

Let's Worship God

10th-15th September 2018

Luke



THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Monday - Luke 1:39-45 - Christian Friendship

Mary, a virgin engaged to be married, has just been visited by the angel Gabriel who has informed her that some miraculous things are going to happen to her, and that the prayers of God's people for thousands of years are soon to be answered. If this had happened to you, what is the first thing you would have done? Probably, you would have picked up the phone and told someone. Maybe, if facing scandal and shame, the way Mary is, or dealing with all the fears and uncertainty she must have felt, you would turn to a close friend, one who knows you well and can comfort and encourage you. This is exactly what Mary does. Faced with a complex situation, experiencing a multitude of emotions, she turns to her friend and relative (possibly her cousin) Elizabeth. Even though Elizabeth is much older than Mary, obviously there is a bond between these two. Mary feels that Elizabeth is someone who will believe and help her. How relieved she must have been to hear Elizabeth speak and know that here is someone going through another miraculous situation.

We should give thanks to God for our Christian friends. They are a blessing from God that He uses to encourage us and remind us of what we believe. When we are struggling in life, we should seek out those we know will help and advise us in a Godly way. We should work hard to be a Godly friend to others, patient, willing to listen and to encourage others from God's Word. Older believers should follow the example of Elizabeth in teaching younger believers the things of God. And younger believers should seek out the wisdom of the older believers in the church (Titus 2).

Questions

1. Why does Mary go to Elizabeth?
2. How can Christian friends help you?
3. Who are some older believers that you can turn to?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for your Christian friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11

Praise: Psalm 73 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Tuesday - Luke 1:46-56 - A Song of Faith

Mary's song of praise to God teaches us several things about our own prayers to God. First of all, Mary's song is very similar both to Hannah's in 1 Samuel 2:2 and the Psalms. Mary is so familiar with Scripture that her praise is full of phrases from God's Word. We should work to become more and more familiar with the Bible, to make it an increasing part of our life, so that God's Word, hidden in our hearts through much reading, spills out into what we say and think.

Mary's song is also full of humility. Here is a woman who recognises her sin and her need for a Saviour. She sees herself as she really is. Every Christian should be full of humility. We should realise who we really are, sinners saved by the grace of God. We should increase in the knowledge of how sinful we are and how good God is to us.

The humility of Mary leads on to her attitude of thankfulness. When she realises what a sinner she is, she is so thankful to God for what He has done. This should be true with us as well. The more we understand what God has done for us, the more thankful we should be, not just for His grace in saving us, but for all the blessings He gives us each day.

Mary has an understanding of the way God deals with His people. She knows her Bible well. She remembers all the old stories of God's mercy and power. She has faith that God does not change and this mercy and power are still there.

Finally, Mary has a great faith in the promises of God. She believes based on her knowledge of God's Word, that God will do what He says He will. Do we, who have even more evidence of God keeping His word, have this same unshakable faith in our Lord's promises?

Questions

1. Why does Mary's song sound like other Bible passages?
2. Why does Mary need a Saviour?
3. What are some of God's promises to us today?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God keeps His promises.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11

Praise: Psalm 74 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

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Wednesday -Luke 1:57-66 - Faith Through Trial

When Elizabeth gives birth to a son, all her relatives and friends rejoice with her. Though it is a small thing, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep, is a godly thing (Romans 12:15), and it is something that our Lord Jesus Christ did, rejoicing at a wedding and weeping at a funeral (John 2 and 11).

Zechariah has changed over the past nine months. He has had his eyes open to his faithlessness, and now he believes every word that Gabriel spoke to him and is willing to obey. We are sinners, and it is inevitable that at some point in our lives God will discipline us as a father disciplines His children. When this happens, we should pray that our attitude will be like Zechariah's - a willingness to learn from our pain, a sorrow for unbelief, and a desire to wholeheartedly obey. How sad it is when troubles drive men and women further from God instead of to Him. We should pray even now that any trouble or struggle in our life will do us good, and that we, like Zechariah, will be the more faithful for it.

We are told that the Lord's hand is upon John. This is what we should be hoping and praying for our covenant children. This is the best, most enduring thing we can ask for the boys and girls, young men and women, that sit in our church week in and week out, that the hand of God will be upon them, and that they will belong to Him. Our Lord does not change - what He does for the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, He can do for our sons and daughters. We should be earnestly praying day after day that He will make our children His own.

