

The Lighted Path
Psalm 119:105
April
Jesus Our Lord
A devotional for the musing heart

This month we will look at the life of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. We will look at events that surround his time upon earth and his teachings. We will look at his deity, death, and deliverance from the grave. This month we will be celebrating Easter and in this study we will look at key aspects and people surrounding these events. We will start off chronologically with the life of Christ but we will not follow his life chronologically, we will stop as we approach the Easter season and look at his death burial and resurrection and then we will pick back up with his life here on earth. God bless you in your devotional time.

Serving the Lord,
Dr. Charles Redmond

April 1st

Pray for Missionary Jeff Carney

Read – Isaiah 9:6,7; Matthew 1:21-25

Isaiah records the **prophecy** of the deity of Jesus Christ and his humanity. He is the Godman. A child is born – his humanity and a son is given – his deity. Matt. shows us Jesus from Joseph line, Mary's husband and the genealogy takes us back through Solomon showing us Jesus had the legal right to reign on the throne. Luke take us back through Mary's genealogy and takes us through Nathan another son of David showing us Jesus had the lineal right to the race. Matt. and Luke show us the child is born and John shows us deity became man Jn. 1:1, 14, Jesus is God - the Son is given. Isaiah gave us the prophecy Is. 9:6, now he gives us the **power** of his dominion Is. 9:7. We see his description he is Phenomenal (wonderful), he is Professor (counselor), he is Powerful (mighty God), he is Permanent (everlasting), and he is Peace. Isaiah shows us we have an awesome advocate the almighty who will never alter himself vs. 6 and always will keep the accord vs. 7. The permanence of his dominion vs. 7 there shall be no end!

Reflection – No one can see the future but God, and he has showed us what things shall be Rev. 1:1,3,19. When you listen to the press and prognosticators you have room to worry but when you listen to God concerning the future you have reason to look up for your redemption draweth nigh Luke 21:28

April 2nd

Pray for Missionary Srichand Horn in Thailand

Read – Matthew 1:18-20, 24

In Matt. 1 the scripture gives us the genealogical history of the nation vs. 1-17, the genealogy of Joseph the husband of Mary. He doesn't beget Jesus that stops with his father Jacob begetting him vs. 16. **Joseph's history shows he had a lot to overcome.** The father of the nation Abraham stumbled often and brought about most of Israel's enemies via his off springs from Keturah Gen. 25. Jacob was a scoundrel, Tamar a harlot, Rahab a Canaanite and likely a prostitute, Rehoboam an imbecile, Ruth a Moabite, Manasseh a murderer of prophets, and Jeconiah was so pathetic and wicked that God ended the kingly line through Solomon with him. No more of Jeconiah's seed would sit on the throne. So Luke traces the kingly line through Mary and a different son of David. He had to overcome **lost opportunities**, he is a carpenter and a commoner not a king or a prince not even living in Judah. Now he has to overcome this ordeal he must have thought woe is me. He ponders what to do vs. 19, 20 and then God tells him what to do vs. 20. Notice Joseph's obedience vs. 24.

Reflections – These were difficult situations and Joseph handled them by obeying God's call vs. 20, fear not to take unto thee Mary, he was also willing to obey God's command Matt. 2:13. If I were Joseph I might have stopped sleeping because now in a dream he is told go to Egypt. Then in Matt. 2:19 another dream back to Israel. Joseph was willing to let God use him to fulfill

God's word. Are you willing to be used no matter the difficulty of the situation?

April 3rd

Pray for Missionary Keith Klaus in Germany

Read - John 1:1-14

John tells us

Christ is infinite – vs. 1, 2, Christ is the eternal God, and he is equally God.

Christ is the inventor – vs. 3, creator, he is the all-powerful one, see vs. 10. So many verses in the Bible remind us to exalt Jesus Christ and remind people it is he who creates and sits on the circle of the earth. See Isaiah 40:22; Col. 1:16.

Christ is incarnate – vs. 14, he is God in the flesh.

In the midst of this great revelation we see sadness in vs. 10 the world knew him not, and vs. 11 his own received him not. But then notice the sweetness of vs. 12. When we receive Christ we receive his divine nature II Peter 1:4, we become a new creation, and notice what Col. 3:10 says about being renewed in his image.

Reflections – I have so many promises that in Christ I have his presence, power, principles, and his person. Don't forget Paul said Christ in you the hope of glory Col. 1:27. Paul told the Corinthian church Christ is in you II Cor. 13:5. What an awesome thought and let me remind you he never leaves you nor forsakes you Heb. 13:5.

