Let's Worship God

30th Nov. - 5th Dec. 2020 John



Monday - John 1:35-42 - Telling Others

The more we talk about Christ the more good it will do. The first time John the Baptist says Jesus is the Lamb of God there seems to be no result. We don't read of any who hear, ask, or believe. But when he repeats the same words the next day, two of John's disciples begin to follow Jesus. From that day they become firm disciples of the new-found Messiah. They follow Him wherever He goes. One of them at least becomes a chosen apostle. And all is because of John the Baptist speaking of Christ. It is a little seed, but it bears mighty fruit. If we want to see men and women follow our Lord, we need to point them to Christ. And we need to do it patiently again and again. We have the promise that God's Word always has an effect, but the Bible nowhere says that it will do good the first time someone hears it. We need to keep at it.

No sooner does Andrew become a disciple, than he tells his brother Simon about Christ. What would have happened if Andrew had just kept silent? Would his brother have lived and died a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee? Happily for Simon, Andrew's heart is so full he must speak about Christ. Simon is brought to Jesus by the the private, quiet word of a relative. He sees no miracle. He is not convinced by powerful reasoning. He just hears his brother telling him about the Saviour he has found, and by the grace of God, a work begins in his soul that draws him out of the world and joins him to Christ. What would it be like in the church if all believers were like Andrew. Thousands will listen to a word from a friend, who will not not listen to anything else.

Questions

- 1. What happens the second time John speaks of Christ?
- 2. What does Andrew do?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that you would take the opportunities to speak to others of Christ.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away," John 15:2a

Praise: Psalm 77 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Tuesday - John 1:43-51 - Nathanael

All true Christians are led by one Spirit, washed in one blood, serve one Lord, lean on one Saviour, believe one truth, and walk by the Bible. But all are not converted in the same way. All do not have the same experience. Philip, unlike Andrew and Peter, does not hear of Christ from another, but is called directly by Jesus. We need to be careful that we don't measure other people's experience by our own. The faith of a person is far more important than the circumstances that lead to that faith.

Philip describes Christ to Nathanael as the one whom Moses and the prophets wrote about. There is so much of Christ in the Old Testament. To Him the earliest promises point; to Him every sacrifice points; of Him every high priest is a type, every part of the tabernacle a shadow, and every judge and deliverer a figure. He is the Prophet like Moses, the King of the house of David, the Lamb prophesied by Isaiah, the righteous Branch mentioned by Jeremiah, the true Shepherd seen by Ezekiel, the Messenger of the Covenant promised by Malachi, and the Messiah.

Nathanael is full of doubts, so Philip tells him to 'Come and see.' If he rebukes him for unbelief, he might have offended and driven him away. If he argues with him, he might fail to convince him. But by inviting him to prove it for himself, he shows how confident he is that what he says is true. Don't be afraid to tell unbelievers to prove God's Word for themselves, to read it themselves, to see what it says themselves. There are no secrets. God's Word can stand up to any scrutiny and hold true.

Nathanael is a true child of God, and a child of God in difficult times. He is living by faith, and waiting prayerfully for the promised Redeemer. His knowledge is small, but Christ calls him a true Jew - an Israelite in heart as well as in the flesh.

Questions

- 1. How does Philip describe Christ to Nathanael?
- 2. How does he deal with Nathanael's doubts?

Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks for all we know about Christ from His Word.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away," John 15:2a

Praise: Psalm 78 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Wednesday - John 2:1-11 - The Wedding

Christ honours marriage by His presence and by performing His first miracle at a wedding. Marriage is a state of life given by God for man's benefit. It should be respected, honoured, and not entered into lightly. Christ's blessing and presence are essential to a happy wedding. The marriage with no place for Him can't be expected to prosper.

It's perfectly all right to be happy, to rejoice as a Christian. Christ is taking part at a feast here - a time of rejoicing and laughter. Our faith shouldn't make us sad, it should increase our real joy and happiness. We don't take pleasure in sin, but there is no problem with enjoying Godly pleasures. The Christian who withdraws from other people and walks around always looking as if he is at a funeral, hurts the cause of the Gospel. A Christian should have a cheerful, kindly spirit, ready to smile, and take part in happy things. This attitude goes far in removing stumbling blocks and making way for Christ and the Gospel. But we need to be careful as well. It's hard to be both merry and wise. Too much feasting, too many parties will make us neglect more important things and might lead to temptation. We need to know our own spiritual strength. One believer can go without risk where another cannot.

Notice the power of Christ in this miracle. He doesn't touch the waterpots, He doesn't command the water to change, He doesn't even pray to His Father. He simply wills the change, and it takes place. This same almighty power is at work on our behalf today. We don't need Christ's bodily presence, we don't need to see or touch Him. His will is as mighty and powerful as His action. We are as safe and well taken care of as if we see Him standing by us.

Questions

- 1. Why should we be cheerful?
- 2. How does Christ do this miracle?

