

Let's Worship God

17th-22nd December 2018

Luke



THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Monday - Luke 14:7-14 - Humility

Our Lord teaches us here to be humble. Humility should be a characteristic of every Christian. To know our own sinfulness and weakness, and to understand our need of Christ, is the very beginning of the Gospel. Humility has been a characteristic of many of the great Christians in the Bible - men like Abraham, Moses, Job, David, Daniel, and Paul are all humble men. Humility is also something every Christian can have. We aren't all preachers, or teachers, or organisers, or youth workers. We can't all cook meals, drive people around, or give generously beyond our tithe, but we can all be humble. It is within the grasp of every believer.

How do you become humble? The root of humility is right knowledge. The man who really knows himself and his own heart, - who knows God and His infinite majesty and holiness, - who knows Christ, and the price He paid to redeem him, - that man will never be a proud man.

An attitude of humility works itself out in the way we treat others. A humble man who understands himself and who God is, will not be thinking about himself. He will not be self-centred, but will be seeking to be God-centred. He will be living his life to serve God and to love his neighbour as God has commanded. A Godly man, a man of humility, will do good to others whether they can repay him or not. He will want to help those in need; he will even seek them out. Jesus isn't saying, "Sure give them something to eat if they show up at your door." He is telling them to go out and invite those in need specifically. And He reminds us that though we may receive no thanks or appreciation on earth for doing good, our Father in Heaven sees all that we do.

Questions

1. How can we be humble?
2. Who does a humble person think about?
3. How can we seek out those in need?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be humble.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:10

Praise: Psalm 136 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Tuesday - Luke 14:15-24 - Invited

Jesus is taking the opportunity through this parable to remind those around Him that men may have the kingdom of God offered to them, and yet may choose to neglect, ignore, or reject it, and be lost forever.

First, we are taught in this parable that God has provided everything necessary to save men's souls. The great supper with enough food for many is the Gospel. The Gospel contains everything sinners need in order to be saved. We are all naturally starving, empty, helpless, and ready to die. Forgiveness of all sin, peace with God, justification, growth in grace, and eternal life are all provided by God for us. There is nothing that sinful and guilty hearts can need that is not found in Christ.

Secondly, we are taught that the offer and invitation of the Gospel is for everyone. God has made it clear to man that he needs a Saviour. He has made it clear who that Saviour is. If a man is not saved, the fault isn't God's. The Father is ready to receive all who come to Him through Christ. Jesus is ready to forgive the sins of all who believe on Him. The Holy Spirit is ready to come to all who ask for Him. God is infinitely willing to save man, if man is only willing to be saved.

Thirdly, we are taught that many who hear the Gospel refuse to believe. Thousands are continually doing what this parable describes. They are invited to come to Christ, and they will not come. They are always ready with a reason or excuse why Christ cannot be served today.

Finally, we are taught in this parable of the great love of God in pursuing sinners to bring them to faith. His love and compassion and longsuffering is inexhaustible, and it sets before us an example of the vigour with which we should go out into our town with the invitation of the Gospel.

Questions

1. Whose fault is it if they don't believe?
2. How can we invite more to believe in the Gospel?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of those in our town.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:10

Praise: Psalm 137 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Wednesday - Luke 14:25-35 - Counting the Cost

True Christians must be ready, if necessary, to give up everything for Christ's sake. Jesus is not saying that it is the duty of Christians to hate their relatives. He means that those who follow Him must love Him with a deeper love even than their nearest and dearest relatives and friends, or their own lives. He is not saying that it is part of Christianity to quarrel with our relatives and friends. But He does mean that if the claims of our relatives and friends come into conflict with the claims of Christ, the claims of relatives must give way. We must choose rather to displease those we love most upon earth, than to displease Him who died for us on the cross.

Those who are thinking of following Christ must count the cost. To be a mere Christian in name only and go to church, is cheap and easy work. But to hear Christ's voice in the Bible, and follow Christ, and believe in Christ, and tell others about Christ, requires a lot of self-denial. It will cost us our sins, and our pride, and our easy life, and our love of the world. We must fight an enemy who comes against us with twenty thousand followers. We must build a tower in hard times. Our Lord Jesus Christ wants us to understand this. Why? To discourage us from following Him? No, but to prevent men and women following Him without thinking, caught up in some temporary excitement, who in time of temptation will fall away. He has no desire to swell the number of His followers by admitting soldiers who will fail in the hour of need. They become as useless as salt which has lost its saltiness. All who want to serve Christ need to count the cost before they begin.