April 4th

Pray for Missionary Alan Lord in Israel

Read - Luke 2:40-53

Matt. refers to Jesus as a young child upon his return to Israel. Mark goes right to his adulthood and baptism, and John as well only Luke pauses to tell us of an event when he was a twelve year old boy. You can be sure many things happened in his first 30 years but the Bible remains silent on those things. Luke tells us of the **The Parents of Jesus**— vs. 41, 42, 43 faithful, you can rest assure every year vs. 41 and you can be sure all year long they were obedient to the Lord. One can see the faithful parents taking the family for years to Jerusalem to worship. Whether they knew he was the one or not they were faithful to raise their children to know the Lord's teachings. But let's not forget Mary and Joseph had other children they were instilling faithfulness in.

The Preaching of Jesus – vs. 46-48 he was astounding and amazing. His age certainly caught them off guard, you wonder if at first they patronized him, he being only a child, but soon his development amazed them. We need to realize children comprehend more than we think. Of course he was God but children by age twelve are well educated in the world and they should be well educated concerning Christ.

The Plan of Jesus - vs. 49 it's about my Father's business.

Reflections – Be a determined leader in the home. Realize what it took to get to the feast some 90 miles away with children and without today's transportation. Pay attention to the development of your family, teach faithfulness by example. No excuses do God's work.

April 5th

Pray for Missionary Mike Ring in Brazil

Read - Matthew 3

The explanation is given for baptism in John's day vs. 6-10. Repentance was required vs. 6, 8, repentance was to be visible vs. 8, repentance was not the act of a fleshly birthright but of a spiritual birthright vs. 9. The reminder of judgment is given if you don't repent vs. 10, 12.

The expectation of a greater baptism – we are given the promise of the indwelling Holy Spirit vs. 11.

The example given – Jesus himself was baptized. Jesus was always an example see I Peter 2:21. Notice John's initial response vs. 14.

The end result of the lesson on his baptism – vs. 16, 17. He did it for testimony of power and authority vs. 16, and testimony of praise and acceptance of his Son vs. 17. He is visibly anointed and verbally accepted vs. 16, 17.

Reflections – Our lives should reflect God's voice (the scriptures), and God should be visible (through our works), read Matt. 5:16; I Peter 4:11, 14.

April 6th

Pray for Missionary Fred Adams in Tennessee

Read – Matthew 4:1-11

We notice the situation – he was spirit controlled vs. 1, and spiritually fit vs. 2. Jesus had spent forty days getting ready for the battle. His body was deprived his physical strength was certainly contestable but not his spiritual strength see II Cor. 4:8-11, 16. He prepared himself for spiritual battles and it led to spiritual behavior.

We notice the satanic attack – he offers to Jesus the same three gates of temptations he offers us. He offers the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Seek your own food, the simple things of life, seek your own fame the sensual things of life, and seek your own fortune the selfish things of life.

Reflections - He tempted Jesus with things that we need but we need them from God. He was seeing in the life of Christ if he would seek those things apart from God and he'll do the same to us. Jesus answer was victory over the lust of the flesh and lust of the eyes comes from the word of God, and victory over pride is found in worship of almighty God. Be careful what you lay your eyes on, be careful what your flesh desires, and your pride seeks.

April 7th

Pray for Missionary Tom Johnson in Cambodia

Read – Matthew 5

Jesus is preaching. When we read his sermon it seems a bit unusual. Don't we normally try to avoid these things? He speaks of suffering and sorrow, conflict and corruption. But even in a world filled with these conflicts and confrontations a believer can be blessed.

How to be happy – vs. 1-12 blessed is plural so he is saying happy, happy, and again happy. Paul said rejoice and I say again rejoice. Suffering and struggles don't destroy us as much as they define us. Jesus is saying you may in this life be blamed, betrayed, and even beaten but not broken.

How to be a help – vs. 13-20 lost people need preservation and presentation. You are salt and light. The ultimate purpose is to make Jesus seen in your life vs. 16.

How to be holy – vs. 21-48 Jesus discusses sins that are most destructive and debilitating murder and divorce, but rather than look at the end result he takes us to the beginning where these horrible sins originate from. They begin in a heart of lust, hate, anger, malice, greed, and wantonness. The answer is submitting vs. 23-26, surrender vs. 33-42, and sincerity vs. 43-48.

Reflections – Jesus says resolve conflict vs. 23-26, remain committed vs. 27-32, reverence Christ vs. 33, 45, and reverence with care vs. 43-47. Notice tax collectors love those who love them vs. 46 - 47 we can do better than that vs. 48 be perfect that is be mature about this. There is a desired result vs. 45, that ye may be...

April 8th

Pray for Missionary Fabian Ruiz in Mexico

Read - Exodus 12:1-36

This is the first Passover and the required formula to be obedient. The lamb was to be chosen on the 10th day and examined for 4 days and then sacrificed on the 14th day of the month. Jesus could not have died on Friday as the Catholics teach or as they teach Palm Sunday then would have to be Palm Monday. The days and dates of Catholicism don't match up. Christ died on Wednesday and spent 3 days and 3 nights in the tomb. Jesus had to **Fulfill Passover** – which he did completely and exactly as taught in Ex. 12.

