

Let's Worship God

5th-10th November 2018

Luke



THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Monday - Luke 9:23-27 - Self-Denial and Shame

There are three important lessons that our Lord Jesus Christ is driving home to His disciples in these verses. The first is that the Christian life is a life of self-denial. It is a life of putting God and others before ourself. Christ does not give His disciples any illusion that self-denial is an easy thing - instead, He compares it to carrying a cross. It is a hard and often thankless task. It involves putting to death our own sin and selfish desires and waging war against the devil and his temptations. It is putting aside what we want and living and working for what Christ wants.

Christ teaches His disciples the value of the soul. All that the world contains is worthless and empty when compared to the soul. We may want much in the world, it may seem very attractive, but often when people achieve what they most desire, they are still not happy because they don't have the things that matter most, they don't have a living soul. Death comes to all, and when we stand before God it will not matter what we have accomplished or owned in this life - only the state of our soul will matter. To lose one's soul is the worst thing that can happen to someone. All other losses are temporary, but the loss of the soul at death is permanent. It is to lose God, and Christ, and heaven, and glory, and happiness for all eternity.

Finally, Christ teaches His disciples the danger of being ashamed of Him and His words. There are many ways of being ashamed of Christ. We may be afraid of letting people know that we are a Christian, that we love Christ, that we think the Bible is true and applies to our life. We may be ashamed to let people see us attend church, pray, or read God's Word. Being ashamed of Christ is a sign of unbelief. It shows we care more about what men think than about what Christ thinks. We have no right to be ashamed of Christ, instead let us be bold Christians.

Questions

1. What is the Christian life like?
2. How can we be ashamed of Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would care more about God than man.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." Luke 9:24

Praise: Psalm 119:Part3 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Tuesday - Luke 9:28-36 - The Transfiguration

The event described in these verses is called the “transfiguration”. It is a picture of the glory which Christ will have after His ascension to Heaven. It is a picture of the exalted King and Saviour. How encouraging this must be to Peter, James, and John. Christ has been speaking of suffering, self-denial, hardship, pain, and death, but now His disciples are given a glimpse of the good things to come once this life is over. They will see Christ at His weakest, but right now they are privileged to see His power. We must not forget Christ’s power. He is mocked and belittled almost constantly in this world; His people endure much suffering both from the attacks of the devil and the attacks of others. We daily war against sin in our own lives. But we must remember that we serve a powerful and glorified King and one day all mankind will see Christ as He really is; they will have to answer to Him, fall before Him, and worship Him, but those who have put their trust in Him will be called His friends.

Moses and Elijah have been gone from the earth for some time, but they appear here safe with Christ. Our loved ones who have believed in Christ and left this earth are safe with God, just as Moses and Elijah are. This must comfort us as we grieve a death, and we can look forward to the time when we will be reunited with those we love.

Though Moses and Elijah are great men and worthy of respect, Christ is greater. They have come as representatives - Moses of the law and Elijah of the prophets to speak with Christ about His death, perhaps to encourage Him, and definitely to testify that here is the long-awaited Messiah. Peter’s mistake of considering them all equal is corrected by God the Father who makes it clear that Jesus Christ is His Son, the Son of God.

Questions

1. What is this event called?
2. What is it a picture of?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the power of our Saviour.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.” Luke 9:24

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Wednesday -Luke 9:37-45 - Imitate Christ

Jesus' time with Moses and Elijah is short. He soon returns to His work of doing good to a sinful world. His job on earth is not to receive honour or have visions of glory, but to serve His Father and help others. We must imitate Christ in this, not looking for honour or basking in glory, but focusing on our work of serving Christ and others. In this world we are not given much time on the mountaintop.

The man who brings his son to Christ is terribly worried and upset. There are many Christian parents who know what it means to be terribly troubled and upset over the soul of their child. They should, like this man, bring their sons and daughters to Christ in prayer, crying out to Him for help. God's time of conversion may not be ours, but so long as a child lives, and a parent prays, we have no right to despair about that child's soul.

Christ is ready to show mercy to young people. He has done so throughout His ministry. He does not consider any too young to hear what He has to say and to believe. Our work amongst even the youngest in our congregation is not in vain - if Christ considers children and young people worthwhile, so should we.

Even though the disciples are specifically told that Jesus is going to be betrayed and killed, they just don't understand. It's as though it goes in one ear and out the other. Men and women may understand very little of spiritual things and yet still be a true child of God. Christ doesn't get impatient with His disciples' ignorance, so who are we to become impatient or despise ignorance of spiritual things in others. Instead, let us work together to learn more and more about the great God we serve.

