

Let's Worship God

24th-29th September 2018

Luke



THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Monday - Luke 3:15-20 - A Faithful Minister

One of the first effects of faithful preaching of God's Word is that it gets people thinking - thinking about spiritual things. They may hate it or they may love it, but they are at least thinking about it. Their apathy has been dissolved. This is what happens to the Jews as they hear John's preaching - they start thinking.

A faithful minister always exalts Christ. It might be easy for John not to clear up the people's misunderstanding of who he is. He could have just let them go on thinking that he is the Messiah. But he doesn't. He points them to Christ. This is the job of every minister, not to set himself up as saviour, but to point men and women, boys and girls to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Even the best and most godly ministers can't compare to Christ. We need to keep this in our mind, because we can have a tendency to exalt our ministers and follow them rather than follow the Christ they preach. Our ministers can't save us. Going to church and sitting in the pew won't save us. There is nothing inside the minister himself that makes him able to change an unbelieving heart. Only God has the power to change our hearts, hear our prayers, and forgive our sins.

John is a faithful servant of God. He boldly proclaims the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ, about who God is, and about what God wants. And what is the result? He is thrown in prison and later beheaded. God often does not reward His servants until Heaven, but when they get there they will find that it more than makes up for whatever they have had to suffer on earth.

Questions

1. What effect did John's preaching have on the people?
2. What happened to John?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for our minister and elders.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Luke 2:22

Praise: Psalm 85 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Tuesday - Luke 3:21-38 - Baptism

Why does Christ come to John to be baptised? He's not a sinner, so He doesn't need His sins forgiven. Why then is He there? He is there to identify Himself with His people. For the same reason He comes to earth and lives among men, He submits Himself to baptism. He, the King of kings, becomes one of us. And it is with this humiliation, this submission that His Father is well pleased. Pride has no place in the Christian life. If Jesus counts Himself as nothing, coming to live as us, how can we count ourselves as something.

Christ is praying when He is baptised. When we bring our children to God in baptism, we too should be much in prayer. We must pray that God will change the hearts of our covenant children, causing them to follow after Him. We must be in prayer that God will protect them from the traps of the devil, the temptations of the world, and their own weakness. Much prayer should always go along with baptism.

Notice that every person of the Trinity is present at Christ's baptism. God the Son is there as Jesus Christ, the voice of God the Father is heard from Heaven, and God the Holy Spirit comes upon Jesus like a dove. We should be encouraged that every person of the Trinity is involved in and interested in our salvation.

Most commentators believe that the genealogy in these verses is actually the genealogy of Mary, Jesus' mother. Matthew 1:1-17 is thought to be the genealogy of Joseph. This genealogy shows God's preserving of the line of Abraham and David straight through captivity and exile to Christ. All for the sake of keeping the promises He made.

Questions

1. Why was Jesus baptised?
2. How are all three persons of the Trinity there?
3. What promises had God made Abraham and David?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that we have a Saviour that became like us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Luke 2:22

Praise: Psalm 86 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Wednesday -Luke 4:1-13 - Satan

It should never surprise us if we are tempted by the devil. But it should also comfort us that Christ understands what it feels like to be tempted. Three times Satan tempts Christ. First he tries to persuade Him to doubt God's care for Him. For forty days Jesus has been fasting as part of this trial God is putting Him through. Throughout that time God has kept Jesus from starving to death. Now Satan is telling Jesus to stop trusting in God's care and do something for Himself. How often Satan uses this temptation against God's people today. When we are caught up in a trial or struggle, he comes to us and tells us that God does not love us, that He will not care for us, that He can't help us, and that we had best take care of ourself.

The second temptation is one of power. Satan holds before Jesus all the things of the world. They can all be His if He just does one little thing - one compromise, one act of sin. Again this is a common temptation. Satan puts before us the things we really want in the world and tells us that if we only keep our Christianity quiet, do things his way - the way everyone else is doing them - these things can be ours.

Finally, Satan twists Scripture to suit his purposes. He takes a passage of Scripture less clear than others and uses it to justify what he wants Jesus to do. He basically picks which part of God's Word he wants to follow. We only have to talk to a few people to realise that Scripture-twisting still exists today.

How does Jesus respond? With Scripture. Always, every time, with Scripture. He even responds to Scripture with Scripture - the clearer to the less clear. God's Word is our tool to overcome the temptations of the devil. It is the only one that can help us survive his war on our soul.