He Fulfilled Prophecy – the prophecy of Jonah, see. Matt.12:40; 26:53, 54.

He Fulfilled the Purpose – He had to face the suffering of sin – see Heb. 4:15. We call it his Passion – He was beaten, blamed, and belittled. Jesus experienced the **end result of sin** for us as **he was maimed by sin**, see Matt. 26:66-68; John 19:34; Isaiah 53:2, 3. **He was mocked as sin does**, see Matt. 27:28-31, 41-44; Mark 10:34. **Jesus experienced the misery of sin**, see Isaiah 53:3-6. **He had to be the sacrifice for sin** – he is the payment for our sin because of the blood atonement, see Heb. 9:22; I John 2:2. He is the propitiation that is he is the payment for our sins. **He was the substitute for us**, see I Peter 2:21-25; II Cor. 5:21. He provides salvation, he paid for salvation, and he protects our salvation. **Reflections** – think about what Jesus did for you. You'll never face eternal death because he faced it for you and conquered it, see I Cor. 15:26.

April 9th

Pray for Missionary Jim Junge

Read – Hebrews 10

As we pay noticeable attention to vs. 1-25 we see that our faith is given in the scriptures and guaranteed in the person of Messiah.

Listen to the Scripture – vs. 1-9 he tells us what man could not do. The book tells us of Jesus coming to right what man could not right. Notice the futility of man vs. 1-6, man could not perfect us, vs.1, man could not purge us vs. 2-6, all of this is seen in the fact that it was for man a continuing effort vs. 2, 3. Man needed help see vs. 11.

Listen to the Savior – 10-21 the faithfulness of Christ. Notice what the perfect sacrifice of his body and blood vs. 10, 19, did for us he sanctified us vs. 14, he made us scripturally minded vs. 16, he settled sin for us vs. 17, 18, and he says come on in and fellowship vs. 19-20.

Listen Saints – 22-25 let us he says 3 times. Let us get close vs. 22, let us get control vs. 23 (don't waver), let us go to church vs. 24, 25. We should go to church to stir each other toward the service of Christ.

Reflections – We see his priestly work vs. 11, 12, 14 and we see his kingly work vs. 13. This chapter reminds us over and over that Jesus and Jesus alone took care of our eternal salvation. As a result of such security we should be serving Jesus vs. 22-25, we should be serious about our Savior vs. 31-34, and we should be steadfast vs. 35-39.

April, 10th

Pray for Missionary Sam Owens in Indonesia

Read – Luke 23:33-49.

Let's look at the sayings of Jesus from the cross.

A Passionate Plea – Lk. 23:34; Isaiah 53:11, 12; Acts 13:37-39. Many don't seek forgiveness and for many it is hard to be forgiving. Many reject the forgiveness of God but at the most horrible time humanity has ever dished out to a person our Christ said father forgive them.

A Pardoned Promised – Lk. 23:43, today immediately upon death we'll be together. See II Cor. 5:6-8. One man railed one repented. One man went to hell while the other man went to heaven.

A Provision for the Parent – Read John 19:26, 27.

We have seen the compassion of Christ on a mean society in his first plea, then the compassion of Christ on a miserable soul, and now compassion on the matriarch of his human life he says take care of my mother.

Reflections – should we not forgive as Christ? See Matt. 6:12, 14, 15; 18:21, 35. Should we not faithfully tell others of God's free plan of salvation especially when they're in their worst predicament? Should we not protect and provide for our parents in vulnerable times? See I Timothy 5:3, 4. John was caring for his aunt.

April 11th

Pray for Missionary Jeff Setzer

Read – John 19:28-37; Matt. 27:45-50; Mark 15:24-37

Notice some more sayings from the cross by Jesus.

The pain of punishment – John 19:28, I thirst – The writers of the gospels have told us all that Jesus endured to satisfy the wages of sin. The penalty of sin is grievous and grueling.

The prophesied precept – Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34 are the only two gospels to record these words of Jesus, Eloi, Eloi, lama, sabachthani from the cross. Luke and John record other sayings of Jesus from the cross, but not this one. This is a quote from Psalm 22:1, Jesus is close to death the world is in darkness for three hours.

The penalty paid – Luke 23:46 and John 19:30, Jesus cries, “It is finished” and his spirit went to the Father. Sin is paid for and three days later the sacrifice would be validated by his resurrection from the dead.

Reflections – The joy of those words, It is finished. Think about the blessing of never having to work to save yourself. Christ did it all and Christ finished it all.

