Life of Jesus April 26

A Servant Healed

A Roman officer hurried up to Jesus and begged him saying – “Sir, my servant is sick in bed at home, unable to move and suffering terribly.”

“I will go and make him well,” Jesus said. Matthew 8:6, 7.

The officer replied that he was not worthy of a visit from Jesus, but if Jesus would just give the order for his servant to get well, because of being an officer in the army he was used to being under authority and possessing authority, thus trusting people to do as they were told! – When Jesus heard this, he was surprised and said to the people following him, “I tell you, I have never found anyone in Israel with faith like this.” Matthew 8:10.

Jesus was amazed at this Gentile’s faith – Then Jesus said to the officer, “Go home, and what you believe will be done for you.”

And the officer’s servant was healed that very moment. Matthew 8:13.

We must believe as the officer did, we no longer can have Jesus come to our homes in the flesh, so our faith must be strong enough to believe that we will receive when we ask in prayer.

VERSE FOR TODAY: It is clear that God gave those Gentiles the same gift when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 11:17a.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to ask in such a way that I can receive and the faith to know that I will receive.

Life of Jesus April 27

The Parable of the Sower

Jesus often taught in parables, a brief story with spiritual meaning.

A man scattered seeds (the Word of God) some seeds fell on the path (hard hearted people) and the birds (the evil one) snatched the seeds away before they could take root.

Other seeds fell on the thin soil among the rocks, the seeds grew quickly (people quick to accept the Word) but when the sun came out the plants withers (when persecution comes they quickly abandon God.) They have a shallow root.

Other seeds fell among the weeds and the weeds grew up and choked out the new plants. (New Christians trying to be both of the world and Christians.)

Then some seeds fell on good soil (those who heard, accepted and became rooted in the Word) and grew up to produce fruit (Living the fruits of the Spirit an bringing others to Jesus.) From Matthew 13:1-8.

We must also root ourselves deeply in the Word of God, and grow to produce fruit.

VERSE FOR TODAY: And Jesus concluded, “Listen, then, if you have ears!” Matthew 13:9.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to bear fruit for you. May I be deeply rooted in your Word.

Life of Jesus April 28

The New and the Old

-“No one uses a piece of new cloth to patch up an old coat, because the new patch will shrink and tear off some if the old cloth, making an even bigger hole. Nor does anyone pour new wine into used wineskins, because the wine will burst the skins and both the wine and the skins will be ruined. Instead, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins.” Mark 2:21-22.

The Jewish religion was like the worn out wineskins, if the new wine of the gospel would be poured into those worn out skins it could have not been contained. Jesus came with a whole new message, not just a patched up version of the old Law, He came with grace and love.

God did not send Jesus to patch up the Jewish religion, just to have it fall apart again. We must not patch up our lives, but start a whole new life in Christ.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come.  2 Corinthians 5:17.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Please help me, O Lord, to make a whole new life in you!

Life of Jesus April 29

The Parable of the Weeds

A man planted good seeds (Christians) in his field (the world). During the night an enemy (the Devil) came and planted weed seed (hypocrites and false teachers) among the good seeds and they came up together.

A servant recognized the weeds among the good wheat and asked the householder if he should remove the weeds, but the owner said no because sometimes when the weeds are pulled the good plants are pulled too.

So the weeds were left until the harvest, then they are to be gathered first and burned (hypocrites, false teachers cast into the lake of fire.) and the good wheat (Christians) gathered into the barn (heaven). From Matthew 13:24-30.

False Christians are hard to detect, only God can judge and pass correct judgment.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Jesus answered them, “How right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you! You hypocrites, just as he wrote: ‘These people, says God, honour me with their words, but their heart is really far away from me.’” Mark 7:6

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I, O Lord, be sincere in my heart as well as my actions.

Life of Jesus April 30

The Kingdom

-“…It is like this. A man takes a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world, and plants it in the ground. After a while it grows and becomes the biggest of all plants. It puts out such large branches that the birds come and make their nests in the shade.” Mark 4:31-32.

