

Let's Worship God

19th-24th November 2018

Luke



THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Monday - Luke 10:38-42 - Martha

The first thing these verses teach us is how different in personality Christians can be. Both Mary and Martha are faithful believers, both honour Christ at a time when few people do, both love Jesus, and Jesus loves both of them. But Martha is active, impulsive, speaking everything she feels, and Mary is quiet and thoughtful. When Jesus comes to her house, Martha rejoices and gets busy doing things for Him; Mary rejoices as well, but she sits at Jesus' feet to listen to Him. We must not expect all believers in Christ to be exactly like each other. They all recognise their sin, they all trust in Christ, but in minor things they can often be quite different.

Martha's preparations and service of Christ is not wrong. What's wrong is the priority she gives it in her life. She begins to care more about what she is doing for Christ than about Christ Himself. Her worry and anxiety over what she is doing cause her to forget the reason why she is so busy. When she sees her sister, her conscience is pricked with the realisation that she should be spending more time with Christ. Burdened with worry and guilt, she speaks sharply to the very One she is trying to honour. It's so easy for us to fall into this same trap. Caught up in the various ministries of our church, eager to serve Christ in all we do, we get so busy doing God's work that we forget to actually spend time with God. Our focus shifts from Christ to ourselves, and we worry and get upset over all we feel we are called on to do and angry at those who seem to be doing very little. We, like Martha, forget whom we serve. Christ's warning to her is a warning to us. Our relationship with Him should have the priority in our lives; our time spent with Him must come first. We must have that time at our Lord's feet in order to remember why we serve Him.

Questions

1. How are Martha and Mary different?
2. What was Martha doing wrong?
3. How can we guard against making Martha's mistake?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would keep Christ first in our lives.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"And I tell you, ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Luke 11:9

Praise: Psalm 119:Part15 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Tuesday - Luke 11:1-4 - The Lord's Prayer

Christ teaches us to approach God as our Father in heaven and pray that His name may be known and respected and glorified by all His creatures. We are taught to pray that the power of Satan may be destroyed, that all mankind will call God King, and that the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of Christ. We are also taught to pray that God's will may be done: that the number of saved and obedient people will increase, that His enemies will decrease, and that the time will quickly come when all men shall serve God on earth as the angels do in heaven.

When we ask for our daily bread, we are saying that we are dependent on God for life, breath, and all things. We are asking God to take care of us and give us everything we need. When we ask for forgiveness, we are saying that we are sinful, disobeying God in many ways. We make no excuses, but we ask for the free mercy of our Father in Christ Jesus. We ask Him to forgive us for the sake of Christ who has died on our behalf.

We pray that God, who controls all things in heaven and on earth, will keep us from temptation greater than we can bear. We admit our weakness and readiness to sin. Finally, we are taught to pray against evil. This includes everything that can hurt us in body and soul, especially our great enemy the devil. We know that evil is in us, about us, near us, and on every side, and that we have no power to deliver ourselves from it. We throw ourselves upon Christ for protection and strength.

This prayer should be the pattern of all our prayers. It should give us ideas of what we should pray for and pray against. It should teach us what we give priority to in our prayers. We should study it again and again, so that we can pray the way Christ teaches us.

Questions

1. What does Christ pray for first?
2. Why can we ask for our sins to be forgiven?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that Christ's Church will be built here on earth.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"And I tell you, ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Luke 11:9

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 16 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Wednesday - Luke 11:5-13 - Asking

These verses teach us the importance of persevering in prayer. As selfish as we are, even we can be roused to action by constant asking. How much more can we expect to receive mercy when we constantly ask God for it. It is far easier to begin a habit of prayer than to keep it up. Many Christians are taught to pray when they are young, and then gradually stop as they get older. Many begin to pray after some trial, and then slowly stop as time goes on. We start to think that there is no point in praying. We must resist the temptation to let our prayers die away. However poor we think our prayers are, let us resolve to keep praying rather than stop. God will answer every prayer in His time, so let us come to Him day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year. The answer may be long in coming, but it will come.

Our Lord Jesus Christ gives us tremendous promises in these verses. He promises the Holy Spirit - the greatest gift that God can give to man. When we have the Holy Spirit we have everything - a changed heart, eternal life, and the love of God. And this is a gift that can be obtained by prayer! Men say they are weak and helpless. But do they ask to be made strong? Men say they are wicked and sinful? But do they ask to be made better? Men say they can do nothing. But do they ask for the grace of the Holy Spirit? Unsaved men and women are what they are because they have no real desire to be changed. They have not, because they ask not. Do we strive to be better Christians, but feel ourselves falling short? Do we long to see a steady stream of men entering the ministry, of churches being planted, of sinners being saved? Is it the case with us as well that we have not because we ask not?