April 12th

Pray for Missionary Roger Riley in the Philippines

Read – Matthew 28

Christ arose, hallelujah Christ arose.

John records Jesus' conversation with Thomas where Jesus said "...reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side ..." revealing a bodily resurrection and II Cor. 5:1-4 tells us of that heavenly tabernacle (body), Phil. 3:21 the changing of our vile body into a glorious body, and I John 3:1, 2 tells us what we shall be, we shall be like him. I Cor. 15:20-58 tells us who gets to be resurrected, those in Christ vs. 23, how those in the grave will be resurrected vs. 35, 42-50, how those alive in Christ will be changed vs. 51-57.

Reflections – we will have an eternal body suited for the heavens, because Christ arose and the scriptures confirm it, I Cor. 15:1-4, the saints confirmed it, I Cor. 15:5-8, science confirms it, I Cor. 15:36-42, and last of all the saved sinner confirms it, I Cor. 15:19 because I am not miserable, I'm sure and happy, I have hope beyond this world. I am simply waiting to be picked up. Think of what it must be like there, for a sneak peek see Rev. 21:23- 22:5.

April 13

Pray for Missionary Mike Talley in Germany

Read - Luke 24:13-32 the road to Emmaus

Notice the beleaguered disciples they were in this shape because they felt their trust was violated vs. 21, and they had not yet comprehended the truth of these events. Think about what they are saying in vs. 22-24.

His body is missing, angels were present, and they were told he was alive. Why be downtrodden? These amazing things they already knew an empty grave, angelic confirmation, and yet they're confused and saddened.

Notice their brokenness - their conversation pulled them down. Often we convince ourselves it is hopeless and meaningless. The Bible warns us about negativity. Psalm 1 warns us about the crowd with that kind of talk. Jesus confronts them vs. 17 your communications are causing this. So Cleopas confirms it vs. 18 -21. They said **things**, vs. 18, Jesus says what things vs. 19 and he describes the very things that should have caused joy. These things were supposed to happen Christ died, was 3 days in the tomb and now he is alive. What's the problem vs. 25, 26 slow to believe the word of God.

Notice their Blindness – vs. 16, 31. Even when they were hearing the word of God there was a delay to respond. He preached Moses that which they grew up with he's pointing himself out in those scriptures.

Notice their Blessedness – they had a new burning vs. 32, a new burden vs. 33, and new boldness vs. 34. Not tired anymore.

Reflections – When you see Jesus in the scriptures it will light a fire, push us further, and give us fearlessness.

April 14th

Pray for Missionary Tommy Tillman in Thailand

Read – Matthew 6

He is telling us how to have a

Personal relationship with Christ – vs. 1-18, if we do not have a relationship with Jesus in private we will not have one in public. What is frightening is people try to have a public relationship with Jesus maybe to put on a show without having a private relationship which validates and empowers the relationship. He discusses giving, praying, and fasting. How we are to do these things properly and powerfully. It starts in secret and then impacts society. These three things already mentioned reveal the depth of our compassion (giving), care (praying), and concern (fasting). He is dealing with seriousness and sincerity.

Practical relationship with Christ – 19-34, trusting God with your possessions vs. 19-24, trusting God with your person vs. 25-32, and trusting God with your present day vs. 33, 34. This deals with our posterity, our provision, and our persuasion.

Reflections – He is challenging us to service, who we will revere vs. 24, whom we will rely on vs. 25, 32, and who we will seek vs. 33. It isn't that we can't have things, it is will these things we have belong to God. Will we let the Lord have our worship, our work, and our want's.

April 15th

Pray for Missionary W. A. Park in Mexico

Read – Matthew 7

Jesus is continuing the Sermon on the Mount and he will finish this sermon with the man who doesn't falter, fail, or fall. He is a man that is

Sincere minded – vs. 1-6 he looks inward first. He first considers himself vs. 3, and then he considers the source vs. 6.

Serious minded – vs. 7-12 he is aggressive in his relationship with Christ knowing Jesus is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him vs. 11, see Heb. 11:6. He follows the rule of vs. 12.

Safe minded – vs. 13-23 he finds the right place vs. 13, 14, the right preacher vs. 15, the right product vs. 16-20, and the right profession vs. 21-23.

Sure minded – vs. 24-29 when we do the things God says to do, it makes our house sure.

Reflections – Often people don't like the rules of their parents or even the preacher at the church so they move out and disregard those teachings and often we have seen their houses aren't so strong. It pays to build things on the sayings of the Lord.

April 16th

Pray for Missionary Stephen Bender in Scotland

Read – Matthew 16:13-19

Jesus is revealing himself to his disciples vs. 13-19.

