

Let's Worship God

17th-22nd September 2018

Luke



THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Monday - Luke 2:21-24 - The Demands of the Law

Notice in these verses how Jesus, even as an infant, keeps every aspect of God's law perfectly. It would have been easy enough during those times for Joseph and Mary to have overlooked their own need for purification and the need to consecrate their firstborn. But they are scrupulous in keeping to the requirements of God, which is a mark of their love for the Lord. Loving God wholeheartedly should put in us a desire to do exactly and completely what He says no matter whether anyone notices.

Jesus is circumcised, not because He is a sinner, in need of having the sin cut out of His life, but because He is a covenant child. He has been born to believing parents, members of the covenant community, and circumcision is a sign that He too is part of this community and entitled to all the privileges that go along with it. It is an incredible blessing to be a covenant child, a blessing that our Lord had.

The very name 'Jesus' means Saviour. Jesus is many things: Prophet, Priest, King, Judge, Lawgiver, but the primary way He is to be known is as our Saviour. It's as though God wants to focus on this aspect of Jesus' work as most important.

Finally, notice the sacrifice that Mary and Joseph offer in the consecration of Jesus. It is the sacrifice of the poor. The law teaches that if you are unable to afford a lamb, you can bring two young pigeons instead. (Leviticus 12:6) Jesus Christ, the King and Lord of all the earth, is born and lives in poverty. How great is His love for us that He does such a thing.

Questions

1. Why do Joseph and Mary keep God's law?
2. Why is Jesus circumcised?
3. What does Jesus' name mean?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be faithful in obeying our Lord.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2:30-32

Praise: Psalm 79 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Tuesday - Luke 2:25-35 - Simeon

During the darkest time in Israel's history, when the Pharisees and Sadducees have perverted and corrupted the faith, when a foreign power that knows not God rules over the people, and when most care very little about the things of God, God still has a believing people, He still has Godly men like Simeon. We must always remember this. Even in the darkest times, God preserves a people who love and serve Him. Small as we may think we are, alone as we may feel in a world of unbelief, the true Church will never die. Grace can abound in the most unlikely places. There are more Simeons in the world than we think.

Simeon has no fear of death. He talks like one on a journey who can't wait till he is allowed to go home. How is it that he has no fear of death? He has a strong faith. He knows that heaven is better than earth. He's not just worn out with pain and sickness or bored with the world and what it offers, he believes with all his heart that to die is to be with the Lord, and this is better than anything else.

Simeon has an amazingly clear understanding of Christ's work. He sees that Christ is going to bring light to the Gentiles - open up for them the way of salvation. He understands the great honour the Jewish people have in Christ being born as a Jew. He knows that many will turn against Christ, reject Him, hate Him, and attack Him. The true hearts and motivations of those who pretend to love God will be revealed. But he also sees that many who are tired of their sin, longing for a Saviour, hungry for a relationship with God will be satisfied.

Questions

1. Why wasn't Simeon scared to die?
2. Does God ever desert His people?
3. What does Simeon understand about Jesus?

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 my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2:30-32

Praise: Psalm 80 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

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Wednesday -Luke 2:36-40 - Anna

Anna is a wonderful example of a Godly woman. She is only married 7 years before she becomes a widow, and she spends 84 years as a widow. The trials and loneliness that go along with this must have been difficult, but she, by God's grace, overcomes them all.

Anna is a woman who loves God's house. She desires to be continually near Him in worship. Because of her desire to grow closer and closer to God, she practices great self-denial, fasting often. Through fasting she is reminding her body that God is the most important thing in her life. She knows the overwhelming tendency we have to put ourselves and what we want first in our priorities. Fasting is a practical way of reminding herself that God comes first.

But most of all, Anna is a woman of prayer. She prays night and day, constantly going before God. She's never tired of coming to Him, pleading with Him on behalf of others, but most of all asking again and again that He will keep His promise and send the Messiah. For it is the Messiah, the hope of redemption, that those faithful believers left in Israel long. Day after day, night after night, Anna is praying that today will be the day that the Saviour will come. And God in His grace and love, let her see that day.

Here is one woman who prays earnestly for one thing, and it is fulfilled right before her eyes. Imagine what would happen if we, as a church, prayed earnestly night and day for God to keep His promise of building His Church. What great fulfilment might we see right before our eyes?