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

"Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away," John 15:2a Praise: Psalm 79 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Thursday - John 2:12-25 - Righteous Anger

Jesus shows more righteous anger at this point in his ministry than at any other. Nothing seems to call from Him such holy wrath as the great disrespect that the priests permit in the temple Some people call themselves Christians and behave every Sunday as badly as these Jews. They bring their bodies into the house of God, and allow their hearts and minds to drag in their money, their land, their houses, and all their worldly matters. They claim to be worshipping, but their minds are on anything but worship.

Men and women may remember God's Word long after it is spoken or read and may one day see a meaning they don't see now. When Jesus speaks of the resurrection of the temple of His body, His disciples don't understand what He is saying. Not till three years later do they grasp the full significance of His words. We need to carry on sowing the seed of God's Word, having family worship, speaking of Christ to others, listening to the Word being preached. God's Word is remembered far more than we think, and it may bear fruit in us and in others after many days.

Our Lord Jesus Christ perfectly understands the human heart. He knows that the majority of the crowds are not to be depended on. They are amazed at the miracles and for the moment accept that He is the Messiah, but they are not converted, true believers. Their hearts are not right in the sight of God even though their feelings are excited. As soon as trouble comes, their so-called faith will probably wither away and come to an end. We can deceive other people, but we can't deceive Christ. We may look and sound like true believers, but Christ sees our heart. He knows all things - He knows whether or not we love Him.

Questions

- 1. Why is Jesus angry?
- 2. What don't the disciples understand?
- 3. Why doesn't Christ trust these crowds following Him?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray for our ministers as they prepare to preach God's Word to us.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away," John 15:2a

Praise: Psalm 80 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Friday - John 3:1-8 - Born Again

A man may make a weak start as a Christian but in the end be quite strong. We see this in Nicodemus. He is afraid of what people will think or do, so he comes to Jesus secretly by night. But this same Nicodemus will later stand up for Jesus in open day at the Council of the Jews (John 7:51). The time will come when this same Nicodemus will be one of only two men who honour our Lord's dead body. He helps Joseph of Arimathea to bury Jesus, when even the apostles forsake their Master and flee. Though he begins poorly, he ends well. We should never despise the day of small beginnings, or put down someone whose faith is weak, hesitant, and uncertain. Like Jesus, let us take those with a small faith and deal with them gently and lovingly.

Our Lord says a new birth is necessary to be saved. What is this new birth? What does it mean to be born of the Spirit? It isn't a superficial change, but a complete and thorough change. It is passing from death to life. It is an exchange of our heart of stone for a heart of flesh. It is a new creation giving us new life, new habits, new desires, new judgements, new opinions, new hopes, and new fears. Why do we need new birth? Because we are sinners, corrupt through and through. We are enemies of God. We come into the world without faith, or love, or fear toward Him. We have no natural inclination to serve Him or obey Him, no pleasure in doing His will. Left to himself, no human being would ever turn to God. That's why we can't give this new birth to ourselves. We can't change ourselves. We need God to do it for us. When He by His Holy Spirit gives us new birth, we then turn and trust in Him for salvation. Have you been born again?

Questions

- 1. Why did Nicodemus come at night?
- 2. What does it mean to be born again?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away," John 15:2a Praise: Psalm 81 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Saturday - John 3:9-21 - Faith

Here is a teacher of Israel, Nicodemus, who doesn't understand the basics of saving faith. If this is the way the teachers are, what must have been the state of the people! The blind have been leading the blind, and both are falling in the ditch. But are things so very different today?

Martin Luther called John 3:16, "The Bible in miniature." It tells us of the love of God the Father, a love that has provided a way of salvation and then offered it to the world. God so loved the world that He gave His Son to be the Saviour of all who believe. His love is offered to all men freely, fully, honestly, and unreservedly, but it is only through Christ's redemption. He that rejects Christ cuts himself off from God's love, and will perish everlastingly.

The plan through which the love of God provides salvation for sinners is the atoning death of Christ on the cross. This death is planned from all eternity to be the great payment, by an Almighty Substitute and Representative, of man's enormous debt to God. When Christ dies on the cross, our many sins are laid upon Him. By His death He purchases pardon and complete redemption for sinners. Christ has been lifted up on the cross, and man looking to Him by faith may be saved.

The benefits of Christ's death are made our own by putting our faith and trust in Him. Faith is the same thing as believing. Nothing beside this faith and nothing except this faith is necessary to be saved. If you want to know if you are a Christian, ask yourself if you have faith. Do you believe that you are a sinner, desperately needing forgiveness? Do you believe that Christ died on the cross for sin? Have you asked Him to be your Substitute, to pay for your sins, to save you? Do you have faith?

Questions

- 1. Why did God send His Son to die?
- 2. How do you know if you are a Christian?

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

"Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away," John 15:2a

Praise: Psalm 82 - 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.