Who do they say I am? The crowd was trying to figure out who is Jesus without help of Heaven vs. 17. They decided it must be John or Elijah men who performed miracles as Jesus is doing and so they must have arisen from the dead. Others looked for Jeremiah because he was the weeping prophet and Jesus wept over Israel and a tradition of the Jews said he would come back and discover the ark upon Mt. Nebo. Still others said this is a prophet arisen from the dead. All three of these assumptions pointed to his likeness of these men his works like John and Elijah, his weeping like Jeremiah, and his words like the Prophets. But they didn't have heavenly insight. **Who do you say I am?** Peter said you are God incarnate. Because of Peter's answer he is given a message vs. 18, the message of The Church and its cornerstone. Peter is not the rock he is a small stone see I Pt. 2:5, Jesus is the Rock see I Peter 2:6-8. The message of the church's conquering Matt. 16:18 nothing prevails over the church, and the message of our commission vs. 19. When we take the gospel message vs. 19 and someone receives it they are free because it is the only message that frees people. If they reject it they are not loosed because there is no other message of freedom see Heb. 10:26, 27, 29, 31. We take the message of the gospel to them and their decision seals their fate not us. **Reflections** – It is so important to have the right message and messenger. Eternity hangs in the balance.

April 17th

Pray for Missionary Jerrold Myers in South Africa

Read - Matthew 16:20-28

We have already looked in previous lessons at his death burial and resurrection, but it is at this juncture where he begins to reveal to his disciples his passion. Jesus at this point makes a dramatic turn in his ministry revealing to his disciples his coming passion vs. 21. Peter who had just revealed a huge revelation Mt. 16:16 now he makes a horrible rebuke vs. 22. Jesus quickly points out the origin of this foolishness, Satan the troubler. We see what caused the offence of this foolishness, his savoring of the temporal. How do we rectify the problem? The 3 fold cure is in vs. 24, deny self, do your service, and be devoted to your Savior. When we have selfishness vs. 25, and we become soulish vs. 26 we will lose leadership vs. 23, and our life vs. 25. We are reminded of the value of the soul vs. 26, and the return of our Lord vs. 27. Stay focused on the service we have (the cross) and the Savior we have.

Reflections – We need to realize how easy and how soon we get out of focus and out of line. Peter had just had this marvelous encounter only now to have this mighty failure. It is so easy to be deceived, distracted, and disoriented. Pastor Frank Holman was preaching about Israel's walk from the Red Sea to the next waters and how soon the people turned bitter and he said it is a short walk from the sweet to the bitter. So often people sour quickly.

April 18th

Pray for Missionary David Lewis in South Korea

Read – Matt 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

The mountain top experience tells us that the disciples were tired and slept, and one could see why, the highest peak of Mt. Hermon is over 9,000 feet. We can only imagine the daily activity and the rugged ascent wore them out. But one would also think when your with Jesus sleep later something big is going to happen. And it did! This is the time when his humanity is magnified. John does not tell us of this event maybe because his focus is primarily on the deity of Christ even though he shows us his humanity, the other three focuses primarily on his humanity but they also reveal his deity. Notice the glorified Christ. **Notice the description of his altering** – in each of the gospels accounts the unique and fantastic pureness of Jesus Christ. He had a unique body one without man's sinful blood line a body created for this event see Heb. 10:5; Gal. 4:4. Here his countenance is changed the pureness revealed see II Cor. 4:6 and then notice the conversation with the prophets his passion discussed Luke 9:31. **Notice the declaration of his authority** – this is my beloved son, look at him Lk. 9:35 and listen to him. See Heb. 1:1-3. Jesus is the written word and the living word. He is both the Son of God and the Son of Man. **Reflections** – sometimes people will want us to follow their experiences and religious exercises. Peter was certainly excited and energetic about this experience Lk. 9:33 but he didn't quite get it (not knowing what he said). I'm not saying we can't give advice but make sure we are saying what Jesus said.

April 19th

Pray for Missionary Bill Petite in Japan

Read – John 12:1-11

Notice the testimony of those mentioned in this chapter.

Lazarus – His testimony of work – he took care of his sisters and he was faithful to Christ. His testimony of witness – he proved you are not dead when the body is in the grave, he proved the resurrection, and he was hated for his witness vs. 10, 11.

Judas Iscariot – His testimony is so bad that the writer wants you to know it is this man so he mentions his person – Judas, his pilgrimage – Iscariot, and his parent – Simon. It further mentions his plot and then tells us his pretense vs. 6. He was a spiteful and selfish man.

Martha – vs. 2 her testimony she was a servant. She worked hard to please people, every church needs these people. Martha gave herself to the needs of others. She brought comfort, concern, and compassion to her guest. She is always busy working, and serving.