Questions

1. What kind of temptations did Satan use?
2. How should we respond to temptation?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for protection from the attacks of the devil.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Luke 2:22

Praise: Psalm 87 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

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Thursday - Luke 4:14-22 - Indifference

When Christ comes to the synagogue He comes to a place where the Lord's Day and God's Word are meant to be taken seriously. It is common practice in those days for a visiting teacher to read and teach from God's Word. Jesus picks Isaiah 61:1-2, a prophecy of the kind of work the Messiah is going to do. Then, he tells the listening crowd around Him that these words are written about Him.

Jesus wants to make it clear, right from the start, what kind of Messiah He is. He knows that the Jews are looking for an earthly king that will defeat the Romans and make Israel great among all the other nations. He wants them to know that these expectations are wrong. His kingdom is going to be a spiritual one, over the hearts of men and women. His victory is over sin; He will defeat not the power of Rome, but the power of Satan. Jesus is not only telling them that He is the Messiah, He is telling them what kind of Messiah He is going to be.

So, how do the people react? Do they rejoice that the long-awaited Messiah is here? Do they praise and thank God for what He has done? Do they attack Jesus for speaking lies? Do they hate Him for what He says? Actually, they do neither. It is as though they are completely indifferent to what He is saying. They are merely impressed that someone from their town is such a good public speaker. In our churches today there are men and women just like that. Week in and week out they listen to God's Word being preached, and they are indifferent. They may think some ministers are better speakers than others, but they pay no attention to the content. Search your heart to see if you are indifferent to what God has to say.

Questions

1. What does Christ read from?
2. What kind of Messiah was Jesus? What kind did the Jews want?
3. How did they respond to Jesus' message?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

And the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Luke 2:22

Praise: Psalm 88 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Friday - Luke 4:22-32 - Sovereignty and Perseverance

It is so easy to take for granted things that are familiar to us. The people of Nazareth have known Jesus for 30 years. Because they are so used to Him, they refuse to believe what He has to say. We can get used to owning Bibles, we can get used to hearing God's Word preached, we can get used to meeting freely together with other Christians in worship, and we can stop listening because we are taking all these things for granted. We should constantly be reminding ourselves of what a great privilege and blessing it is to have God's Word, to have a faithful minister, to have the freedom to meet for worship, and we should drink in all we can of these blessings.

The men of Nazareth hate the idea that God can do whatever He wants. They think God is obliged to work miracles among them, and when Christ reminds them that God does whatever He chooses, they are furious. This at least rouses them from their indifference. If Christ hadn't miraculously saved Himself, they would have killed Him. God's sovereignty to do whatever He wants infuriates men and women who believe God owes them something. But like it or not, the Bible clearly teaches that God owes no man anything. He is free to do whatever He wishes, and because He is God, whatever He chooses to do is also good.

Even though Christ is violently rejected at Nazareth, He doesn't give up. He goes on to preach in another place. Whatever the work God has called you to do for His kingdom, you should patiently continue in it and not give up because you have no success. Often there is more going on in the hearts of people than we are ever aware of. We may be preparing the ground for a great harvest to come later. If nothing else, our perseverance shows men that we are persuaded that we have truth on our side.

Questions

1. How can we avoid taking spiritual things for granted?
2. Does God owe men anything?
3. Why should we persevere in doing the Lord's work?

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 the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Luke 2:22

Praise: Psalm 89 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

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Saturday - Luke 4:33-44 - Heart Knowledge

The devil and his demons know who God is. They know what the Bible says. They recognise Jesus for who He is. But they have no faith, no trust, no love of Him. We can know our Bibles well, we can believe God exists, and quote many verses. We can know all the Bible stories and come to church every week, and when we die, we can still go to Hell. Head knowledge is not enough - we must have heart knowledge. Does knowing what sin is make us hate it? Does our knowledge of Christ make us trust and love Him? Does knowledge of God's commands give us the desire to obey?

Christ is the Healer of every evil that sin has brought into the world. He can take care of our every need. He is everything to a believer, and these miracles of healing should remind us of His power over sin.

Jesus often goes off by Himself. Why? Because He wants to spend time alone with God the Father. Caught up in the busy rush of ministry, travel, work, discipling, healing, and teaching, He knows that He must not neglect time spent with God. He knows that this is necessary in order to keep going, to persevere. And it isn't just 10 minutes snatched at the beginning or end of a day. This is a serious block of time devoted to God with no possibility of interruption. If our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ considers doing this necessary to keep going as a believer, we have no excuse. Our lives may be full of important and necessary things, but this one thing, spending time with God, must be considered of primary importance, something non-negotiable that can not be compromised. We must strive every day to imitate our Lord in this

Questions

1. What do the devils know about Jesus? What do they not have?
2. Why does Jesus go off by Himself?
3. How can you rearrange your time to spend more of it with 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 the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Luke 2:22

Praise: Psalm 90 - 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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