Life of Jesus April 18

Sending the Seventy-two

After Jesus chose his twelve disciples, he chose and sent seventy-two more workers, two by two ahead of himself to the towns he was about to go to – He said to them, “There is a large harvest, but few workers to gather it in. Pray to the owner of the harvest that he will send out workers to gather in his harvest. Luke 10:2

This is our sending as well, the world is still ready for harvest; we must work to make the harvest larger for Jesus than for Satan.

We too can have the rejoicing, like the seventy-two – “Lord,” they said, “even the demons obeyed us when we gave them a command in your name!” Luke 10:17b. What we need is the love of Jesus in our hearts and the faith to trust Jesus to all that we ask in his name.

We also must remember that if we refuse to listen to a servant of God, we are refusing to listen to God. On the other hand if someone rejects us when we are witnessing, they are not only rejecting us but most all they are rejecting God.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.” Luke 10:16.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to listen to a true servant of yours and to reject those who are false prophets.

Life of Jesus April 19

Sermon on the Mount

Jesus went up on the hillside with his disciples and taught them:

* Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
* Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
* Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
* Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness they shall be filled.
* Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
* Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be call children of God.
* Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3-10. KJV.

The Sermon on the Mount or the teachings are called the Beatitudes are so profound because it shows the meek, the poor, the mournful and the merciful being blessed. In contrast to the world that counts its blessings in cars, money and power.

VERSE FOR TODAY: My sacrifice is a humble spirit, O God; you will not reject a humble and repentant heart. Psalm 51:17.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I use these teachings of yours, O Lord, to make my life suitable for your service.

Life of Jesus April 20

The First Miracle

In Cana of Galilee, there was a wedding, Jesus, his Mother and the disciples were all there. The wine ran out, Mary mentioned this fact to Jesus, it seemed that she knew Jesus could do something about it. – “You must not tell me what to do,” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.” John 2:4.

Jesus did go ahead and tell the servants to fill the jars with water, and he changed it into wine, the best wine of the party. The man in charge of the party told the bridegroom – “Everyone else serves the best wine first, and after the guest have had plenty to drink, he serves the ordinary wine. But you have kept the best wine until now!” John 2:10. God did the same, he sent kings and prophets to his people to bring them back to him, but he saved his Son, Jesus, the best, for the last attempt to bring them to him.

This is the “official” beginning of the miracles and wonders Jesus would go on to perform.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Jesus performed this first miracle in Cana in Galilee; there he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. John 2:11.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, your Son came as a last resort to save your people from their sins, but help me to always put Him first in my life.

Life of Jesus April 21

Cleansing the Temple

Jesus goes to Jerusalem for the first Passover of his ministry. He enters the Temple and finds people selling animals for sacrifices and money-changers’ tables. Money-changers were needed because people came from other countries to Jerusalem during the Passover and would have to change their money for that used in Jerusalem so they could buy animals. Jesus drove out the animals and turned over the money-changers’ tables, scattering coins – and he ordered the men who sold the pigeons, “Take them out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a market-place!” John 2:16. We must also be careful not to make our church buildings a market-place. Perhaps a yearly fund raising dinner for a worthy church related cause but to have games of chance for personal gain tend to give the wrong idea of what should go on in church buildings.

The Jewish authorities wanted a miracle to prove that Jesus had the right to clear the Temple – Jesus answered, “Tear down this Temple and in three days I will build it again.” John 2:18. Jesus was not speaking of the Temple building, which took forty-six years to build; he was speaking of his body referring to his death and resurrection.

VERSE FOR TODAY: While Jesus was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, many believed in him as they saw the miracles he performed. John 2:23.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I clear my heart, O Lord, of all its evil and use my Temple only for the use you intended for me.

Life of Jesus April 22

Nicodemus

Nicodemus was a Jewish leader and teacher, a member of the Pharisee party. He came to talk to Jesus at night, because Jesus was not too popular with the Pharisees. Nicodemus did not want to get in trouble with the other members of the party. Nicodemus was curious about Jesus and the miracles – “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God. No one could perform the miracles you are doing unless God were with him.” John 3:2b.