Mary – notice her testimony a contribution vs. 3 very special, very valuable, and very vibrant vs. 3. Notice her care (anointed him) and her concern (wiped his feet). Notice she is criticized vs. 5, Judas saw it as a waste. Jesus said let her alone, this is an expression of her belief vs.7; put it in perspective vs. 8.

Reflections – Testimonies are acts of our past. I am what people have seen. The crowd saw that God's people are willing to suffer (Lazarus), willing to serve (Martha), and willing to be sacrificial (Mary). Satan's people are willing to be selfish, spiteful, and self-willed. Our testimony is our past what does our past say our testimony is?

April 20th

Pray for Missionary Michael Hart in Columbia

Read – Hebrews 8

My High Priest

He is my powerful High Priest –vs. 1 at the right hand of God the place of power. He is both king and priest after the order of Melchizedek, Melchizedek being king of Salem meaning king of peace and he was king of righteousness see Heb. 7:1, 2. Jesus is the ultimate power over heaven and earth. He has the kingdom, the keys, and he knows it all. See Heb. 10:10-12.

He is my perfect High Priest – Heb. 7:26-28 listen to his description in vs. 26 he is holy, helpful, and higher.

He is my patient High Priest – Heb. 5:1-8; Heb. 4:14-16. He has compassion and understanding. He is not unkind or unconcerned. He has been where we are and what a love he has for us.

He is my permanent High Priest – Heb. 7:23-25 he is ever my high priest vs. 24. Ever there to intercede Heb. 7:3, 25,

Reflections – See Heb. 9:11-15 the promise of good things to come see Eph. 1:3, 11-14. I am so thankful the blood of Jesus Christ has purged me so I can serve my High Priest, Heb. 10:14. Beloved remember we have a lot more coming our way than the eye can behold, see I Cor. 2:9.

April 21st

Pray for Missionary Salvador Nava in the Philippines

Read - John 13:1-20

The story of foot washing gives us an explanation of service vs. 12 (know ye not what I have done), an example of service vs. 15, and then the exemplary service vs. 14. It's worth imitating him.

Notice serving takes holiness- this lesson is to teach us spiritual hygiene and humility. Notice what Peter said in vs. 6 and Jesus response in vs. 7. Then Peter said you'll never wash my feet vs. 8. Jesus said if I wash thee not our fellowship will be broken. Nobody wants to work with dirty people see I John 1:5-11 where a Christian is to stay in fellowship with God and avoid darkness. So Peter says wash me all over. They have been discussing a partial washing (feet) and they have been using the same Greek word for a partial washing, then Jesus in vs. 10 changes the Greek word and used a word for full washing. When Jesus said he that is washed vs. 10 that is a word for full cleansing used here once and in Acts 9:37; 16:33; Heb. 10:22; II Peter 2:22; and Rev. 1:5 showing how the word is used. So he is telling us those already washed in his blood are clean but that in this world we get defiled and need daily cleaning (needeth not save to wash vs. 10) that second word wash in vs. 10 is the same word they were using previously. So those who serve Jesus must practice personal sanctification see II Tim. 2:20-22. You must be washed this is salvation the first washed in vs. 10 and some weren't vs. 11 and then after you've been washed that's positional sanctification meaning Jesus sets us apart, you now

need personal sanctification vs. 8, and the second time he used wash vs. 10 meaning to stay in fellowship.

Notice serving takes humility – 13-16 you must be willing to serve others in the most personal and pure way.

Reflections – serving the Lord with humility and holiness brings happiness see vs. 17. So many are unhappy and you can see it in their lack of holiness and humility.

April 22nd

Pray for GSCH

Read - John 15

The passage on fruit bearing reveals God is the director vs. 1, he disciplines vs. 2, 6, he disciplines vs. 4, 5, 8, and he is devoted to us vs. 16.

We see the process in vs. 1, God is the vinedresser, Jesus is the vine vs. 1, 5, and we are the branches vs. 5, and the works we do are the fruit vs. 5, 7.

We see purging vs. 2, 6. God prunes the vineyard of its diseased and deadly branches so that that spirit or behavior does not affect the other branches and this then makes the other branches more productive vs. 2, 6.

We see protection vs. 3, 7 the word of God it protects; the word is paramount to production vs. 3, 7, 10. It cleanses, it cultivates a sacrificial love vs. 13, and a sincere love vs. 14, 15.

We see the product of one who abides vs. 4, 5 fruit, more fruit, much fruit.

We see the promise vs. 7, 16 of answered prayer, the

promise of joy vs. 11, the promise of friendship vs. 15, and of course the promise of fruit.

Reflections – The passage makes it very clear we have to abide which means stay connected to the Father, his Son, and the Scriptures. These all provide knowledge, nutrients, and power; see verse 5 for without me ye can do nothing. To become disconnected from the word of God is to become disconnected from cleansing, from correction, and from continuing. Hence you'll become fruitless. No answered prayer, no power, and no joy.

