

TELOS

Telos (Greek): def.: striving for a goal, completing your purpose . It means achieving maturity, and undivided wholeness in a person's behavior. For the Christian it means becoming like Jesus.

"We proclaim Christ, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ"

Col. 1:28

Volume 9 Number 12

Truthview Alliance Church

Following Jesus - A Fisherman's Viewpoint *Matthew 27:1-26*

"Follow me" Jesus said **"and I will make you fishers of men."** He's talking to me, a mere fisherman. It's an intriguing invitation. I may be in for an adventure. I'll do almost anything to get away from the daily drudgery of fishing for a living. Anyway, Jesus is a most interesting fellow. I like what I've heard so far and there are stories about him performing miracles. Maybe I'll get to see one or even be lucky enough to have one performed on me. That would be cool.

I've been with Jesus for almost three years now and I wouldn't trade those years for anything. I've seen so much, so many miracles, I couldn't begin to recount them all. I love what he's doing to the Pharisees. Man you should see them go off with their tails between their legs, just fuming because none their traps have worked. I don't know if I've enjoyed anything more. And then there's the teaching. Some of it's beginning to sink in but I really don't know where it's all leading. I really don't know what's going to happen to me or to Jesus for that matter. He's totally invincible, I'm convinced of that but lately he's talking about dying. Following him is not what I thought it would be.

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." This was one of his last invitations. Wow Jesus, I'm still struggling with that one. Why would any one who has the power to heal, to raise people from the dead, give out an invitation to suffer? I know he has the power to free me from all of that stuff - pain, poverty, hunger, and oppression - well anything you can think of - and now he's asking me to "to take up my cross"?

Things are really getting confusing. They arrested Jesus last night you know, those rulers of the synagogue. I know he could have walked right through them again, like he'd done before, but this time was different. They led him away. The whole Sanhedrin was there putting him on trial and now it looks as if they're taking him to Pilate. Where is this heading; what will it mean to follow him now?

FOLLOW ME

Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus

Kingdom Principle #5:

Jesus intends to reach the world by creating safe kingdom communities of humble, transparent followers.

Memory Verse:

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6:14

DAILY BIBLE STUDY

Monday

A Cry for Help in the Midst of Trial – Psalm 22:1 –31

Passage Preview

Through the miraculous work of the Spirit of God David's cry to God in the midst of his own trials, as recorded here, presents, a picture of the suffering Savior many years before the actual event.

Read Psalm 22: 1-31

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

*Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from the words of my groaning?*

² *O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, and am not silent.*

³ *Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the praise of Israel.*

⁴ *In you our fathers put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.*

⁵ *They cried to you and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not disappointed.*

⁶ *But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by men and despised by the people.*

⁷ *All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads:*

⁸ *"He trusts in the LORD;
let the LORD rescue him.
Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him."*

⁹ *Yet you brought me out of the womb;
you made me trust in you
even at my mother's breast.*

¹⁰ *From birth I was cast upon you;
from my mother's womb you have been my God.*

¹¹ *Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.*

¹² *Many bulls surround me;
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.*

¹³ *Roaring lions tearing their prey
open their mouths wide against me.*

¹⁴ *I am poured out like water,
 and all my bones are out of joint.
 My heart has turned to wax;
 it has melted away within me.*

¹⁵ *My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
 and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
 you lay me in the dust of death.*

¹⁶ *Dogs have surrounded me;
 a band of evil men has encircled me,
 they have pierced my hands and my feet.*

¹⁷ *I can count all my bones;
 people stare and gloat over me.*

¹⁸ *They divide my garments among them
 and cast lots for my clothing.*

¹⁹ *But you, O LORD, be not far off;
 O my Strength, come quickly to help me.*

²⁰ *Deliver my life from the sword,
 my precious life from the power of the dogs.*

²¹ *Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
 save me from the horns of the wild oxen.*

²² *I will declare your name to my brothers;
 in the congregation I will praise you.*

²³ *You who fear the LORD, praise him!
 All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!
 Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!*

²⁴ *For he has not despised or disdained
 the suffering of the afflicted one;
 he has not hidden his face from him
 but has listened to his cry for help.*

²⁵ *From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
 before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows.*

²⁶ *The poor will eat and be satisfied;
 they who seek the LORD will praise him--
 may your hearts live forever!*

²⁷ *All the ends of the earth
 will remember and turn to the LORD,
 and all the families of the nations
 will bow down before him,*

²⁸ *for dominion belongs to the LORD
 and he rules over the nations.*

²⁹ *All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;
 all who go down to the dust will kneel before him--
 those who cannot keep themselves alive.*

³⁰ *Posterity will serve him;
 future generations will be told about the Lord.*

³¹ *They will proclaim his righteousness
 to a people yet unborn--
 for he has done it.*

1. Make a list of the verses that are descriptive of Jesus on the cross.

4. How does understanding the temptations and sufferings of Jesus help you as you go through the trials God has allowed to come your way?

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, as you suffered, the groanings you uttered reflected the depth of your suffering. My trials can not be compared to what you endured. Because you suffered so deeply I know I can come to you with any trial and you will understand. Thank you for that and I pray you will help me to bring my trials continually before you and help me to look to you for the answers to my struggles. Amen

Wednesday

Trials Take Their Toll But the Lord Will Prove Faithful

Psalm 22: 12- 31

Passage Preview

After focusing on himself and the effects of the trials on his body and spirit David turns his attention to the Lord and his power. In the end David looks to the future with hope and praise.