Jesus tells Nicodemus how he can see the kingdom of God, by being born again. Nicodemus could not understand how a grown man could be born again, it would be impossible to enter his mother’s womb and be born again! Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born twice, physically and spiritually – “Do not be surprised because I tell you that you must be born again.” John 3:7.

We too must be born again – For through the living and eternal Word of God you have been born again as children of a parent who is immortal, not mortal. 1 Peter 1:23. We become Children of God for salvation by becoming new creatures in our heart and soul.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…For God did not send his son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour…” John 3:17.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May my believing in You, O Lord, whether gradual or miraculous, lead me to a complete rebirth as your child, so I may see your heavenly kingdom.

Life of Jesus April 23

The Woman at the Well

Jesus passed through Samaria on his way from Judea to Galilee. Samaria is a very hot and dry country. Jesus was by Jacob’s Well about noon, he sat down to rest.

A woman came from the village to get water; Jesus asked her for a drink, she was surprised because she was a woman and a Samaritan. Women were not considered of much value and Samaritans and Jews did not associate because Samaritans were of mixed marriages and religious backgrounds.

Jesus told the woman that He could give her life giving water! She didn’t understand how he could get this water; he didn’t have a cup or a bucket. Living water comes from within.

Jesus asked her to go call her husband, she said she didn’t have one, which was true, but she’d had five husbands. Jesus told her about her five husbands and she realized he was a man of God, because he knew everything about her.

The woman went back to the village and told them what she had heard and seen, they came out to meet Jesus and persuaded him to stay a few days and many of them come to believe. From John 4:1-42.

We can have this life giving water, no matter what we have done. Our testimony can bring others to Jesus.

This event was the beginning of the giving of salvation to the Gentiles.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…But the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God’s Spirit people will worship the father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants…” John 4:23.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I know you and witness to the living water that you only can give.

Life of Jesus April 24

Healing an Official’s Son

Jesus was back in Cana of Galilee, when an official of the Roman government approached Jesus and told him that his son was sick, at the point of death and needed Jesus.

-Jesus said to him, “None of you will ever believe unless you see miracles and wonders.” John 4:48. Some of us are like that too!

Again the official asked Jesus to come and see his son – Jesus said to him, “Go, your son will live!” The man believed Jesus’ words and went. John 4:50.

The man went home and the servants came out to meet him saying that his son was going to live. The official wanted to know when his son started to get better, they said yesterday about one o’clock. The very hour that Jesus said that the son would live and the hour the official believed.

God’s grace and mercy will help us too, right from the very hour that we first believe. We must put our faith and trust in the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: This was the second miracle that Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee. John 4:54.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, let me put my trust in you and believe everything through you is possible, because it will be if I believe.

Life of Jesus April 25

Healing of Paralyzed Man

Jesus came home to Capernaum, and the news of his return spread, they came to hear Jesus teach, there were so many in the house that there was no room left to stand. Four men carrying a paralyzed man on a mat could not enter the house. The men went on the roof, removed some tiles and lowered the man down to Jesus. – Seeing how much faith they had, Jesus said to the man, “My son, your sins are forgiven.” Mark 2:5.

The religious leaders in the room thought – “How does he dare to talk life this? This is blasphemy! God is the only one who can forgive sins!” Mark 2:7.

Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, - “Is it easier to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven’, or to say, ‘Get up, pick up your mat, and walk’?” Mark 2:9. Jesus went on to prove to them that he had the authority to forgive sins on earth. –“I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home!” Mark 2:11.

Before their very eyes the paralyzed man was healed!

It is truly a miracle when someone has their sins forgiven and almost before our very eyes we see a transformation from a sinner to a saint, at least a person is trying with God’s help, to be a saint!

VERSE FOR TODAY: They were all completely amazed and praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!” Mark 2:12b.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Lord, please help me not to doubt a forgiven sinner’s new found life, but instead help them grow in you.