Questions

1. What is our job on earth?
2. What can we do for our covenant children?
3. How can we encourage others to learn more about God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for our covenant children.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." Luke 9:24

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 5 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Thursday - Luke 9:46-50 - Pride and Division

Our Lord Jesus gives us two warnings here. The first is a warning against pride. Even among these disciples, men who live their lives in the shadow of the Son of God, pride is present. They are ready to argue over who will get the best place in the future kingdom. Of all sins there is, perhaps, none against which we have such need to watch and pray, as pride. No sin is so deeply rooted within us. No sin is so deceitful, ready to spring forth at any time. Pride can be found in the hearts of the ignorant and the poor as well as the great, the intelligent, and the rich. We must pray for humility and the dependent spirit of a little child, a child who realises that all he has comes from his parents. We are to imitate Christ, putting aside our selfishness and putting others before ourselves. We should be ready at all times to take the lowest place and daily confess our need of Christ.

Our Lord Jesus Christ also warns the disciples against a divisive spirit. Jesus is not saying that it doesn't matter whether we are Protestant, Muslim, Catholic, or Jew as long as we do good works. What He is saying is that those who are doing God's work God's way ought not to be forbidden. Thousands of people down through Church history have copied John's mistake. They have tried to stop every man who will not work for Christ in their way, from working for Christ at all. They have imagined that no man can be a soldier of Christ, unless he wears their uniform, and fights in their regiment. The plain truth is, that we are all too ready to say, "We are the men, and wisdom shall die with us." (Job 12:2) We forget that no one has an absolute monopoly of wisdom, and that people may be right without agreeing with us. We must learn to be thankful if sin is opposed, and the Gospel preached, and the devil's kingdom pulled down, though the work may not be done by us.

Questions

1. How can we fight against our pride?
2. What should we rejoice in?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that the Lord's work is done throughout the world.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." Luke 9:24

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Friday - Luke 9:51-56 - Determination and Zeal

Jesus Christ regards His crucifixion and death with steady determination. He knows what is before Him. He knows of the betrayal, the unjust trial, the mockery, the beating, the crown of thorns, the spitting, the nails, the spear, the agony on the cross, but He sets His face towards Jerusalem, and He does not flinch. His heart is set on paying the price of our redemption, on taking our place on the cross, on bearing our sins, and obtaining forgiveness and eternal life for us. We should praise God that He is so determined to do so much for us. We should pray for a spirit determined to do what God asks of us, as our Lord is determined. And we should love Christ even more for His willingness to save us.

James and John are zealous, and they are zealous for the honour of Christ. They even support their zeal by a Scriptural example, but it is not a zeal according to knowledge. In their anger, they forget that circumstances alter cases, that punishment should be in proportion to the offense, and that judgement is for God to determine. James and John mean well, but they are greatly mistaken.

It is possible to have zeal for Christ and yet to show it in a very unholy way. It is possible to mean well and have good intentions, and yet to make terrible mistakes. It is possible to imagine that we have Scripture on our side, and yet to be wrong. It is not enough to be zealous and well-meaning. We must have knowledge as well as zeal. Zeal without knowledge is like an army without a general. We must pray that we will understand how to rightly apply God's Word to our life. The Bible is a light to our feet, but it must be properly applied.

Questions

1. Why is Christ so determined?
2. Does He know what is ahead of Him?
3. What was wrong with James and John's zeal?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." Luke 9:24

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 7 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Saturday - Luke 9:57-62 - Three Men

The first man in these verses offers, of his own accord, to be a disciple unconditionally. But he is speaking without thinking. He has never thought about what it means to be a disciple. He has never counted the cost. So, Christ calls him to think well about what he is offering to do. Is he prepared for hardship? Christ will have no one serve Him under false pretenses. He makes it very clear that the Christian life is not an easy one, that we have deadly enemies, that many will hate us and persecute us. He does not want us to be discouraged, but He wants us to know the truth. If we are not prepared for this, we better think again about being His disciple.

The second man is invited to follow Christ, but he asks permission to bury his father. The thing he asks is harmless, but the timing is wrong. There are far more important things he needs to be doing. There will always be plenty to arrange a funeral, but there are few to do Christ's work. We must beware of allowing family and social duties to interfere with our duty to Christ. Funerals, marriages, visits, they aren't sinful, but when they absorb a believer's time and keep him back from what he should be doing, they are a trap for his soul. Our Lord's work must have first place in our hearts and lives.

The third man volunteers to follow Christ, but makes a request. His heart is not yet thoroughly engaged in Christ's service. It is impossible to serve Christ with a divided heart. If we are looking back to anything in this world, we are not fit to be disciples. Jesus will not share His throne with anyone. Christ must have all our heart, or nothing.

Questions

1. What had the first man failed to do?
2. What was the second man's problem?
3. Why was the third man not ready to be a disciple?

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

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." Luke 9:24

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 8 - 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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