April 23rd

Pray for Andrew Deason in North Dakota

Read – Matthew 12:38-45

These religious leaders approach Jesus for a sign. One wonders what he would have had to do to get them to believe. He had already cured diseases, cast out demons, and conquered death. He rejected the request, for all signs had been fulfilled as prophesied by the Old Testament prophets except this final truth the sign of Jonah, three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, the truth of the death, burial, and resurrection. Then he preaches the need for repentance and the fact that Gentile nation's previously had far less light and repented. Then he uses Jonah and Solomon's encounters with the Gentiles to prove his point. Of course this angered the leaders. He uses this illustration in vs. 43-45, possibly because the nation had a number of exorcists in their day and even attributed some of

their incantations to Solomon. But it was a worthless self-reformation and self-reliance that never changed this man and Jesus is saying never changed them or their condition. They had a reformation but not repentance. No one came inside so the vessel was still open for satanic influence and indwelling. Satan can oppress and possess.

Reflections – When we repent and receive the Holy Spirit we receive the seal of the Holy Spirit and the indwelling presence of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Our shop is closed see I Cor. 6:19, 20; II Cor. 13:5; Col. 1:27; John 14:18-23. Remember Satan seeks to oppress, depress, destroy, and devour.

April 24th

Pray for David Dye and Life Worth Living

Read – Matthew 9:35-38

Notice first Jesus is busy about his Father's business vs. 25. **Notice further** the crowds are overwhelming vs. 36. This causes the scripture to tell us Jesus was moved with compassion. One sees quickly the why? He saw the hurting (fainted), the helpless (scattered), and the hopeless (no shepherd). They had no power, no protection, and no purpose. They were weak, wandering, and without. **Notice finally** the case has been made and the cure provided. The answer is to see the need vs. 35, to see the possibilities vs. 37, see John 4:35, and surrender to the need vs. 38.

Reflections – What moves us? Do we see the spiritual need or the social needs? Often people want a help that

provides a physical help not a spiritual help. We must see what they really need and share the answer that will fix now and eternity. Jesus is the cure to all lives. He takes our feet out of the mire and sets us on a firm foundation. You see God's people will receive help in this time and in eternity to come. Jesus fixes it all. See Matt. 19:27, 29.

April 25th

Pray for Missionary Tim Gordon in India

Read – Revelation 1:9-20

When you read Rev. 1:18-Rev. 3 you are reading one of the longest uninterrupted talks of the Lord Jesus Christ in scripture. There is a section in John 14:23-John 16:16 uninterrupted but here we see Jesus speaking not to the nation of Israel but the church. This is his longest uninterrupted section to the church. We know the messengers are the pastors. In the Old Testament angels did speak to men but in the New Testament God is speaking through his Son. Why would he use John to speak to an angel? So I believe John is being told you'll leave the Isle of Patmos and I want you to tell the pastors of the churches this is my message to them. What a treasure we have here. I would love to have a message like that. I have the message to preach to the church; the church epistles. But what it must have been like to see the aged prophet come from Patmos with his wounds and scars and tell them what Jesus said to the church.

Reflections – First of all they would have had to trust the messenger and the message. That is what we have to do

today trust the messenger see I Timothy 4:6; Heb. 13:7, 17 and the message II Tim. 3:16, 17. I trust wholeheartedly the Bible I believe it is the inspired, impeccable, inerrant word of God. I plan to trust it, obey it, and spread it for I have complete confidence in this book from Heaven given unto us, see II Peter 1:17-21.

April 26th

Pray for Missionary John Hinkle USA Nursing homes

Read – Mark 7:1-23

These Jews failed to have a personal relationship with God and his word. Because of their failure to understand the inner workings of God in the heart they sought to have a form of godliness vs. 6 and they are governed by what they think is righteousness vs. 7, 8 see also II Tim. 3:5, 7. Many today lay aside the commandments of God for the commandments of their choosing. They say I think this is right and my heart wouldn't lie to me. But the heart is deceivable, desperate, and discernable only by God Jer. 17:9; Rev. 2:23. Most know what they are doing is of man and not of God vs. 9.

We must always choose doctrine – vs. 15 listen to God. When we choose the carnality of man we hinder the word of God vs. 13, and the work God desires to do vs. 10-12.

We must choose duty – vs. 10-12, don't lay aside the written commandments of God vs. 8. Do what God expects of us.

We must choose discipline – vs. 18-23 he is warning us it's not the food you eat but the fleshly nature of sin. It is

not the hamburger you have to worry about it's the hard heathenistic heart that lies within our fallen nature.

