

Let's Worship God

22nd-27th March 2021

John





THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Monday - John 20:11-18 - Mary Magdalene

The first thing these verses teach us is that those who love Christ most are those who receive the most privileges from Him. Mary won't leave the tomb when Peter and John go away to their home. She doesn't know where He is or what has become of Him, but her love for Him keeps her at the place where He last was. And her love reaps a rich reward. She is the first to see our Lord after He rises from the dead, the first to hear His voice, the first to talk to Him. As Christians we don't all have the same abilities, but we can all love Christ. And Christ loves those who love Him.

Secondly, these verses show us that our worries, fears, and tears are often unnecessary. Mary doesn't need to cry. Christ is right there with her, but she doesn't see it. How often are we worried when we don't need to be. Most of the things we're afraid of never happen at all. We need to pray for patience and the eyes to see the presence of Christ and His good purposes in everything that happens.

Jesus gently reminds Mary that He is God as well as man. Much as she loves Him, she can't keep Him on earth. Though His body is no longer with her, she and the other disciples will learn that the spiritual presence of Christ is with all true believers, even while He reigns in Heaven.

Finally, notice how kindly Jesus talks about His disciples. He calls them His brothers and has Mary tell them that His Father is their Father and His God their God. Just three days before these same disciples had all run away from Jesus. But Christ speaks as if all is forgiven and forgotten. Jesus Christ never changes. As He deals with His disciples, so He will deal with all who believe and love Him. When we wander, He brings us back. When we fall, He lifts us up. What an amazing love!

Questions

1. What is Mary's reward?
2. How does Jesus treat His disciples?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the love of Christ to us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

John 15:12

Praise: Psalm 1 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Tuesday - John 20:19-23 - Peace

If ever a group of people are distraught, upset, sad, confused, scared, guilty, and worried, it must be the followers of Christ in these days after the crucifixion. Their world has come to an end; the unthinkable has happened. Their faith seems to be groundless, and on top of everything else there are several strange stories of a resurrection floating about. Jesus knows all this, so when He comes to His followers He speaks peace to them - peace and not blame, peace and not fault-finding, peace and not rebuke is the first thing this little group hears from their Master's lips after He leaves the tomb. Peace is a key concept of Christianity. Peace between God and man through the precious blood of atonement; peace between man and man through new hearts of grace and love - to spread this kind of peace is the work of the Church.

Jesus gives His disciples evidence of His own resurrection. He shows them His hands and side. They can see that He is not a ghost, but He has truly risen from the dead.

Jesus calls His apostles to go into the world and preach the Gospel as He has preached it. The true preaching of the Gospel declares how sins can be forgiven. Jesus is not giving His disciples the authority to forgive sins - that authority belongs to God alone. What He is giving to them, and to all His ministers, is the authority to declare whose sins are forgiven and whose sins are not forgiven. This is exactly what true Gospel preaching does: it declares whose sins are forgiven - those who repent and believe; and it declares whose sins are not forgiven - those who turn their back on God and try to save themselves.

Questions

1. What kind of peace do Christians have?
2. What evidences does Jesus give His disciples that He is not a ghost?
3. How can sins be forgiven?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

John 15:12

Praise: Psalm 2 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Wednesday - John 20:24-31 - Thomas

Christians can lose out when they don't meet together with other Christians. That's what happens to Thomas here. He is absent the first time Jesus appears to His disciples after the resurrection, and He misses a blessing. Maybe he has a good reason for not being there, but at such a critical time in the life of these followers, it seems hard to imagine anything worthwhile enough to keep him away. One thing is clear. By being absent he is kept in suspense and unbelief a whole week, while everyone around him is rejoicing in the thought of a risen Lord. We need to remember what the writer of Hebrews says, "Let us not give up meeting together...." (Hebrews 10:25) Never to be absent from God's house on Sundays, without good reason, is one way to be a growing Christian. The very sermon we unnecessarily miss may have something vital in it that our souls desperately need to hear. The very gathering for prayer and praise from which we stay away, may be the very gathering that would have cheered, stabilised, and encouraged our hearts. We don't realise how dependent our spiritual health is on little, regular helps, and how much we suffer if we miss our medicine.

Christ is very kind and merciful to slow believers. It's hard to imagine anything more annoying than Thomas' attitude. But no one is more patient and compassionate to Thomas than Jesus. He does not reject him, but comes and shows him the evidence he wants. We need to follow Christ's example here and not be annoyed at those who aren't where we're at in our Christian life - instead we should help them lovingly.