Questions

1. How can you rejoice and weep with others?
2. What had Zechariah learned?
3. What should we be praying for our children?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11

Praise: Psalm 75 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

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Thursday - Luke 1:67-80 - Faith in the Promise

It's maybe hard for us, looking back and clearly seeing God's promise of a Saviour being fulfilled in Jesus Christ, to understand the mindset of someone like Zechariah, to fully appreciate the overwhelming joy he feels in what is going on. As his dumbness is removed, the very first words he says are praise to God. The oldest promise God has ever made is about to be fulfilled, and practically right on Zechariah's doorstep. We have such a clear understanding, thanks to the Word of God, of what the Gospel is, but Zechariah and the Old Testament believers have a very dim and murky understanding of who the Messiah will be and what He will do. But despite all this they often seem to have a stronger faith in the promises of God, a faith that puts us to shame. We are asked to believe in something that has already happened; they were told to believe in something that had not yet happened. Their faith is built on the promises of God - ours should be as well.

Zechariah has a clear vision of Christ's kingdom. He sees that the kingdom of the Messiah is one where people will serve Him in holiness and righteousness. Even though the completion of this kingdom is yet to come, Christians are united in their service of God, without fear, no longer as His enemies, but as His children, holy and righteous through the work of the Holy Spirit. Zechariah understands that this Messiah is opening up the way to forgiveness of sins, the path from death to life and peace. He has an amazing faith and probably dies before He sees what the Messiah will do. Should we, who can see clearly what Christ has done, have a lesser faith?

Questions

1. How were people in the Old Testament saved?
2. Why was Zechariah so joyful?
3. What kind of kingdom does Christ have?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11

Praise: Psalm 76 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Friday - Luke 2:1-7 - The Hand of God

These verses tell the story of a birth - the most important birth that ever takes place, the birth of the Son of God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Throughout all the circumstances around His birth, we see the hand of God ordering the smallest details according to His plan for this incredibly important event.

Christ is born at a time when the Jews are coming under the control of a foreign power. The whole civilised earth is governed by one nation - the Roman Empire. What this has produced is a time of relative peace and stability, a time when men can journey from place to place in safety. In other words, an ideal time for the spreading of the Gospel to Gentile nations.

By a string of seemingly mundane coincidences, Christ is born in a place prophesied about in Micah 5:2, Bethlehem, the home town of David. He is born in poverty, in a barn, and laid in a feeding trough. This humiliation is part of the life He takes upon Himself, a life He lives perfectly for our sakes. And every detail of this life has been carefully brought about by the hand of God.

We must always keep before us the plain and simple fact that God knows what He is doing just as much today as He did then. The God who miraculously impregnated a virgin of the house of David, living in obscure Nazareth, caused the rulers of the world to call for a census at the exact time her nine months were almost up, and brought this girl and her fiancée to the birthplace of David, filling up all the inns with people, so that every detail of His own prophecies and promises would be fulfilled, is the same God who controls every circumstance of our lives today.

Questions

1. How was the Roman Empire used by God in the spread of the Gospel?
2. Why was it important that Jesus be born at Bethlehem?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is in control of all things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.”
Luke 2:11

Praise: Psalm 77 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Saturday - Luke 2:8-20 - The Shepherds

The very first people to whom the birth of the Messiah is announced are not kings or Pharisees, rulers or teachers of the law, but shepherds, plain, hard-working shepherds. By God's grace they are the first to hear the news. It is a picture of the way God works, showing grace and love to the undeserving.

The angel tells the shepherds that he brings good news. The darkness that has covered the earth for 4,000 years is about to be rolled away. The way to God will soon be opened for all mankind. Satan, sin, and death will be defeated. Salvation will no longer be seen through sacrifices, types, and figures, but openly and face to face. If this isn't good news, what is?

Immediately the shepherds go to Bethlehem. They don't stand around debating who is going to stay behind to look after the sheep. They leave the sheep in God's hands and hurry to do what God says. Their simple faith receives a rich reward. They have the great privilege of being the first, after Mary and Joseph, who see the Messiah with believing eyes. Simple faith, simple obedience is rewarded by God beyond what we can imagine. How great is God's love for us, that He reveals the most amazing truth, truth of a Saviour, truth of forgiveness, to those who don't deserve it and for our hesitant, fearful obedience gives blessings beyond our imagining. The shepherds leave that stable, and they will never be the same again. Everywhere they go they will tell the story of what they have seen and heard. May we do the same.

Questions

1. Why did God tell the shepherds first?
2. What did they do after the angels left?
3. How are we like the shepherds?

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 unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11

Praise: Psalm 78 - 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
by Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

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