete possession and rules him like a tyrant. Satan is still active and powerful. We need to resist him. Strong as he is, he has no power to hurt us, if we cry for help to One stronger in heaven. We need to use the means Christ has given us to resist Satan - His Word, prayer, worship, and spending time with other believers. If we start listening to Satan in little things, he'll soon control us in big things.

Beware of having a heart like Judas'. Despite all that Christ says to him here, he feels no shame, no guilt, but resolutely goes out to do his wicked work. And night falls.

Ouestions

- 1. What unique hardship does Christ endure here?
- 2. How does Satan begin to act with Judas?
- 3. How can we resist Satan?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that we would resist the devil.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 20 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Wednesday - John 13:31-38 - The Glory of the Cross

In this passage we find the Lord Jesus at last alone with His eleven faithful disciples. The traitor, Judas Iscariot, has left the room, and gone out to do his wicked deed of darkness. Jesus now opens His heart more fully than He has ever done before.

These verses show us that the crucifixion brings amazing glory both to the Father and the Son. How? What glory is there in the agony and humiliation of Christ's death? The crucifixion glorifies the Father's wisdom, faithfulness, holiness, and love. He has provided a wise plan whereby He can be just and yet save sinners. He is faithful in keeping the promise made to Eve that her seed will crush Satan's head. He is holy in requiring His law's demands to be satisfied by our great Substitute. And He is loving in providing such a Mediator, such a Redeemer, and such a Friend for sinful man as His Son.

The crucifixion brings glory to Christ. It shows Him most compassionate, in dying for us, suffering in our place, allowing Himself to be counted sin and a curse for us, and buying our redemption with His own blood. It shows Him patient in willingly submitting to such pains and unknown agonies as we can't even imagine. It shows Him powerful, in bearing the weight of the sins of His people, conquering Satan, and setting us free.

Ouestions

- 1. How is God the Father glorified in the crucifixion?
- 2. How is Jesus Christ glorified in the crucifixion?

Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks for all Christ has done for us.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 21 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Thursday - John 13:31-38 - Love One Another

These verses show what great importance our Lord puts on brotherly love. He calls it a 'new' commandment, not because it has never been given before, but because it is to be more honoured than ever before. Above all, it is to be the test of Christianity before the world: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Our love toward others should be seen in our attitudes, our words, our actions, our behaviour at home and work, everything we do. Especially it should be there in our dealings with other Christians. We should see them as brothers and sisters and be happy to do anything to help them. We should put to death any hatred, envy, and jealousy we have toward others. Men and women in the world, who know nothing about God and His Word, notice real love. It gets their attention and makes them think. It is a tremendous witness to the Saviour we serve.

Simon Peter declares he is ready to die for Jesus, and Jesus tells him that instead he will deny him three times. Like Peter we sometimes think that there are some things we can not possibly do. But the seeds of every sin are in our hearts, and they only need opportunity, or carelessness, or the withdrawal of God's grace for a time, to grow an abundant crop. Like Peter, we may think we can do wonders for Christ, and, like Peter, we may learn by bitter experience that we have no power and might at all. We need a humble sense of our own weakness, a constant dependence on the Strong One for strength, a daily prayer to be held up, because we can not hold up ourselves. These are the true secrets of safety.

Questions

- 1. What does our love for each other show to the world?
- 2. How can you show more love to someone else?
- 3. What keeps us from committing terrible sins?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that you would show a greater love to others.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 22 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Friday - John 14:1-3 - Home

This passage gives us a cure for an old disease. The disease is trouble of heart. The cure is faith. A troubled heart is the commonest thing in the world. Money, position, power, influence doesn't stop it. Partly from inward causes and partly from outward, partly from the body and partly from the mind, partly from what we love and partly from what we fear, life is full of trouble. Even the best of Christians have to go through trouble and sadness. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only sure medicine for troubled hearts. We need to believe more thoroughly, trust more entirely, rest more unreservedly, lay hold more firmly, and lean back more completely. Like Peter on the water, we need to look more steadily at Jesus and less at the wind and waves.

This passage also describes heaven. Heaven is home: the home of Christ and Christians. Home usually is the place where we are loved for who we are, not for what we have or do; the place where we are always loved, never forgotten, and always welcome. This is what heaven will be like. Believers are in a strange land and at school in this life. In the life to come they will be at home. Heaven is a place of lasting, permanent, and eternal dwellings. Here there are a lot of changes, but in heaven we shall be settled at last. There will be room for all believers and all sorts, for the weakest believer as well as the strongest. Christ Himself will be there. We don't need to worry about being alone or neglected. Our Saviour, our older Brother, our Redeemer, who loves us and gave Himself for us, will be in the midst of us forever.

Questions

- 1. What is the cure for a troubled heart?
- 2. How can we have a stronger faith?
- 3. What will heaven be like?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray for those in the church struggling with various trials.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7

Praise: Psalm 120 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Saturday - John 14:4-11 - The Way, the Truth, and the Life

In one respect the disciples know very little before Christ's death in comparison to what they know after Christ's resurrection and ascension. Yet they know far more than the great majority of the Jewish nation and receive truths that the Scribes and Pharisees reject. They know and believe that their Master is the promised Messiah, the Son of the living God, and to know Him is the first step toward heaven.

Christ is the way - the way to heaven and peace with God. Through His blood we can come boldly before God. Christ is the truth. Without Him we would know very little about God - He is the whole truth and satisfies every desire of our mind. Christ is the life - the sinner's title to eternal life and forgiveness, the believer's source of spiritual life and holiness, the guarantee of the Christian's resurrection life. He who believes on Christ has everlasting life. The root of all life, for soul and body, is Christ. To use Christ daily as the way, to believe Christ daily as the truth, to live on Christ daily as the life - this is to be a Christian.

Our Lord shuts out all ways of salvation but Himself. It doesn't matter how clever, intelligent, gifted, friendly, generous, kind, and zealous someone is about another religion. It will not save his soul, if he does not draw near to God by Christ's atonement, and make use of God's own Son as his Mediator and Saviour. Sincerity will never wipe away our sins. It is not true that every man will be saved, no matter what they believe, as long as they are sincere. Christ has said no one comes to God except through Him.

Questions

- 1. How much did the disciples really know?
- 2. How is Christ the way, the truth, and the life?
- 3. What is the only way to heaven?

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 you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7

Praise: Psalm 121 - 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 by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.