Reflections – You may want to control your diet and that is certainly advised in scripture but first and for most deal with the deceit of the old nature vs. 20. The sins mentioned in vs. 21-22 these sins are all purged by the scripture and our surrender to the new man see Eph. 4:24-27.

April 27th

Pray for Mitch Tillman Missionary in Mongolia

Read - Mark 2:1-12

This is a great soul winning event. Jesus is going to reveal his authority to save beyond the physical realm and save a soul for eternity. The problem is sin vs. 5, and he has power over sin vs. 10. Harold Clayton an old preacher from a generation or two ago used to say when he came to a place like this, God forgiving me of my sins he would say "hold my mule while I shout". Today someone would have to say hold my cellphone or steering wheel. We've come a long way from the days of a four hoofed drive of a mule. Jesus has power over sin, Hold my mule, while I shout Hallelujah!

Notice the compassion of these men – vs. 3 he could not get himself to Jesus and such is the case today many can't get to Jesus without us bearing the burden of missions and some don't even know they need Jesus. It is our compassion making the difference, Jude vs. 22

Notice the confidence of these men- vs. 4 they felt like if we get him to Jesus, Jesus will know what to do.

Notice the character of these men - vs. 2, 4, we see their determination not to be hindered, not to be denied. They did not stop at confrontation or conflict.

Reflections - is there someone you love and you know they are in so much need of Jesus but they are unconcerned, unable, or maybe unknowing of their need? What lengths would you go through to get them to Jesus? Let me suggest this, team up these four did, let me suggest tear up anything in the way. I'm not advocating destruction but get rid of the mountain of hindrances, and triumph over things, the God you are taking people too is able.

April 28th

Pray for Missionary Matt Olsen in Italy

Read - John 14:1-6

Jesus is coming again! In this chapter Jesus takes care of your frail heart vs. 1, your future home vs. 2, and the fullness of your hope vs. 4-6. When we read the scriptures we find how Jesus will come for his church see Acts 1:9-11, vs. 11 says he'll come like he left see Luke 24:50-53 which shows how he left. He left in the presence of believers only, with outstretched hands of blessings, and on his Shekinah cloud of glory. I Thess. 4:13-18 tells us how he'll return and the reunion we'll have. Rev. 4, 5 tell us much about the scene in heaven once we go up. Now in Zech. 14:4 it tells us he'll return

to the earth and land on the Mt. of Olives and what will happen to the mountain and the creation. It is very distinct and different from his return for the church. The return that is recorded in Zech. is revealed in Rev. 1:7 and instead of a wonderful reunion as Paul told the Thessalonica church; this is a scene of wailing see also Rev. 19:11-21. We went up in I Thess. 4, and Rev. 4:1 and here in Rev. 19:14 we are coming down with him, for we are clothed in the linen mentioned in vs. 14, see Rev. 19:7-9.

Reflections – it is wonderful to know who came to die for us and know who is coming to deliver us, see I Thess. 5:9. This isn't wishful thinking it is written revelation. The truth of the second coming of Christ for his church is given so we have confidence and boldness, see I John 2:28; I John 4:17. I have for decades rejoiced to read Titus 2:13, 14.

April 29th

Pray for Missionary Philip Marmeto in the Philippines

Read – Revelation 20

After Christ has set up his kingdom and ruled for 1,000 years vs. 1-6, then Satan is loosed for earth's final battle vs. 7-10, then this horrible event takes place vs. 11-15.

The Judge – vs. 11, notice the purity of his throne and the power of the throne.

The Judged – vs. 12, 13, they have nowhere to hide vs. 11, they have no handle or control of the situation they are called up and up they will come. They have no exit, excuse, or exemption.

The Justification – vs. 13, 14 but not for acquittal but for explanation notice the books and their works in those books. No plea bargains, no parole. The books will render the verdict guilty.

The Judgement – notice their eternal judgment vs. 15. See vs. 11.

Reflections – The most awful thing you'll ever read and yet it could be avoided by God's gift Rom. 6:23b, however so many choose to pay for their own sins Rom. 6:23a. We must let people know Christ died for you and Christ desires to pay for your sins by his own blood. See Heb. 9:12; Rev. 1:5; and John 1:12.

April 30th

Pray for Mike Talley in Germany

Read - Rev. 21:1-4, 22-27; 22:1-5, 14.

We're finally home notice the things said of eternity the new things from God 21:1, 2, vs.3, the tabernacle vs. 3, the tearless life vs. 4, timelessness, and no trouble vs. 22-27.

Notice the tree of chapter 22, the promise of peace, serenity, and uninhibited service to Jesus Christ.

Reflections – You can see why the believer is not without hope and why he does not sorrow as others. Spend some time thinking about the treasures of family, friends, and faithful service you have already sent over to glory. Let the joy of a future reunion stir your day.