June 1

Life of Jesus

Temple Teaching

Jesus went on to teach in parables in the Temple – Read Matthew 21:28-31.

John the Baptist preached the Word, showing everyone the way, the religious leaders of the day showed interest but never really repented. The tax collectors and prostitutes heard and believed.

Today many of us are like the older son, we are hard hearted, but we eventually repent and believe. There many more who say ‘yes’ to Jesus but never give him their all, they still go about in their old ways.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 7:35

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me always to give you my all, O Lord, always putting you first.

June 2

Life of Jesus

Tricked or Not

Jesus so far has been a healer, a prophet, a teacher, a leader, a story teller, a brother, a son and most of all the Messiah! Of course his death was in the days to come, he had just made his entry into Jerusalem, which made the Pharisees afraid and angry at what Jesus was all about! They had nothing to fear from Jesus as far as their leadership in the Temple or community was concerned, because he was not interested in an earthly kingdom.

The Pharisees were always trying to trap Jesus with questions that would show Jesus was against the government, so they could hand him over to the authorities and get him out other their way. On this occasion the Pharisees had bribed some men to ask questions about taxes – Read: Luke 20:21-25.

We too have taxes that we pay our government and money to pay the Lord, Jesus was not tricked and neither should we be when it comes to paying what is owed.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 20:26.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to know the answers but also to understand the meaning of those answers.

June 3

Life of Jesus

The Plot Unfolds

With all the teaching, healing and all the people that had become followers of Jesus, the Chief Priests and elders were very determined to kill Jesus. They had gathered trying to figure out a quiet way to kill Jesus, because they were afraid of the large crowd that had gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover.

Read Luke 22:3. Then Judas- Read Matthew 26:14b-16.

The ground work was laid for the betrayal of Jesus.

Stop for a minute and think in terms of American currency, Judas betrayed Jesus for an amount in nickels of $1.50 to $30.00 in silver dollars. What a small value Satan puts on life, but to God our eternal life is more precious than silver or gold.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Peter 1:18-19

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for the priceless value you have put on my life, because of your life you gave for me.

June 4

Life of Jesus

Passover Preparations

The Passover was and is one of the most important events on the Jewish calendar; the very first Passover was when the angel “passed over” the Israelite homes that had the blood of the lamb on the doorposts in Egypt.

Jesus and his disciples were looking forward to getting ready for the Passover – Read Mark 14:13-15. The disciples went into the city and found everything just as Jesus had told them. They spent the rest of the day preparing the Passover meal. In the evening Jesus and the rest of the disciples arrived at the Upper Room.

Jesus knew this would be his last Passover, he also knew his blood would be shed, like a lamb, the Lamb of God.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Corinthians 5:8

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, not to Passover your grace and truth for sin and hate.

June 5

Life of Jesus

Served and Being Served

After the disciples were seated – Read John 13:3-5.

All went well until–Read John 13:6-9.

Jesus went on to tell them why he had washed their feet – John 13:14-15.

Jesus came to serve, as well as to be served; the disciples were given this example so when Jesus left they would go on to be teachers as well as servants to others. We, too, must serve others in this way to be servants of the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Matthew 25:40b.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to serve you, O Lord, in every way that I can, help me to see the needs of others.

June 6

Life of Jesus

The Passover Meal

Jesus replaced his outer garment and returned to the table to eat the Passover meal.

Jesus was troubled by the fact that one of the disciples would betray him – Read: John 13:21b. The disciples were troubled by the statement and asked each in turn – Read Matthew 26:22b. Jesus gave them the clue to the betrayer – Read: Matthew 26:23. As we know Judas Iscariot was the one who dipped his bread with Jesus and as soon as the act was committed Jesus sent Judas away. The disciples didn’t understand what all this was about; they thought possibly Jesus had sent Judas to buy food since he was the one who carried the money bag.

We have the stage set on the last supper, Jesus and all of the disciples at first dining together on the Passover Meal. There were other topics of discussion, but the main was on the betrayal of Jesus and who was going to do it.

VERSE FOR TODAY: John 13:18.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to keep my heart strong in the faith so Satan cannot enter and turn me against you.

June 7

Life of Jesus

The Lord’s Supper

The Passover Meal was over, Judas had left, and Jesus now institutes the Lord’s Supper or Communion as it is known as today – Read Luke 22:19-20

His body was given for us, for our sins, so we can have eternal life and the “fruit of the vine” being the blood of Jesus spilled for the remission of our sins.

Now, today, the Lord’s Supper is our way of personally communing with Jesus. The loaf and the cup are symbols of Jesus’ body and shed blood, what a vivid reminder all these hundreds of years later of the suffering and dying our Savior did for us.

The next time you come to the Communion table try to visualize and really remember the death of Christ and his resurrection. If you can do this the idea of Communion will take on a whole new and more meaningful relationship between you and your Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Corinthians 11:28, 29

PRAYER THOUGHT: Let me, O Lord commune with you in the right spirit of the occasion, never forgetting the real meaning of Communion.

June 8

Life of Jesus

Jesus Teaches

After the Passover meal and the Lord’s Supper, Jesus gave the disciples insight and promises:

* Jesus promised to return again. - Read John 14:3
* Jesus told them how to get to the Father – Read John 14:6
* Jesus also promised the Holy Spirit – Read John 14:16.
* Jesus told them that believers would have the Holy Spirit but the world would not Read: John 14:22, 23.
* Jesus had a lot to tell them but they would not have understood – Read John 16:13

We can also receive the promises of Jesus, because they are for whoever believes!

VERSE FOR TODAY: John 14:27

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for your peace of heart and all your promises that we know will and have come to pass through loving and believing.