

Let's Worship God

8th-13th March 2021

John





THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
J O H N

Monday - John 18:1-11 - Willing Sufferer

Judas for three years has been a constant companion of Christ, seen His miracles, heard His sermons and His private teaching, called himself a believer, and even worked and preached in Christ's name. But in the end, he's a traitor and a warning. It's not enough to know a lot about God and what the Bible says, it's not enough to say all the right things in church and around your Christian friends, without a heart that really believes in what you know and say, you're acting just like Judas. You're rejecting the Lord in the worst possible way - by pretending that you are following Him. And one day you, like Judas, will be revealed as a traitor.

Notice that our Lord suffers and dies of His own free will. He doesn't die because He can't help it; He doesn't suffer because He can't escape. All the soldiers of Pilate's army couldn't have taken Him, if He hadn't been willing. He's set His heart on accomplishing our redemption. He loves us and gives Himself for us, cheerfully, willingly, gladly, in order to pay the price for our sins.

Look at our Lord's tender care for His disciples' safety. Even at this critical moment, when His own terrible sufferings are about to begin, He doesn't forget the little band of believers who stand around Him. He remembers their weakness and provides a way of escape by telling the soldiers to let them go. Even today Christ does not allow His people to suffer more than they can bear, and He watches tenderly over all His children.

Jesus submits perfectly to His Father's will. This is our goal as well. Chasing after our own way and what we want leads to unhappiness. But if we try to live our lives in terms of what God wants, what His Word says, and put that before our own wants, we are on the road to peace.

Questions

1. What is Judas a warning of?
2. How can we submit our will to God's will?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would seek God's will before our own.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love." John 15:10b

Praise: Psalm 139 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Tuesday - John 18:12-27 - Our Substitute

The soldiers who take Jesus prisoner are a hard-bitten crew. Even if they've never heard or seen Jesus (hard to imagine considering the impact He made in Jerusalem), they've all just seen Him perform a miracle in healing Malchus' ear (Luke 22:51). But they carry on as though it's just another day. This is another warning to us. The farther away we get from the things of God, the harder our hearts become. Eventually God and His Word become so insignificant and the things of the world so important that even a miracle wouldn't sway us.

As we've already seen Jesus could've at any moment broken His bonds and gotten away from His captors. But the Son of God submits to being led away to stand before wicked and unjust judges and to be insulted and abused. Sometimes we are unselfish enough to be willing to suffer for those who love us, and we all know what it's like to be treated badly and be powerless to do anything about it. But to suffer voluntarily, when we have the power to prevent it, and to suffer for people who hate us and aren't about to thank us, this is beyond human understanding. But this is what Christ does in loving His people long before they love Him and suffering and dying in their place. He is led away captive, and dragged before the High Priest, not because He can't help Himself, but because He has set His whole heart on saving sinners - by taking their sins, being treated as a sinner, and by being punished in their place. He is a willing prisoner, that we might be set free.

Questions

1. Why are the soldiers so indifferent as to who Jesus is?
2. How can we guard against this indifference?
3. Why does Jesus go along with His captors?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

“Just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.” John 15:10b

Praise: Psalm 140 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Wednesday - John 18:12-27 - Peter

The story of Peter denying Christ is one of the famous stories in Scripture. In it we see the disciple abandoning his Master and acting like a coward, running away when he should have stood by His side, ashamed of Him and finally denying Him three times. And this happens immediately after receiving the Lord's Supper, after hearing Jesus pray for him, and after being clearly warned by Christ of the danger he is in. To top it all off, the pressure Peter gives in to isn't really all that great - a servant girl. This big, hardened fisherman can't even claim Christ to a wee girl.

The fall of Peter is a lesson to the whole Church. It shows us the danger of pride and self-confidence. If Peter had not been so sure that even though everyone else denied Christ, he never would, he would probably never have fallen. We have to know our own weaknesses and sins. The moment we think we're in no danger of a particular sin, we let down our guard and the sin comes in. It shows us the danger of laziness. If Peter had watched and prayed, when our Lord told him to, he would have found grace to help him in his time of need. If we neglect the tools God has given us to grow strong as Christians, why are we surprised when we stumble. It shows us the strong influence of the fear of man. So often, we're far more afraid of man than God.

But these verses also remind us that we have a merciful and sympathetic Saviour. Peter does fall shamefully, and only rises again after heartfelt repentance and bitter tears. But he does rise again. He is not left to reap the consequences of his sin and be cast off forever. The same hand that saved him from drowning, when his faith failed on the waters, is once more stretched out to save Peter when he falls.