Questions

1. How can you improve your prayer time?
2. What is the greatest gift God gives us? Why?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of the men, women, and children of our town.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“And I tell you, ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Luke 11:9

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 17 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Thursday - Luke 11:14-20 - Satan's work

Christ has just been teaching His disciples about the power and importance of prayer. Now He delivers a man from a devil. The same Saviour who encourages us to pray, is the Saviour who destroys Satan's power over us, and restores our tongues to their proper use.

There are many different ways in which Satan hurts man. He does not always work in the same way, but he always has the same desire - he loves to harm men and women. We must be careful not to think that because Satan's work is not as obvious today as it was in Jesus' time, that the devil is not as active. There are still many men and women today who keep silent when they should speak because of the devil's work. They never speak to God, they never speak of God to others, they have no time for God. Let us watch and pray that we are not silent when we should speak. Let us be constantly speaking to God in prayer and constantly praising God to others.

The people around Jesus could not deny the miracle, but their hearts are so stubbornly opposed to Christ that they refuse to admit that He has the power of God. They can't argue against what has happened, so they resort to trying to discredit Christ and to slander His reputation. There will always be men who are determined to see nothing good in Christ or His people and to believe all kinds of evil about them. They throw away common sense, refuse to listen to evidence or arguments, and are convinced that whatever a Christian does must be wrong, and whatever He says must be false.

Questions

1. What does Satan want to do to men and women?
2. How can you speak more about Christ?
3. Why are the people so opposed to believing Christ?

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

“And I tell you, ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Luke 11:9

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 18 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Friday - Luke 11:21-26 - Satan

Christ is drawing a picture of Satan and his power in these verses. He speaks of the devil as a 'strong man.' Satan has won many victories over the souls of men; he has captured the vast majority of mankind and robbed them of heaven; he is a mighty enemy not to be taken lightly. Satan is well supplied with armour. He will not be overcome by feeble efforts. To war against him requires all our strength. And Satan has many weapons to attack the soul of man and reign in his heart. When men and women are dead in their sins, slaves to Satan, their hearts are at ease about spiritual things. It is a false peace from which they will one day awaken, but for the moment they are spiritually asleep. We should thank God that Jesus Christ is able to overcome this strong creature and his mighty armour, destroying his kingdom, and taking those men and women that belong to the devil and turning them to love and serve Him.

Christ also teaches the impossibility of neutrality in these verses. Nothing is so offensive to God as lukewarmness in belief. It is a terrible thing to be dead in our sins, but it is far worse to know the truth and yet try to take a middle ground, committing neither to Christ nor to the world. We must serve Christ with all our hearts, if we are going to serve Him at all. There must be no holding back, no compromise, no attempt to bring God and the world together. Those who hear the truth of the Gospel and hesitate, throwing off old sins and yet reluctant to come to Christ in obedient faith, are like the empty, cleaned-up house that just invites the devils right back again. It is not enough to clean up our lives, Christ must reign inside our heart or else the devil will.

Questions

1. What has Christ done to the devil?
2. What is wrong with a half-hearted commitment?
3. Who will reign in our lives if Christ doesn't?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Christ's power over the devil.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"And I tell you, ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Luke 11:9

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 19 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Saturday - Luke 11:27-32 - Judgement

The privileges of those who hear and obey God's Word are great. They are considered by Christ as His close relatives, closer than any connected to Him by flesh and blood. All too often we think that if we had lived when Christ walked the earth, we would be a better Christian than we are now. But the ability for a close personal relationship with Christ is within our reach, if we only believe. No man can be nearer and dearer to Jesus than the man who simply believes.

The Jews who surround Jesus are full of unbelief. They pretend to want more evidence before they believe, though they already have more evidence and a greater understanding of God's plan of salvation than thousands who have come before them and yet believed in a Saviour. It should not surprise us to see unbelief abounding both in the church and in the world. God's mercy and grace in saving anyone should amaze us, and our hearts should be full of thanksgiving that He has loved us and delivered us when thousands around us continue on in their sin.

Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches of a coming day both of resurrection and of judgement. He reminds us that this world is not all, and the life we live on earth is not the only life of which we should be thinking. One day all mankind will stand before the judgement seat of God. Those who seem to us to have been dead and forgotten will rise again and stand before God. Many men and women are scared to think of a final judgement, but the Christian, who knows his sins have been forgiven, can rejoice at the thought of spending eternity with his Lord.

Questions

1. How can we have a close relationship with Christ?
2. Why should unbelief not surprise us?
3. How can we face the judgement of God?

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

"And I tell you, ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Luke 11:9

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 20 - 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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