

Let's Worship God

28th Jan. - 2nd Feb. 2019
Luke



THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Monday - Luke 22:14-23 - Communion

The main purpose of the Lord's Supper is to remind Christians of Christ's death for sinners. Communion is not a sacrifice - it is a remembrance. The Communion bread is to remind us of Christ's body given to death on the cross for our sins. The wine is intended to remind us of Christ's blood shed to pay the price for our sins. The whole service is to keep fresh in our mind the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and the satisfaction which that sacrifice makes for sin. But taking Communion does not save you. The man or woman that comes to the Lord's table with faith in Christ, may confidently expect to have his faith increased. But he that comes without faith has no right to expect a blessing. Empty he comes and empty he will go away.

Observing the Lord's Supper is a duty of all Christians. Jesus is not just speaking to the apostles when He tells them to "Do this in remembrance of Me." This does not mean that everyone baptised in the church is to take Communion. God gives us instructions later through Paul that the one taking Communion must be able to examine himself before they partake. In order to fully examine themselves, they must first be taught things about sin and salvation. It is also the responsibility of the elders to protect the Lord's Supper from being taken by those who are not believers and to protect unbelievers from bringing more judgement upon themselves. Not everyone who takes Communion is a Christian. Judas took Communion. But those who have repented of their sin and turned in faith to Christ are called upon to remember and rejoice in His death for us.

Questions

1. What is the purpose of Communion?
2. Who should take Communion?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."

Luke 22:37

Praise: Psalm 21 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Tuesday - Luke 22:24-30 - Service

Even the best of men can struggle with pride and a desire to be noticed. We see that among the disciples. Christ has rebuked them for this in the past, but here towards the end of His time with them, it reappears. Thousands of Christians think they are humble but struggle with envy and jealousy when someone else is given something they are not. We must guard against our pride, and learn to be happy when others do well, and to be content wherever our Lord has placed us.

Christ tells the disciples that the world's standard of greatness is not His. He considers a willingness to serve God to be true greatness. A humble readiness to do anything, and put our hands to any good work for Christ and His Kingdom, the Church, - a cheerful willingness to fill any post, however small, and do any job, however unpleasant, - these are the true tests of Christian greatness. The hero in Christ's army is not the man with rank, title, honour, wealth, and great resources. It is the man who looks not on his own things, but the things of others. It is the man who is kind to all, tender to all, thoughtful for all, with a hand to help all, and a heart to feel for all. It is a man who through serving others is serving Christ, and through loving others is loving God.

The disciples have made a lot of mistakes over the last three years; they have been faithless, weak, and argumentative - even up to these last few days. And in a few hours they are all going to forsake Christ. Jesus knows this, but in His love he dwells on one good point in their behaviour and praises them for not deserting Him. Take comfort in the fact that if you are a Christian, Christ always notices your small graces more than your great sins and loves you.

Questions

1. How can we guard against pride?
2. What is Christ's standard of greatness?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."

Luke 22:37

Praise: Psalm 22 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Wednesday -Luke 22:31-38 - Our Advocate

The devil is a terrible enemy to believers. He is always working evil in the churches of Christ, snatching away the Word of God from hearts, stirring up persecutions, suggesting false teaching, and encouraging divisions and fighting. We need to watch and pray and put on the whole armour of God; we are given a great promise that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us.

Christ also makes clear how a believer can persevere in faith. Because of Christ's intercession on Peter's behalf, he will not fall away. Our enemies are so strong, and our strength is so small, the world is so full of traps, and our heart is so weak, that it seems impossible for us to reach heaven. But the passage before us explains our safety. We have a mighty Friend at the right hand of God, who lives to speak for us. He obtains daily supplies of mercy and grace for our soul. We would have rejected and turned from God long before now, if Christ had not pleaded for us to be given the Holy Spirit to enable us to continue to believe. This is a huge comfort to Christians. Christ lives, and therefore our faith shall not fail.

God can cause the weaknesses of some members of His Church to work together for the benefit of the whole body of His people. He can make the fall of a disciple the means of preparing him to strengthen and encourage others, as He does with Peter. Have you ever fallen into sin, and by Christ's mercy been raised to newness of life? Then you are just the person who can gently deal with others in the same situation. We can tell them from our own experience how evil and bitter sin is. We can caution them against treating temptation lightly. We can warn them against pride and neglect of prayer. We can tell them of Christ's grace and compassion. We can be humble and meek remembering what we have gone through.

Questions

1. Who makes it possible for us to continue on faithfully? How?
2. How can we use our experience to encourage others?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for opportunities to encourage other Christians.
2. Use prayer points from In The Pew and pray for Margaret Allan.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."

