June 17

Life of Jesus

Jesus Before Pilate

Jerusalem was at that time under Roman rule, so when the Jewish Council found Jesus guilty, they couldn’t sentence Him to death, that had to be done by the Roman governor. The next step then was to take Jesus before Pilate, the Roman governor of Jerusalem.

Pilate’s first question – Matthew 27:11.

There were all kinds of accusations being thrown around, Jesus did not address any of them and that was surprising to Pilate – Read: Matthew 27:13b, 14.

There was a choice to be made: Read: Matthew 27:15-25. We see that the crowd chose to have Pilate release Barabbas, a notorious prisoner and have Jesus crucified. Pilate was none too anxious to have Jesus crucified and even washed his hands, signifying they, the crowd, not he was responsible for putting an innocent man to death.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Matthew 27:26.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to accept my responsibility in your death and to accept any suffering that may come my way today in your name.

June 18

Life of Jesus

A Traitor’s Death

Now Judas Iscariot was still about town – Read: Matthew 27:3-5.

John records that Satan entered Judas – Read: John 13:27. Satan can cause us to do many things if we let sin control us, Judas had a desire for money and he was offered and took thirty pieces, he “returned” the money but that did not make him innocent of the crime. When he realized his sin he hung himself.

When we are “caught in the act” of our sins, but if we believe in Jesus and repent of our sins, confessing them to Jesus, we will be forgiven.

The chief priests had some answering to the law as well – Read: Matthew 27:6-10. They bought a field to fulfill a prophesy, an easy answer, to an embarrassing situation!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Zechariah 11:12, 13

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord to always know that you are with me to strengthen and forgive me. Let me never forget to always give you the praise and the glory for everything.

June 19

Life of Jesus

Jesus is Crucified

Jesus was tried and sentenced to be crucified.

The gospels all report the crucifixion of Jesus, all are basically the same but all are a little different – finish the bullets from Matthew 27:32-37:

* Cross carrier –
* Destination –
* The drink –
* The soldier’s activities –
* The sign above his head –
* The Promise to one of those crucified with Him – (See Luke 23:39-43)

The question the criminal asked – “Don’t you fear God?” in Luke 23:40 – Can be asked of us today, we must also fear God and realize who God is and we too will have a place in Paradise wit Jesus.

VERSE FOR TODAY: John 19:26, 27

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, have me to remember your agonizing death every day, not just on Good Friday, but to think of you and all the pain you went through for ME!

June 20

Life of Jesus

Jesus Died

The hours of darkness – Read: Mark 15:33.

God the only time God turned away from Jesus – Read: Mark 15:34

Jesus died – Read: Mark 15:37.

What happened to the Temple curtain – Read: Mark 15:38.

The Jewish custom that Friday was the day of Preparation for the Sabbath in which no work could be done the body of Jesus would need to be buried quickly – Read: Mark 15:42-47.

The tomb was secure with a big stone over the entrance, all would be fine until Sunday, when the women could return and anoint the body of Jesus.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Matthew 27:65.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, put your love in my heart and seal the entrance for all eternity.

June 21

Life of Jesus

Suffering and Humility

We have hardly touched on the pain, suffering and humility Jesus experienced:

* The manner in which they arrested Jesus - Read: Matthew 26:50b
* After the Sanhedrin sentenced Jesus – Read: Matthew 26:67
* That wasn’t enough, after Pilate’s flogging – Read Matthew 27:27-31.
* Insults from the crowd – Read: Matthew 27:39-43.
* Those crucified with him – Read: Matthew 27:44.

Words cannot describe the pain and agony that Jesus suffered up to and after the nails were driven into his hands and feet. ALL of this pain and suffering was so that we could have forgiveness and eternal life.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Mark 15:20

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, I know I can never repay you for your pain and suffering, just help me to love and trust you.

June 22

Life of Jesus

The Empty Tomb

Sunday Morning, the women went to anoint the body of Jesus – their concern was that they would not be able to roll the stone away –Read Matthew 28:2

The angel spoke to the women - Matthew 28:5-7.

The women left and they met Jesus - Read: Matthew 28:8-10.

Now the guards had some explaining to do – Read: Matthew 28:11

The chief priests cooked up a story and paid the soldiers off – Read: Matthew 28:12-15

The guards had their money and their story but we know that Jesus, as the angel reported: Jesus AROSE from the dead – The Savior Lives!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 24:7.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Praise the Lord! We serve a risen Savior!

June 23

Life of Jesus

On the Road to Emmaus

This is an event only recorded in Luke – Read: Luke 24:13-34.

There are some interesting things here – verse 13 says “two of them”, indicates that they were followers of Jesus. They indicated that they were hoping he had come to redeem Israel, what form this redemption would take would most likely be from the Roman rule. Their discussion was accented by input of Jesus, himself, although they didn’t know it was him. When Jesus discovered they were reluctant to say he was the Messiah, he explained the whole Old Testament (verse 27) to them!

Jesus acted as if he was continuing on, they INVITED him to stay with them and when he broke the bread they knew who he was. Jesus will just continue on through our lives too if we don’t INVITE him into our hearts and life.

When they knew who he was they returned to Jerusalem to tell everyone what had happened, when we accept Jesus into our hearts we also need to tell of how Jesus has come into our lives!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 24:35.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to see your works today when they happen before me!

June 24

Life of Jesus

Appeared in Jerusalem

Now the disciples were not a very brave group, and who could blame them after how Jesus was tried, condemned, crucified and buried so quickly. The report of the two that saw Jesus on the road sparked new enthusiasm for the possibility of Jesus being alive….

When – Read: Luke 24:36b-48. Jesus opened their minds to the scriptures.

As the words to a hymn goes “Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth Thou hast for me; Open my ears that I may hear…. But most important …. Open my heart!

We must approach the Word of God with an open mind and heart so we can know and accept the truth and love Jesus has for us.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 24:45

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to always keep my mind and hart open to accept your love and will for me.