Let's Worship God

21st-26th December 2020 John



Monday - John 6:1-14 - Power to Save

This miracle teaches us about Christ's almighty power. Food is called into existence that didn't exist before. This power shows us that Christ is able to save. He is one who has all power over dead hearts. Not only can He fix what is broken, build up what is ruined, heal what is sick, strengthen what is weak, He can do even greater things. He can create something out of nothing. We must never despair of anyone being saved. So long as there is life, there is hope. With a Saviour who, by His Spirit, can create a new heart, nothing is impossible.

This miracle also teaches us about the work of ministers. The apostles receive the bread from Christ's hands and distribute it. It is not their hands that make it increase and multiply, but Christ's. It is His power that provides an unfailing supply. It is their job to receive it humbly and distribute it faithfully. This is a picture of the work a minister is meant to do. He is not a mediator between God and man. He has no power to forgive sin or give grace. His job is to receive the bread of life which his Master provides, and to distribute it among souls. He can't make men value the bread, or receive it. This isn't his work, and it isn't his responsibility. He is just to faithfully distribute the bread of life. What is this bread? The Word of God.

Finally, this miracle teaches us that the Gospel is sufficient for the wants of all mankind. The news of Christ's death for sinners, and the atonement made by that death, is able to meet the hearts and satisfy the consciences of all nations and peoples. Carried by faithful messengers, it feeds and supplies all ranks and classes. Five loaves and two fish seem hardly enough for a hungry crowd. But blessed by Christ, and distributed by His disciples, they are more than sufficient.

Questions

- 1. What does this miracle teach us about Christ's power?
- 2. What is the work of a minister?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray for the minister as he works to prepare his sermons.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Abide in me, and I in you." John 15:4a

Praise: Psalm 95 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Tuesday - John 6:15-21 - Power Over the Storm

Notice our Lord Jesus Christ's humility. He has no desire to be made king. It is not the time for Him to be crowned king, instead He comes to serve others. From His cradle to His grave, He lives a humble life. We need to remember His example. Pride is far too common in our lives and humility too rare. How few of us refuse greatness or flattery when offered. But Christ's example of humility should be imitated by us.

Notice also Christ's disciples have to pass through many trials. They go from witnessing a mighty miracle, and being used as tools in it, amid an admiring crowd, to solitude, darkness, winds, waves, storm, worry, and danger. But Christ has appointed this for their good. Trials are part of the life of a Christian. It is one of the means of testing your faith and showing you how weak or strong it is. Winter as well as summer, cold as well as heat, clouds as well as sunshine, - are all necessary to bear much fruit of the Spirit. Now, we don't naturally like this. We'd rather cross the lake with calm weather and favourable winds, with Christ always by our side, and the sun shining down on our faces. But it may not be. It's not in this way that we grow in holiness. In our darkest hours we may think Christ has abandoned us, but we are never really alone.

Notice finally our Lord Jesus Christ's power over the waves of the sea. He is the Maker of all creation. It is as easy for Him to walk on the sea as create the sea. We can take comfort in the thought that our Saviour is Lord of waves and winds and storms, and can come to us in the darkest hour. There are waves of trouble far heavier than any on the Sea of Galilee. There are days of darkness which try the faith of the holiest Christian. But let us not despair if Christ is our Friend. He can come to our aid at a time and in a way that we'll never expect. And when He comes, all will be calm.

Questions

- 1. What is one of the reasons we have to suffer?
- 2. What can comfort us in the storms of life?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"Abide in me, and I in you." John 15:4a

Praise: Psalm 96 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Wednesday - John 6:22-27 - Food for our Souls

Jesus Christ knows our hearts. He knows the false motives of those who follow Him. He sees the secrets of those who call themselves Christians. He knows why we do what we do. The reasons why we go to church, why we take Communion, why we have family worship, and why we keep the Sabbath holy - He sees them all and weighs all our actions. We need to be real, true, and sincere in our faith. It is not hard to deceive the minister, relatives, and friends. But it is impossible to deceive Christ.

Notice what Christ forbids. He is not encouraging laziness, what He is speaking against is caring more for the body while neglecting the soul. He rebukes the common habit of working only for the things of the world and ignoring the things of eternity. This attitude is still very common today. Many spend all their time and energy on the here and now and never give a thought to eternity.

Christ tells us to work for food that endures to eternal life. He wants us to find food for our souls. That food is found in Him. But we must diligently seek it. How do we seek it? We must read our Bibles, like men digging for hidden treasure. We must wrestle earnestly in prayer, like men fighting for life. We must take our whole heart to the house of God, and worship and hear like those who are listening to the reading of a will. We must fight daily against sin, the world, and the devil.

Christ promises that He will give eternal food to all who seek it. Whatever mercy, grace, peace, strength we require, the Son of man will give freely, immediately, abundantly, and eternally.