Luke 22:37

Praise: Psalm 23 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Thursday - Luke 22:39-46 - Agony

Our Lord Jesus Christ sets us an example of what believers should do in times of trouble. Both the Old and New Testaments give the same pattern for bearing trouble. Prayer is what Jacob uses when he is afraid of Esau. Prayer is what Job uses when property and children are suddenly taken from him. Prayer is what Hezekiah uses when Sennacherib's threatening letter arrives. And prayer is what the Son of God uses in His time of agony. If we want to be comforted in time of trouble, let's use what God has given us. The first Friend we turn to ought to be God. The first message we send should be to God. Let us pray.

Jesus also teaches us what kind of prayers we should make to God in time of trouble. Like Jesus we should tell God what we desire, what we want, without reservation. But like Jesus, we should submit our will to the will of God. We should never forget that there may be wise and good reasons for our troubles. When we are willing to say in our darkest hour, "Your will be done", our Christian character will shine brightly, drawing others to ask about Christ.

These verses also give us an example of the feebleness of Christians. While Christ is in agony, sweating drops of blood, His disciples are sleeping. This should teach us humility. When apostles can behave in this way, we should certainly be careful. We should long for the day we stand in heaven with a new body and are able to tirelessly serve Christ without fighting against physical weakness or sin.

Questions

1. What should we do when we face hard times?
2. How should we pray to God?
3. How can we use our troubles to speak to others about Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God's will will be done in your life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."

Luke 22:37

Praise: Psalm 24 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Friday - Luke 22:47-53 - Patient Endurance

The worst and most wicked acts may be done under a show of love to Christ. Judas pretends to love and respect Jesus at the very moment when he is about to turn Him over to His enemies. Down through history there have always been men like Judas who are ready to betray Christ with a kiss and deliver the Gospel to its enemies under a show of respect.

The disciples show us that it is easier to fight a little for Christ than to endure hardness and go to prison and death for His sake. The zeal of these disciples is very short-lived. Their courage soon dies away, and the fear of man overcomes them. The very men who are so ready to fight with the sword, actually desert Christ and run away. To suffer patiently for Christ is far more difficult than to work actively. To sit still and endure calmly, is a lot harder than to take part in the battle. Work for Christ can be done from a variety of motives - excitement, imitation, being part of a group, or love of praise. Suffering for Christ can only be endured by the grace of God. We are making a big mistake if we think that those who do a lot of visible work for the church are the most honoured in God's sight. They are often less honoured by God than a poor unknown believer, who has been lying in pain without grumbling for years, patient and prayerful.

Finally, we should learn from these verses that the time during which evil is allowed to triumph is limited by God. God controls all things. The hands of the wicked are tied until He allows them to work. They can do nothing without His permission. But that isn't all. The wicked can not begin before God allows them and cannot continue one moment after God commands them to stop. The very worst of Satan's instruments are working in chains.

Questions

1. Why is it easier to act for Christ than to suffer for Christ?
2. Why should God's control of evil comfort us?

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

“For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors.’ For what is written about me has its fulfillment.”

Luke 22:37

Praise: Psalm 25 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Saturday - Luke 22:54-62 - Love of God

The story of Peter's fall teaches us first how small and gradual are the steps we take into big sins. Peter's first step is proud self-confidence. Though all men will deny Christ, he is convinced he never will. The second step is neglect of prayer. The third step is wavering indecision. When Christ's enemies come, Peter first fights, then runs away, then turns back to follow. The fourth step is hanging about with bad company. He sits among the high priest's servants and tries to hide who he is. The last step is the result of all that has gone before. He is overwhelmed with fear and plunges deep into sin, denying his beloved Master three times. The denial is only the sin in him coming to a head. Beware of any sin, no matter how small it seems. The Christian who keeps his heart carefully in little things will be kept from great falls.

Peter's fall also teaches us how very far into sin a believer can go. Peter has enjoyed greater spiritual privileges than most men, but he denies Christ. The best Christian is still a poor weak creature who has a huge ability to sin. There is no sin into which we may not fall, if we don't watch and pray, and if the grace of God does not hold us up. Let us not presume, but remember that "There but for the grace of God go I".

Peter's fall also teaches us the infinite mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Surrounded by bloodthirsty and insulting enemies, looking ahead to an unjust trial, and a painful death, the Lord Jesus yet finds time to think kindly of His poor sinful disciple. He wants Peter to know that He has not forgotten him. Sorrowfully no doubt, but not angrily, He turns and looks at Peter. It is a sermon Peter never forgets. And Christ's mercy makes Peter realise his sin and cry tears of true repentance. Such is God's love for us.

Questions

1. Why was Peter in danger of sinning long before he betrayed Christ?
2. How did Christ show mercy to Peter?

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 I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."

Luke 22:37

Praise: Psalm 26 - 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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