Questions

1. What does Peter's fall teach us about ourselves?
2. What does Peter's fall teach us about Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for strength to meet temptation.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.” John 15:10b

Praise: Psalm 141 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
J O H N

Thursday - John 18:28-40 - The Kingdom

Notice the irony of the Jews behaviour. They are delivering up the Son of God, the Messiah promised for thousands of years, to be killed, and they are worried about being unclean for the Passover. What a classic illustration of their hypocrisy. Concerned only with external appearances, they have missed the whole point. Are there people like this today? Of course there are. Plenty of men and women put on an external show of being Christians. They think because they go through the forms of Christianity, things like church attendance or giving money, they're ok, but they have no heart relationship with Jesus Christ and daily reject Him by their actions, words, thoughts, and feelings. If this describes you, if you think you're ok because you go through the motions of being a Christian, you need to realise you are no better than these Jews.

Jesus tells Pilate that His kingdom is not of this world. What does this mean? Lots of people have twisted these words to suit themselves, so it's important we really understand what's being said here. Jesus wants Pilate to understand the true nature of His kingdom - He wants to correct any false impression Pilate might have got from the Jews. He tells Pilate that He did not come to set up a kingdom that would interfere with the Roman Government. He rules over men's hearts, and the weapons His subjects use are spiritual. A kingdom that doesn't need money or armies to support it, is one the Roman Emperors don't need to be afraid of. But Jesus is not teaching that the kings of this world should have nothing to do with Him and should ignore Him and His Word. Kings are as much required to obey Jesus Christ and serve Him as anybody else. In fact for a king or a country to think that they can ignore God and His Word and prosper is as foolish as an individual thinking that.

Questions

1. How are the Jews being hypocritical?
2. What is Jesus teaching about His Kingdom?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that our rulers would obey Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.” John 15:10b

Praise: Psalm 142 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Friday - John 18:28-40 - Truth

Jesus comes to earth to tell people the truth. To testify to sinful man the truth about God, about sin, about the need of a Redeemer, about how to live lives of holiness, and to make that truth a reality by His death and resurrection, this is why He comes. He not only tells the truth, He is the Truth, the Truth that sets us free. Jesus is our example. Like Him, we are to tell people the truth, the truth of who Christ is and who they are and what they must do. Like Him we are to live out that truth in our lives. This may bring us a lot of trouble and heartache, but it's what we do if we really love Christ and really care about others.

But Pilate doesn't understand. Almost sarcastically he says, "What is truth?" How often do we hear that today. You can explain, and explain, and explain about Jesus to someone, and they just turn around and say, "I just don't get it. You say one thing, the Catholics say another, Muslims say something else. How do I know what to believe? I'm just going to carry on doing what I think is right because I can't know what the truth is." Is it really impossible to know the truth? No. God never leaves anyone, who really wants to know, in the dark. Pride is one reason why many can't see the truth. They don't go humbly down on their knees and ask God for help. Laziness is another reason. They don't take the time and effort to read God's Word. At the end of the day their favourite question, "What is truth?" is nothing more than an excuse from a heart that hasn't been changed.

Questions

1. How does Jesus become the truth?
2. How can we find out the truth?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Jesus Christ is the truth.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love." John 15:10b

Praise: Psalm 143 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Saturday - John 19:1-16 - The Love of Christ

In these verses we see the Saviour of mankind beaten, crowned with thorns, mocked, hit, rejected by His own people, unjustly condemned by a judge who can't find any fault in Him, and delivered up to a painful death. But this is the eternal Son of God, whom angels delight to honour. This is the One who came into the world to save sinners, and after living a perfect life for thirty years, spends the last three years of His time on earth in going about doing good and preaching the Gospel.

The love of Christ is beyond our knowledge. There is no earthly love we can compare it to and no standard to measure it. It is a love that stands alone. We should never forget, when we read about His death, that Jesus suffered for our sins, the Just for the unjust, that He was wounded for our sins, and bruised for our sins, and by His blood, we are healed.

We need to follow the example of Jesus' patience in all the trials and troubles of life. When He was attacked, He didn't retaliate; when He suffered, He didn't threaten but committed Himself to God the Father. Let us try to glorify Jesus by suffering well.

Questions

1. What does Jesus endure?
2. Why?
3. How can we imitate Him?

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

“Just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.” John 15:10b

Praise: Psalm 144 - 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.

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