Questions

- 1. Can we hide things from Christ?
- 2. What does Jesus forbid?
- 3. How can we get food for our souls?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that we would seek the things of God first in our lives.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Abide in me, and I in you." John 15:4a

Praise: Psalm 97 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Thursday - John 6:28-34 - Faith

Jesus' listeners immediately start thinking of what they can do to prove how good they are. Doing, doing, doing, is their only idea of the way to heaven. But Jesus tells them that believing on Him is the highest and greatest of all works. What does He mean? Is He saying we earn our way to heaven? Is He saying that we are saved because of something we do? No. We are dead in our sins. We can do nothing. We have no faith and can't begin to create it in ourselves. But God can. He gives us new hearts. He gives us faith. He gives us the ability to believe on Him. And from our human perspective, this faith in Him is what God requires for salvation. He doesn't require a lifetime of good works. He doesn't require us to punish ourselves for every sin we've committed. Christ has done that for us. What God requires is faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. But He gives us this faith as a gift - the very thing He requires back from us. So, we are saved, not by any works or even any faith we've created ourselves, but by the grace of God giving us the very gift He requires us to give to Him.

From our perspective, our responsibility is to believe. This is our job, this is what we are to work to do. Relying on God's grace for the ability, but believing with all our heart. Till a man believes on Jesus, and rests on Jesus as a lost sinner, he is nothing. When the Father sees a sinner casting aside his own goodness, and simply trusting in His dear Son, He is well pleased. Without such faith it is impossible to please God. He that has learned to feel his sins, and to trust Christ as a Saviour, has learned the two hardest and greatest lessons in Christianity. He has been in the best of schools. He has been taught by the Holy Spirit.

Questions

- 1. Where does our faith come from?
- 2. What must we do to be saved?
- 3. Whose responsibility is it to believe?

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

"Abide in me, and I in you." John 15:4a

Praise: Psalm 98 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Friday - John 6:35-40 - Precious Promises

Our Lord wants us to know that He Himself is the food of man's soul. The soul of every man is naturally starving through sin. In Christ and His atoning death, in Him and His priesthood, in Him and His grace, love, and power, in Him alone will empty souls find their needs supplied. In Him there is life. Bread is necessary food. So it is with Christ. We must have Christ, or die in our own sins. Bread is food that suits all. So it is with Christ. He is the Saviour that meets the needs of every kind of person. Bread is food that we need daily. So it is with Christ. There is no day in our lives but we need His blood, His righteousness, and His grace. We must come to Him by faith. We must believe on Him, and commit our souls into His hands. So coming, He promises we shall find lasting satisfaction both for time and eternity.

Jesus promises that those who come to Him, He will not cast out. What does coming mean? It means a man, feeling his sins, and finding out that he cannot save himself, hears of Christ, trusts in Christ, lays hold on Christ, and leans all his weight on Christ for salvation. Christ will not refuse to save anyone who comes to Him, no matter what He may have been. His past sins may have been very great. His present weakness may be very great. But does he come to Christ by faith? Then Christ will receive him graciously, pardon him freely, count him as one of His dear children, and give him everlasting life.

Everyone who desires eternal life may look at Christ by faith and have it freely. There is no barrier, no limit, no restriction. Christ will never allow any soul that is committed to Him to be lost and cast away. He will keep it safe, from grace to glory, in spite of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Not one lamb of His flock shall ever be left behind in the wilderness.

Questions

- 1. How is Christ like bread?
- 2. What does Jesus promise here?

Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks for God's love for sinners.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Abide in me, and I in you." John 15:4a

Praise: Psalm 99 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Saturday - John 6:41-51 - Will to Believe

If Jesus had come as a conquering king, with wealth and honours to bestow on His followers, and mighty armies behind Him, the Jews would have been willing enough to receive Him. But a poor, and humble, and suffering Messiah is an offense to them. Their pride refuses to believe that such a one is sent from God. We see the same thing today. Thousands can't stand the idea of atonement, sacrifice, and substitution of Christ. They approve His moral teaching. They admire His example and self-denial. But they hate Christ's blood, Christ being made sin for us, Christ's death being the corner-stone of our hope, and Christ's poverty being our riches.

Until the Father draws the heart of man by His grace, man will not believe. We are spiritually dead, and have no power to give ourselves life. We may have the ability to put our faith in Christ, but we have no desire to do so. There are no men or women who have a great desire to come to Christ, but no ability to do so. Instead, it's the other way around. They have no power to come because they have no desire to come. What we need is a new will, a new heart, a new desire. The power to come to Christ comes from that. But our inability to come to Christ, doesn't mean we are blameless. Our blood is on our own head. Christ will save, but if we refuse to come to Him, we are to blame. Our wrong desires are our own fault.

Salvation is a present thing. It isn't something that we get after we die, but it is ours the very day we believe. The very moment a sinner believes on Christ he is justified and accepted. There is no condemnation for him. He has peace with God, immediately and without delay. His name is in the book of life. He has a title to heaven, which death and hell and Satan cannot overthrow.

Questions

- 1. What do we need in order to believe?
- 2. What happens the moment we believe?

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

"Abide in me, and I in you." John 15:4a

Praise: Psalm 100 - 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!

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