The kingdom of God is like the mustard seed; it started out small but has grown into a worldwide endeavor. OR The mustard seed represents the abnormal growth of the church, leaving a lot of room for Satan to work evil in its many branches.

Jesus told them still and another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like this. A woman takes some yeast and mixes it with forty liters of flour until the whole batch of dough rises.” Matthew 13:33.

A little yeast can make a lot of dough rise; in the kingdom of heaven a few dedicated souls can make a big showing in bringing others to Jesus. OR The leaven represents evil, like in wines and beer, yeast causes fermenting, a little evil can spoil a lot of people.

VERSE FOR TODAY: But many who heard the message believed; and the number of men grew to about 5,000. Acts 4:4.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to always be the good in the kingdom of heaven and not to contribute to evil.

Life of Jesus May 1

Kingdom Parables

“The kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field.” Matthew 13:44.

The treasure is eternal life; we must give up our old life so that we can find the treasure of eternal life.

“Also, the kingdom is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl.” Matthew 13:45, 46.

The pearl represents the body of Christ. The pearl is different from other fine jewels that are cut, the pearl is painfully produced in an oyster, hidden under water. The Church, the body of Christ, was founded after suffering, the oyster has to give his life for the finding of the pearl, like Christ died establishing the Church.

The growth of the Church, like the pearl, is hard to see, because God’s Word is in our hearts and we are mixed in among the nations of the world.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Then God’s people will shine like the sun in their Father’s kingdom. Listen, then, if you have ears! Matthew 13:43.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for your Son who died so that I could become part of Your kingdom.

Life of Jesus May 2

Not Just a Healing

Jesus was in Jerusalem for a religious festival, He passed the pool called Bethesda, where sick laid waiting for the pool to stir so that whoever got in first could be healed.

Jesus saw a man there who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years – so he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” John 5:6b. That seems like a silly question, but maybe this man was afraid of change or responsibility for himself and wouldn’t want to be healed. That wasn’t the case here; he did want to be healed. So – Jesus to him, “Get up, pick you your mat, and walk” John 5:8. The man did as Jesus said, and the day happened to be the Sabbath, the man got in trouble for carrying his mat on the Sabbath. Later, after meeting Jesus in the Temple, he got Jesus in trouble for healing on the Sabbath. When asked about healing on the Sabbath – Jesus answered them,   
“My Father is always working, and I too must work.” John 5:17

By saying that Jesus really made the Jewish authorities mad, they really wanted to kill Jesus, not only for healing on the Sabbath – but he had said that God was his own father and in this way had made himself equal with God. John 5:18b.

We must also always be working for our Heavenly father.

VERSE FOR TODAY: He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God. Philippians 2:6.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I always try to be your humble servant.

Life of Jesus May 3

Five Thousand Fed

Jesus and his disciples left by boat to a quiet place but the crowd just followed them around the lake. Jesus took pity on them because they were so in need of teaching.

Jesus taught them and the hour got late, the people got hungry, the disciples wanted to send the people away to find food on their own – “You yourselves give them something to eat,” answered Jesus.

They asked, “Do you want us to go and spend 200 silver coins on bread in order to feed them?”Mark 6:37. Jesus had the disciples see how much food was among the crowd, they returned with five leaves and two fishes. The disciples divided the people into groups and had them sit on the grass. Jesus took the food, gave thanks to God and had the disciples distribute the food to the people. When the people ate until they were full, the disciples collected twelve baskets of leftover food. The number fed was about five thousand men. From Mark 6:32-44.

We come as we are to Jesus, give Him our all and let him use us as He wills; there will be blessings and then some!

We are like the disciples, distributors of God’s love!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Seeing the miracle that Jesus performed, the people there said, “Surely this is the Prophet who was to come into the world!” John 6:14.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I never turn away from someone that I can help in Your Name, O Lord, thank-you for all the blessings.