Questions

1. When must we disagree with our relatives and friends?
2. Why must we count the cost of following Christ?
3. Why is following Christ hard work?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for Christians being persecuted in other countries.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:10

Praise: Psalm 138 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Thursday - Luke 15:1-10 - Christ's Love

What the Scribes and Pharisees say is strictly and literally true. The Lord Jesus does welcome sinners. He welcomes them to forgive them, and to make them holy and ready for heaven. It is His job to do so. This is why He came to the world - to call sinners to repent. He came to earth to save sinners. What He was upon earth He is now at the right hand of God, and will be for all eternity - the sinner's Friend.

Christ's love is an active, working love. Just as the shepherd doesn't sit still moaning about his lost sheep, and the woman doesn't sit still crying over her lost money, so our Lord doesn't sit still in heaven pitying sinners. He leaves the glory which He has with the Father, and humbles Himself to be made in the likeness of man. He comes down into the world to seek and to save that which is lost. He never rests till He has paid for our sins, lived a perfect life, and opened a door of life to all who ask for salvation.

Christ's love is a self-denying love. The shepherd brings his lost sheep home on his own shoulders rather than leave it in the wilderness. The woman lights a candle, sweeps the house, searches diligently, and spares no trouble, till she finds her lost money. And just so Christ does not spare Himself when He comes to save sinners.

Christ's love is a deep and mighty love. Just as the shepherd rejoices to find his sheep, and the woman to find her money, so does the Lord Jesus Christ rejoice to save sinners. It is a real pleasure and delight to Him to show mercy. He is far more willing to save sinners than sinners are to be saved.

Questions

1. Why is Jesus the sinner's Friend?
2. How does Christ show His love?
3. What gives God joy?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:10

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

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Friday - Luke 15:11-24 - A Prodigal

The prodigal son is a picture of everyone before they are saved. We are all naturally proud and selfish. We have no pleasure in fellowship with God. We turn away from Him, going as far as we can. We spend our time, and strength, and mind, and heart on worthless things.

The prodigal son finds out that the ways of sin are hard, by bitter experience. This too is a common situation. Sin is a hard master, and the servants of sin always find it out, sooner or later, to their cost. Unconverted people are never really happy. They are often anxious, sick at heart, dissatisfied with themselves, tired of what they are doing, and thoroughly uncomfortable.

The prodigal son awakens to a sense of the mess he is in and resolves to repent. Thousands of people think this way every day. We should be thankful when we see those thoughts coming. Thinking is not a change of heart, but it may be the beginning of it. But we must remember that good thoughts are all very well, but they are not saving Christianity. If the prodigal son had never got beyond thinking, he might have kept from home to the day of his death.

The prodigal son is then a picture of a man turning to God with true repentance and faith. The man in whose heart a true work of the Holy Spirit has begun, will never be content with thinking and resolving. He will break off from sin. He will stop doing evil, and he will learn to do good. He will turn to God in humble prayer, confessing his sin. And just like the prodigal son he will find his sins freely pardoned and himself completely accepted by his loving Father.

Questions

1. What are the consequences of sin?
2. What is true repentance?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the forgiveness of sins and the love of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:10

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

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Saturday - Luke 15:25-32 - Rejoicing

The older brother is angry and finds fault because of the rejoicing over his brother's return. He complains that his father is treating the returning prodigal too well, and that he himself has not been treated as well as he deserves. He is unable to share in the joy over his younger brother, and he gives way to envious thoughts. It is not a pretty picture.

The older brother is an exact picture of the Jews of Jesus' time. They can not bear the idea of their Gentile younger brother sharing their privileges. The older brother is also a picture of the scribes and Pharisees. They are angry that Christ spends time with sinners. But the older brother is also a picture of many in the Church today who hate the idea of a salvation based, not on your works, but on God's grace and complain over the non-respectable people coming into the church, whether single mothers, ex-alcoholics, grubby teenagers, or noisy kids. They are unable to rejoice that these men and women, boys and girls are saved.

The conversion of any soul should be a time of joy to all who see it. Nothing should make us as happy as to see someone come to faith in Christ. It makes angels rejoice in heaven. It ought to make Christians rejoice on earth. What if those who are converted used to be extremely wicked? What if they have served sin and Satan for many long years, wasting their lives? It doesn't matter. Are they truly repentant? Have they come back to their Father's house? Are they new creatures in Christ Jesus? Are the dead made alive and the lost found? If so, we should rejoice and be glad.

Questions

1. Why is the older brother mad?
2. Who is he like?
3. What should our reaction be when people become Christians?

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 so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:10

Praise: Psalm 141 - 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 for the RP Global Alliance
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