

Let's Worship God

15th-20th October 2018

Luke



THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Monday - Luke 7:1-10 - The Centurion

The centurion is kind. He cares for his ill servant and sends for the very best Healer. He treats the Jews with respect and love, building them a synagogue. Why? Why is he so kind? It's completely out of character for a rough Roman soldier. Unbelievers are kind only when they get something out of it - even if it's just a good feeling or a soothed conscience. But this man cares for others with no thought of return. Why? Because God has been working in his life. This kindness is the evidence of God's grace. His knowledge of the things of God is probably small and imperfect, but it is there and is bearing fruit in his life.

The centurion is humble. The Jews tell Jesus that this soldier deserves to have Christ come to his house because he has done good things - he has earned it. But the centurion sees quite differently. He has some understanding of who Christ is and an even greater understanding of his own sin. He knows that he is unworthy, that he deserves nothing good, that he cannot earn Christ's mercy. Again, this is evidence of the Holy Spirit in this man's heart. We are all born proud. To recognise our sin for what it is, our inability to do anything about it, and our need of help - this is the work of God.

This centurion has a great faith. He believes that Jesus is an all-powerful Master and King, and that diseases, like obedient servants, will at once depart at His orders. We, who know so much more about who Jesus is and what He has done, can still be shamed by this centurion's faith. Do we really believe that Christ has just to give the order and it will be done? If we do believe this, why don't we pray more and worry less?

Questions

1. How does the centurion show kindness?
2. Why was he humble?
3. Why did Jesus not need to go to the centurion's house?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven - for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." Luke 7:47

Praise: Psalm 103 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Tuesday - Luke 7:11-17 - The Love of God

A young man, the only son of a widow, is dead. Why? Why does God allow tragedies like this to happen? Why do decent people often suffer terrible things? It's not an easy answer, but a simple one. Sin. The presence of pain, death, suffering, and grief in this world is directly linked to the presence of sin. Adam and Eve's disobedience ruins the perfect world God has made, and we all have to live in that ruined world. Not only do we suffer for our own sinful actions, not only do we suffer for the sinful actions of others, we suffer because sin came into the world and with sin, pain. If we want to see the reality of a sinful world, we'd do well to turn off the television and go for a walk around our town. Sin is not glamorous, it is not exciting, and it is not fun; it is sad, it is devastating, and it is miserable.

Jesus sees this sad procession out of the city. Verse 13 says, "When the Lord saw her, His heart went out to her. . ." No one has asked him for help. Our Lord Jesus Christ sees this woman, loves her, and saves her from grief, restoring her son from death to life.

This is what Christ has done for us. We were dead in our sins, without hope, unable to even ask God for help, and He looked on us, loved us, and brought us from death to life. The consequences of sin are great, but the love of God is greater.

All around us men and women, boys and girls, are dead in sins going to a lost eternity. They desperately need Christ to give them what they can't even ask for. We should be in prayer, night and day, that God would look on these people, love them, and save them.

Questions

1. Why is there suffering in the world?
2. Why did Christ heal this young man?
3. How can we help those dead in their sins?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven - for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." Luke 7:47

Praise: Psalm 104 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Wednesday -Luke 7:18-23 - Pointing Them To Christ

John the Baptist is a prisoner in the hands of Herod. He knows that his life is coming to an end. A long imprisonment or a violent death is the only future ahead of him. Yet, during this time his concern is not for himself, but for his disciples. He knows they are ignorant and weak in the faith. He knows that they probably look at the disciples of Jesus with jealousy and envy. He is concerned that after he dies, a misplaced loyalty will keep them from Christ. So, he sends his disciples to Jesus, so they can see what kind of a teacher He is and not reject Him unseen and unheard. He knows that when they ask Jesus if He is the Messiah, they will receive an answer that will make a much bigger impression than any arguments he can put forth. His goal for his disciples is for them to know and love Christ. Ministers, parents, teachers, anyone who is training another should imitate John in this - in all things we should direct people to Christ, desiring them to know and love Him.

Christ does not make a formal declaration that He is the Messiah. He shows by His actions who He is. We may call ourselves Christians night and day, but it is meaningless if our lives do not show that we are followers of Christ. If our churches do not preach God's Word, they are not true churches no matter what they call themselves. If what we do does not match what we say, we are nothing more than hypocrites.

Jesus warns the disciples not to be offended by Him. He does not seem like a King, and their pride struggles with the idea of Him being the Christ. We also struggle with pride over admitting our sin and needing a Saviour. Christ's warning to the disciples is a warning to us.