Questions

1. What kind of woman was Anna?
2. What did she pray for?
3. What promise has God given us?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for Christ to build His Church in our town.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2:30-32

Praise: Psalm 81 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Thursday - Luke 2:41-52 - In The Temple

Every year Mary and Joseph go to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. For a poor family this is no easy task, the journey is long and tiring, and the cost of leaving work for 10 days or more is hard to bear. But their love for the Lord makes them faithful in keeping His commands no matter the cost. They are a good example of a godly marriage. A marriage where both the husband and the wife seek after the Lord will all their heart and encourage each other in faithfulness to God.

Jesus is a good example in these verses to all young people. For 4 days He is out of sight of His parents. How does He spend those days? Not causing trouble or hanging about with troublemakers. He is in the house of God, learning more about God. Your parents should be able to trust you when you are out of their sight. They should not have to worry that you will be causing trouble or wasting time. You should take advantage of the opportunities you have to learn more about God, and you should look for friends that will encourage you in doing right, not discourage you.

The phrase 'my Father's house' can also be translated 'about my Father's business.' In many ways this is a better translation. Jesus is gently reminding His mother that He is no ordinary person and has no ordinary work to do. God's work demands His primary attention, and for those 4 days His Father's work required Him to be in the Temple. Are you 'about your Father's business'? Is the service of God your first priority in all you do? Or do you allow other things to crowd it out?

Questions

1. Why did Mary and Joseph go to Jerusalem every year?
2. Where was Jesus?
3. Why was He there?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"For my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2:30-32

Praise: Psalm 82 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Friday - Luke 3:1-6 - The Forerunner

The Jews can't say that when the Messiah comes, He comes with no notice. John the Baptist is sent before Jesus to get the nation's attention. It is a time of great apathy on the part of the people and wickedness on the part of the rulers. Of the rulers listed in the first two verses we know very little that is good. But in the midst of this sin-darkened world, a light is about to shine. Like Moses who long ago pointed the way to deliverance, John too is in the desert when the word of God comes to him telling him what he is to do and sending him out to do it.

And so, into this sinful world, John comes preaching repentance and forgiveness. He teaches the people that they need to be baptised as a sign that they have repented and turned from their sin. He warns his listeners that unless they repent their sins will not be forgiven.

We must always remember that repentance doesn't save us. The blood of Christ on our behalf is what has covered over our sins and turned God's anger from us. No amount of being sorry for our sins can erase them in God's eyes. They are forgiven through putting our trust in Christ, asking Him to be our Substitute. But before we can ask Christ to forgive us, we must want to be forgiven. This is where repentance comes in. We must hate our sins, turn from them, and look for forgiveness through the work of Jesus Christ. In other words, no one is saved who hasn't repented.

What John is doing is making people aware of their sins. He is driving home to them the reality that they are sinners, that they should hate their sin, and that they should be looking for forgiveness. He is preparing the people for One coming who can forgive sins.

Questions

1. What is repentance?
2. How are your sins forgiven?
3. Does being sorry for your sin save you? What does?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2:30-32

Praise: Psalm 83 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Saturday - Luke 3:7-14 - Plain Speaking

John is sometimes called the last of the Old Testament prophets, and his preaching has a tremendous effect upon the Jews. He is a very bold preacher. He doesn't hesitate to speak plainly and call sin sin. He isn't distracted by his popularity, and he isn't worried about offending someone. The spiritual disease of those who are there is desperate - they are dead in their sins, and he knows that desperate diseases need strong remedies. He speaks clearly of judgement and hell. We are so hesitant to mention hell to our unbelieving friends, but by keeping silent we encourage them to think that they are in no danger. A man will never seek heaven until he is convinced there is a risk of his falling into hell.

John makes it clear that repentance without fruit is useless. It's worthless to claim to have turned from our sins and sought the Lord when our actions prove otherwise. Godly talking is just hypocritical without godly doing. Obedience does not save us, but it is a sign of the sincerity of our repentance.

John also strikes a blow at the common idea that connection with godly people or things can save us. He tells these Jews that it isn't enough that they are the biological descendants of Abraham. If they don't have the faith of Abraham, they still face judgement. It doesn't matter if you have Christian parents or Christian friends; it doesn't matter if you attend church twice every Lord's Day. If you don't have a personal faith in Jesus Christ, you are on your way to Hell.

Questions

1. Why are we hesitant to talk about Hell?
2. What is a sign that our repentance is genuine?
3. What is hypocrisy?

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 my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2:30-32

Praise: Psalm 84 - 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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