

Let's Worship God

15th-20th March 2021

John





THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Monday - John 19:1-16 - Fear of Others

The unbelieving Jews who want Jesus' death have tremendously hard hearts. For three or four long hours they stubbornly reject Pilate's offer to release Jesus, fiercely demand His crucifixion, persistently refuse to call Him their King, and finally agree to take any punishment for His death upon themselves. Are these malicious pagans who have never heard of God? No. These are the children of Israel, the seed of Abraham, who have been given promises and sacrifices that all point to a Messiah. They are men and women who claim they are looking for the son of David, but when He comes, they call for His death. What a warning! If we reject God, and reject God, and reject God, eventually God stops giving us the chance to reject Him. He hardens our hearts and turns us completely over to our own sinful desires. Have you heard about your need for a Saviour - maybe you've heard many times? Do you keep putting off thinking or doing anything about it? Be careful, God may stop giving you chances to believe.

Pontius Pilate is a Roman Governor - a man of rank and high position, a representative of the Emperor and the most powerful nation on earth, a man who should be just and fair, and he wavers and waffles over what to do with Christ. He knows what is right, but he is afraid to do it. He's convinced Christ is innocent, but he doesn't want to offend the Jews. He gives up justice for the fear of man and murders an innocent person. How often do we do this ourselves? We may not actually sign any death warrants, but we know what is right in our hearts and, because of the fear of what others will think or say, we don't do it. We are representatives of the most powerful kingdom in the world - the kingdom of God, and more than anyone else we should be doing what's right, but how often are we held back by our fear of other people.

Questions

1. What has God done to these unbelievers?
2. How can we overcome our fear of man?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would do what's right no matter what else is going on.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11

Praise: Psalm 145 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Tuesday - John 19:17-27 - King

Notice that Jesus has to carry His cross out of the city to the place where He is going to be crucified. This is part of the humiliation Jesus endures as our Substitute. The worst criminals are always forced to carry their own crosses. Jesus is considered to be a criminal, a sinner, and a curse for our sakes. We need to have the idea of the cross firmly in our minds and hearts today. We need to understand that the Christian life involves suffering and the world's hatred. It involves putting to death our sins and our selfish desires and putting Christ first. But when you read about what Christ has done for you, how can you do anything else but live for Him?

Our Lord is crucified as a King. For once Pilate ignores what the chief priests and Jews want and places a title over Christ's head that is clear and unmistakable and easily read by any passerby. Jesus is a King, as He tells Pilate, of a kingdom not like any other, but still a true King of a true kingdom and a Ruler of true subjects. He is born as a King. He lives as a King. And He dies as a King. As a King He will come again and every knee will bow to Him. Do you know Christ as King? You can't look on Him as just the guy who gets you out of trouble. When you ask Him to pay the price for your sins, you are asking Him to buy you - to buy you out of Satan's kingdom and into His own. You are turning your life over to Him, changing your allegiance, and serving Him. He must be your King if He is going to be your Saviour.

Even in the awful agony of body and mind which Christ endures, He does not forget His mother. As oldest son, it is His responsibility to care for her, and He hands that care over to His disciple, John. The heart that even on the cross feels for Mary, is a heart that never changes. Jesus never forgets any that love Him and never fails to care for them.

Questions

1. How does Christ's Kingship affect your life?
2. How does Jesus treat those who love Him?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11

Praise: Psalm 146 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
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Wednesday - John 19:28-37 - The Finished Work of Christ

Through every part of Christ's crucifixion, prophecies are being fulfilled. This proves that Christ's death is part of God's plan long before it ever happens. Hundreds of years before the crucifixion, the smallest details are revealed to the prophets. From first to last God knows and causes all that happens.

What does Jesus mean when He says, "It is finished"? He is talking about the completion of the work of redemption. The suffering that He endures as our Substitute is finished, the ceremonial law is fulfilled in Him the true Sacrifice, the many prophecies are accomplished, forgiveness is achieved, and we are ransomed from Satan's kingdom into God's. Salvation is won. We rest on a finished work if we rest on the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. We don't need to worry or be afraid that Satan will accuse or condemn us at the last day. We have a Saviour who has done all, paid all, accomplished all, and performed all that is necessary for our salvation. There is nothing missing. When we look at ourselves, we can be ashamed of our sin. But when we look at the finished work of Christ, we have peace.

Jesus does not faint on the cross. His heart stops beating, and He actually dies. Without a real death there can be no real sacrifice; without a real death there can be no real resurrection; and without a real death and real resurrection, Christianity is a house built on sand with no foundation at all. But there is a real death and a real resurrection which means real forgiveness and real salvation.