Questions

1. Why did John the Baptist send his disciples to Jesus?
2. Why did Jesus not declare He was the Messiah?
3. Why did Jesus warn the disciples?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven - for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." Luke 7:47

Praise: Psalm 105 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Thursday - Luke 7:24-30 - Least in the Kingdom

As soon as the disciples of John the Baptist leave, Jesus begins defending the reputation of John. He sees that the people around him are inclined to think lightly of John. To the crowds of the day he is old news. He used to be very popular, but now in prison and deserted by most, the crowds have moved on to Jesus. But Jesus reminds them that John is a great prophet, boldly declaring the truth of God, and not one to be dismissed so easily. As Christians we can take great comfort in this. There may be times when people admire us, when they listen to what we have to say, when they take our advice, and then all too quickly it changes, and we become unpopular, ignored, and scorned. But our Lord Jesus Christ does not fail or desert those who are His. At the times when they are most friendless, He is their friend as He is to John.

When Christ says that “the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he”, what does He mean? He has just got done saying how great John is - has He just contradicted Himself? No, He’s pointing out the great privileges of the New Testament believer as opposed to the Old Testament believer. Those believers who live after the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ understand so much more than John who died before these things happened. The weakest Christian today has such a greater understanding of God’s plan of salvation than Noah, Abraham, and Moses. We should continually be thanking God for the great privilege of His complete Word.

Questions

1. Why was John no longer popular?
2. What great privileges do we have that Moses didn’t?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

“Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven - for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” Luke 7:47

Praise: Psalm 106 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Friday - Luke 7:31-35 - Hating the Message

Our Lord Jesus Christ compares the unbelieving hearts of the Jews to children at play. No matter who God sends to them, no matter what the message, they are never satisfied. They are always finding fault, complaining, and objecting - refusing to listen. But these objections are only a cover for their hatred of what God has to say. The problem isn't that they hate God's messengers - the problem is that they hate God.

Unbelieving hearts even today are like this. When faced with the Gospel they immediately start talking about all the hypocrites in churches, ministers who have been immoral or unfaithful or perhaps just tactless. They argue that churches are cold and unfriendly or complain that everybody in the church thinks they know them and tries to be their best friend. Christians are labelled as either timid and useless or pushy and annoying. All of this is merely a cover to disguise the fact that they don't like what God says, and they don't like God. They don't want to admit they're a sinner, and they don't want to trust a Saviour.

As Christians we have to give up the idea of pleasing people and focus on doing what pleases God. When the criticisms and the attacks come for doing or saying what is right, we have to remember that these people are really angry not at us, but at God, and resisting the impulse to go on the defensive, we must continue to love them and pray for them.

But all are not like spiteful children. There are those in every age who hear the wisdom of God and recognise it as true. There are always those who are looking for answers, looking for the Gospel, and embrace it when they hear it. We must continually work to find these people, God's people, wheat mixed in with chaff.

Questions

1. What does Christ compare unbelievers to?
2. Why do unbelievers find fault constantly?
3. How should we react to the criticism of unbelievers?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would grow in our love of others.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven - for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." Luke 7:47

Praise: Psalm 107 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Saturday - Luke 7:36-50 - Love for God

It is possible to show respect to Christ and the things of God and yet remain an unbeliever. The Pharisee, Simon, shows respect to Christ - he is polite, but he has no love of our Lord. You can go to church, sit in a pew, sing the Psalms, and want nothing to do with Jesus Christ. Being religious does not mean you are saved.

The woman who comes to Christ does what she does out of grateful love. If we want to do much for God, if we want to increase in our service of Christ, we must love God more. There will never be more done for Christ until there is more love of Christ. When we love our Lord with all our hearts we will be working for Him in all we do. Wholehearted love of God leads to wholehearted service of God.

Why? Why does this woman love Christ so much? Because she knows her sins have been forgiven. She understands that she is a sinner, lost and dying. She knows what Christ has offered, full and free forgiveness - not a forgiveness that she must earn. She has put her trust in Him, and He has saved her. It is important to realise that she loves Christ because her sins have been forgiven and not that her sins have been forgiven because she loved Christ. Loving God is the result of our forgiveness, not the cause. With this understanding of what God has done, her heart is filled with love and gratitude that flows out in her actions toward Christ. If we want to serve God more, we must love Him more; if we want to love Him more, we must understand more of who we were and what He has done for us.

Questions

1. Why did the woman have such love of Christ?
2. Which comes first our love of God or His love of us?
3. How can we increase in our love for 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

"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven - for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." Luke 7:47

Praise: Psalm 108 - 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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