Questions

1. What did Thomas miss out on?
2. Why should we go to church on Sunday?
3. How does Jesus teach Thomas?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be faithful in our worship.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

John 15:12

Praise: Psalm 3 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Thursday - John 21:1-14 - Breakfast By The Sea

The past few weeks the disciples have been through more emotions than most people experience in a lifetime. The growing dread leading up to the time in Jerusalem as Jesus repeatedly speaks of His death, the extreme weariness that overtakes them in the Garden of Gethsemane when they should have been praying, the shock that one of their number has betrayed the Lord, the anger at the soldiers coming to take Christ away, the fear for their life causing them to abandon Christ, the grief we can't begin to imagine at watching and hearing of the crucifixion, the numbness that must have hit them for three days after Christ's death when it seems that all they have believed in is a lie, the confusion of the empty tomb and Mary's message, the guilt of their own sinful behaviour, and the overwhelming joy of seeing Christ alive again. They need time to think, to clear their heads, and they do this by falling back on their old job. Out on the boat all night, away from other people, they have plenty of time to think as they perform the tasks they've known how to do all their lives. Surely they think about the events of the last three years, and then after being up all night without catching anything, history begins to repeat itself. As the sky lightens, a solitary figure on the shore tells them where to cast their nets, and for John, everything clicks together. Peter must know he has a lot to answer for, but when John tells him who the man on the shore is, Peter doesn't hesitate. More than anything else he wants to be with Christ. And as the sun rises on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus and His disciples sit down for breakfast one last time on earth. Nothing else that can ever happen to these disciples can take away the joy that breakfast by the sea must have given them for it is a foretaste of heaven. One day we'll experience it too.

Questions

1. Why do the disciples go fishing?
2. How does Peter feel about Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that one day we will be with the Lord.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

John 15:12

Praise: Psalm 4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Friday - John 21:15-17 - Do You Love Me?

The meal is finished, and the time has come for the conversation Peter has probably been half-dreading. Three times Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him. Peter can't help but be reminded of his three time denial of Christ, and his confident claim that even if all the other disciples leave Jesus, he never will. 'Do you love me?' seems a simple question, but it is, in reality, a searching question. We may know much, and do much, and talk much, and work much, and give much, and go through much, and yet be dead before God because we don't love Him. Do you love Christ? That is the great question. There is no life in Christ where there is no love of Christ.

Three times Peter replies that Christ knows that he loves Him. Peter is hurt that Jesus asks him three times, but Jesus intends this hurt. He wants to drive home the point of how hurtful it is for Him to be denied. The answer Peter gives is the one answer every Christian can give. The weakest Christian may not be able to answer questions of whether they are converted, justified, or sanctified, but ask them if they love Christ, and they will say, "I do". They may add that they don't love Him as much as they should, but they won't say that they don't love Him. What, after all, does it mean to love Christ? It is an inner sense of having been forgiven for our sins. We love much when we feel much forgiven. The more we realise that Christ has suffered for us, and paid our debt to God, and that we are washed through His blood, the more we love Him for loving us and giving Himself for us.

Christ tells Peter that if he loves Him, he is to serve Him by doing the work of an apostle - preaching God's Word and caring for God's people. Obediently serving Christ, in whatever situation He has put us, is the great test of whether we really love Him.

Questions

1. What does it mean to love Christ?
2. How do we show our love?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

John 15:12

Praise: Psalm 5 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Saturday - John 21:18-25 - The End

We've come to the end of J.C. Ryle's notes on John's Gospel, and there are four things we can learn from these final verses. First, Jesus Christ knows what will happen to all Christians both in life and death. He prophesies Peter's death, and history tells us that Peter is crucified as a martyr for Christ's sake. The time, the place, the manner, the painfulness - Jesus knows every detail. Our whole future is known and arranged by Christ. There is no such thing as luck, chance, or accident in our life. Everything from beginning to end is foreseen and planned by One who is too wise to make mistakes and too loving to hurt us. We need to remember this when trouble comes.

Secondly, we learn that a believer's death should glorify God. Peter's death brings glory to the Lord. We can glorify God in death by being ready for it whenever it comes. We can glorify God in death by patiently enduring the suffering that goes with it. We can glorify God in death by telling others about the comfort and support we find in Christ. Deaths like these leave a mark on the living. Let us pray, while we have our health, that we can glorify God when it comes time to die.

Thirdly, we learn that we should think about our own relationship with God before we start worrying and wondering about others. Sadly, we often follow one of two extremes - either we're so focused on our heart that we neglect to help others, or we are so busy serving others we neglect our own heart relationship. John tells us, finally, that there is so much more that Christ has said and done, but we have been told everything we need to know to understand that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Saviour of sinners. Now we must ask ourselves if we believe in this Jesus.

Questions

1. How can we glorify God in our death?
2. What has this Gospel told us about Jesus?

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

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

John 15:12

Praise: Psalm 6 - 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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