Read Psalm 22:12-31

- ¹² *Many bulls surround me;
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.*
- ¹³ *Roaring lions tearing their prey
open their mouths wide against me.*
- ¹⁴ *I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted away within me.*
- ¹⁵ *My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.*
- ¹⁶ *Dogs have surrounded me;
a band of evil men has encircled me,
they have pierced my hands and my feet.*
- ¹⁷ *I can count all my bones;
people stare and gloat over me.*
- ¹⁸ *They divide my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing.*
- ¹⁹ *But you, O LORD, be not far off;
O my Strength, come quickly to help me.*
- ²⁰ *Deliver my life from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dogs.*
- ²¹ *Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.*
- ²² *I will declare your name to my brothers;
in the congregation I will praise you.*
- ²³ *You who fear the LORD, praise him!*

*All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!
24 For he has not despised or disdained
the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him
but has listened to his cry for help.
25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows.
26 The poor will eat and be satisfied;
they who seek the LORD will praise him--
may your hearts live forever!
27 All the ends of the earth
will remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
will bow down before him,
28 for dominion belongs to the LORD
and he rules over the nations.
29 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him--
those who cannot keep themselves alive.
30 Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord.
31 They will proclaim his righteousness
to a people yet unborn--
for he has done it.*

1. What role do other people play in the trials David is suffering?
2. How does David manage to look beyond what people are doing to him?
3. What physical consequences does David experience in the midst of his trial?
4. How does this influence the way he addresses God in verse 19?

5. What utterances of hope emerge from David's lips and what is the basis for this hope?

6. Why is it difficult to be hopeful when you are in the midst of a trial and how does one move to the position of hope? (see Romans 4:3-5)

Prayer

Dear Lord, when we're in the middle of them, our struggles seem to be all that exist and it's tough to focus on the truth of your love and care. Only by the grace and mercy of your intervention can we know hope and believe in a future. Help me to persevere in hope because I know hoping in you will never bring disappointment or shame. I thank you for Christ's victory on the cross for it is the true basis of my hope. Amen.

Thursday

The Consequences of Judas' Betrayal - Matthew 27: 1-10

Passage Preview

Jesus is condemned to death by the religious leaders. Judas, in remorse for his betrayal, commits suicide.

Key Words

- Remorse: Literally "repented himself". Not the usual New Testament word for repentance to salvation. Here it depicts a regret resulting in self loathing.
- Betrayed: To deliver a friend over to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty.
- Pilate: The Roman protractor (governor) over the Jewish province. He had full charge over the army of occupation.

Read Matthew 27:1-10

¹ Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. ² They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

³ When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴ "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

⁵ So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. ⁶ The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." ⁷ So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. ⁸ That is why it

Summary

Confession, remorse; sounds like the beginnings of a dramatic conversion. But for Judas, this did not signal a heart of repentance toward God, but rather a heart gripped by the horror of the fruit of its evil. This grieving over the betrayal of his friend did not lead to restored relationship with God; instead he chose to try to pay for his own sin or at least to deaden the guilt and pain by indulging in the ultimate expression of self, suicide.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, sometimes the things that rise from my heart scare me. Only you know what my heart is truly like and all I can do is give it to you and ask you to cleanse it and care for it. I really do want to follow you and I ask for the strength to take up my cross and follow. Amen.

Friday

Jesus' Trial Before Pilate - Matthew 27:11-26

Passage Preview

Since Judah was under Roman control and a person could only be condemned to death by an official of Rome, the religious leaders sent Jesus to Pilate. Pilate gives in to the mob, who cry for Jesus to be crucified.

Key Words

- Envy: Discontent or jealousy, usually with ill will, at seeing another's superiority.
- Notorious: Widely but unfavorably known.

Read Matthew 27:11-26

¹¹ *Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"*

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

¹² *When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer.*

¹³ *Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?"* ¹⁴ *But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge--to the great amazement of the governor.*

¹⁵ *Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd.* ¹⁶ *At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas.* ¹⁷ *So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"* ¹⁸ *For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.*

¹⁹ *While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."*

²⁰ *But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.*

²¹ *"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.*

"Barabbas," they answered.

²² *"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked.*

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

²³ *"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.*

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

²⁴ *When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"*

²⁵ *All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"*

²⁶ *Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.*

These TELOS materials have been adapted with permission from the "Follow Me" discipleship Curriculum produced by North Shore Baptist Church in Bothell, WA and based on the book Follow Me by Jan David Hettinga and the gospel of Matthew.

This week's editor:
Don Friesen

The mission of TELOS is to help you develop the beliefs, practices and virtues of a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. TELOS is one component of our strategy at Trailview of living out our call to become a "community of servants who live to fulfill the Great Commission.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, Copyright 1973, 1978, International Bible Society.

Summary

The prophet Isaiah wrote of the Messiah 750 years before the birth of Christ:

"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."

— Isaiah 53:7

In meekness and humility, Jesus allowed himself to be lied about without making a defense. He took the injustice without retaliation and in doing so displayed to all mankind that the nature of God is not ego-driven.

Prayer

Lord, if you are my all in all I will not worry about the need to vindicate my life and work. Then I will be concerned only to do your will and what others do or say will not matter. I will be undeterred in doing your will and work. Help my focus to remain central, on you and doing your will. Help your love and approval to be sufficient motivation for all I do. Amen

Please spend time praying for the Pastor as he prepares to preach this Sunday.

⇒ If you have any comments or questions about TELOS please direct them to Pastor Ken at the church office:
phone: 773-4433 or email: ken.trailview@sasktel.net

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Memory Verse:

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6:14