Questions

1. What does the fulfilment of prophecies teach us?
2. What has been finished?
3. Why must Jesus have really died?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Christ's death on the cross.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11

Praise: Psalm 147 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
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Thursday - John 19:38-42 - Joseph and Nicodemus

There are true Christians in the world that we know very little about. Joseph of Arimathea is one of them. Here is a man we hear nothing about either before or after these verses. He comes forward to honour Christ when the apostles have abandoned Jesus and run away. He cares for Jesus and is happy to serve Him even when He is dead - not because he sees a miracle but because he loves Him. He doesn't hesitate to call himself a friend of Christ at a time when this is an extremely dangerous thing to do. This is a man with a strong faith. There are many Christians in every age, who, like Joseph, are the Lord's hidden servants, unknown to the Church and the world, but well known to God. They love Christ and are loved by Him, and they will be honoured on the last day. It is not always those who make the greatest show in Church who are the closest friends of Christ.

These verses also show that some servants of Christ end better than they start. Nicodemus is like this. The only man who dares help Joseph bury our Lord is one who first comes to Christ at night for fear of the Jews. At the time he knows very little about the truth, and he is only beginning to ask questions. Later on he is a bit more bold and tells the Pharisees in the Council that they should not judge Jesus before they hear Him (John 7:51). Finally, he is not ashamed to give the despised Christ an honourable burial. A man can mightily grow in grace, faith, knowledge, and courage in just three short years. We must not condemn others because they don't see the whole truth at once and only reach Christianity by slow degrees. The Holy Spirit always leads believers to the same truth and the same Heaven, but He doesn't always lead them by the same experience or at the same speed.

Questions

1. What kind of Christian is Joseph?
2. How has Nicodemus improved?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would grow in your faith.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” John 15:11

Praise: Psalm 148 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Friday - John 20:1-10 - Mary Magdalene

Those who love Christ most are those who have received the most benefit from Him. The first who comes to Christ's tomb is Mary Magdalene. Jesus once cast seven devils out of her (Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2), and her gratitude to Him knows no bounds. In fact, out of all of Jesus' followers on earth, none seem to love Him as much as Mary Magdalene. None feel that they owe Him as much. None feel as strongly that there is nothing too great to do for Christ. She is the last at the cross and the first at the grave. She can not rest, but goes to the tomb while it is still dark. Having received much, she loves much; and loving much, she does much, in order to prove the reality of her love.

Why do so many who call themselves Christians do so little for the Saviour? Why do they work so little, give so little, say so little, take so little trouble for Christ and His cause in the world? There is only one answer. They have a very low sense of their debt and obligation to Christ. When sin isn't felt, nothing is done; and when sin is little felt, little is done. The man or woman who is deeply conscious of his sin and guilt, and deeply convinced that without the blood of Christ he will sink into Hell, this is the man who thinks he can never do enough for Jesus. We need to pray every day that we would see the sinfulness of sin, and the amazing grace of Christ, more clearly and distinctly. Then we will begin to serve Christ wholeheartedly as Mary does.

Questions

1. Why is Mary first at the tomb?
2. Why does she love Christ so much?
3. What has Christ done for you?
4. How can you serve Him?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11

Praise: Psalm 149 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Saturday - John 20:1-10 - Peter and John

Different believers have different personalities, and we see that in these verses. Both Peter and John (the disciple Jesus loves) run to the tomb, but John reaches the grave first. Then we see the difference between the two men. John, more gentle, quiet, tender, reserved, and deep-feeling, stoops down and looks in but goes no further. Peter, more hot, zealous, impulsive, and fervent, can't be content without going into the tomb and seeing everything with his own eyes. Both love the Lord deeply. Both of their hearts are full of hopes, fears, anxieties, and expectations mixed up together. But each acts differently, and we need to remember this about believers today. Just because another Christian doesn't see or feel things exactly the way we do, doesn't mean they aren't a Christian. We all love the same Saviour and are on the way to the same Heaven, but we don't all have the same personality. Some of us are like Peter and some of us like John, and there is a place and a work for everyone.

Finally, notice in these verses that even among these true believers, there is a lot of ignorance. For three years these two chief apostles have heard Christ talk about His resurrection, but they don't understand Him. They can't take in His meaning, and when it happens they don't make any connection. Thankfully, we don't need to know or understand everything God has said to be saved. Some things we do need to know - our sin and guilt, Christ as a Saviour, the need to repent and believe - knowing these things are essential to salvation. But we don't need to despair because our knowledge is imperfect and because there is much we don't understand.

Questions

1. What do we need to remember about different believers?
2. What do Peter and John not understand?
3. What do we need to understand to be saved?

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

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11

Praise: Psalm 150 - 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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