June 9

Life of Jesus

The True Vine

 In order to bear fruit we must attach ourselves to Jesus the true vine. Jesus is that vine, we are the branches and God is the gardener – Read: John 15:5

 If we do not remain in Jesus, our branch becomes fruitless, the gardener will cut us out and be cast into the fire.

 How do we remain in Jesus and bear fruit? Read John 15:10, 12.

 The grand thing is Jesus chooses us we do not choose Him – Read: John 15:16.

 By remaining in Jesus’ love so you don’t get “pruned out” for not bearing fruit.

VERSE FOR TODAY: John 15:9

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, help me to bear fruit for you, by remaining in your love and obeying your command to love one another.

June 10

Life in Jesus

Prayer for the Disciples

 When Jesus was through teaching, he prayed to heaven – Read John 17:1. God has given us the glory of His love so we can glorify Him.

 Jesus had given the message to the disciples and they received it, now Jesus was praying for them: Read: John 17:9.

 Jesus knew he was leaving them so he prayed for the safety of the disciples – Read: John 17:11 & 15.

 Jesus not only prayed for the disciples but for all who believe – Read: John 17:21.

 Jesus’ prayer is our goal today, that we can be one in Him so the world will see HIM in us and believe.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Peter 1:5

PRAYER THOUGHT: May your glory shine through me, O Lord, into this sin darkened world.

June 11

Life of Jesus

Peter’s Denial Predicted

 Now when all was finished, the Passover meal, the Lord’s Supper, teaching and praying for the disciples – Read Matthew 26:30.

 On the way to the Mount of Olives Jesus was speaking about how the disciples would all run away and leave him – Read: Matthew 26:31b.

 Peter being both bold and loyal to Jesus – Read: Matthew 26:33-35a.

 We, like Peter, are quick to pledge our steadfast love to Jesus, but when the going gets rough, we tend to forget our promise and take the easy way out. We must never make promises to anyone especially to Jesus that we do not or cannot keep.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 22:32.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, that my faith in you will not fail, but if it does, help me to return to you with faith stronger than before.

June 12

Life of Jesus

The Last Prayer

 Jesus and the eleven disciples arrived at the Garden of Gethsemane, on the Mount of Olives. He had the disciples sit down to wait, except for Peter, James and John went farther into the Garden with Jesus – Read: Matthew 26:38.

 Jesus went on a little way farther – Read: Matthew 26:39. We must remember that Jesus was human, although from his divine being he knew what was to pass, his human nature did not want to suffer. In his prayers Jesus asked that the Father’s will be done and not his own.

 His prayers were difficult - Read: Luke 22:43, 44.

 When Jesus returned to find the disciples sleeping, the first time he woke Peter up and said: Read: Matthew 26:40b-41.

 Even through his suffering, Jesus was still concerned with the welfare of his disciples, which includes us; we must also watch and pray that we do not fall into temptation.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Mark 14:41b.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, not to fall into temptation, but to always be mindful of your suffering and concern for me.

June 13

Life of Jesus

The Betrayal and Arrest

 Now Judas knew where to find Jesus and the other disciples, because they often met in the Garden of Gethsemane.

 Jesus was waking up the disciples – Read: Luke 22:47, 48.

 When the disciples saw this group of armed soldier, they got all stirred up for the safety of their Master – Read: John 18:10.

 Jesus did not put up with this kind of behavior – Read: Luke 22:51 – This must have really raised some awe and amazement among these people, to see this man’s ear healed before their very eyes. Nevertheless it did not turn them away from the reason there were there, to arrest Jesus.

 Jesus had some questions for the arresting party – Read: Luke 22:52, 53.

 They took Jesus to the house of the High Priest; the hour had come for Jesus to start his journey to the cross.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Mark 14:44

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to be a true disciple in my heart not just in name only.

June 14

Special Day

Symbols

 Flag Day although not a national holiday, it is a day of commemoration of the institution of the flag, which has become a symbol internationally representing America. Other symbols of America are the Statue of Liberty, the Liberty Bell and the Eagle.

 There are also symbols of the church, the dove represents the Holy Spirit and peace, the cross reminds us of the death of our Lord, and each denomination seems to have their own logos as well. Just as our flag reminds us of the great country we love so much, the church symbols are there to remind us of Jesus and all he has done for us. We are not to worship the symbols of the body of Christ but Jesus himself.

 Way back from the time God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, we have been told not to anything before God – Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3 KJV. God is a jealous God – Read: Exodus 20:5.

 We must be careful not to worship the symbols but to use them strictly as reminders of our Lord and his sacrifice for us.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Corinthians 8:4

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, never to put anything before you or the worship of you.

June 15

Life of Jesus

Peter’s Denial

 Peter was the only disciple mentioned that followed Jesus to the house of the High Priest, the rest of disciples must have scattered into the night.

 There was a fire lit in the center of the courtyard, Peter joined those already sitting there – Read: Luke 22:54-61a:

* How many times did Peter deny Jesus?
* What was one thing that gave Peter away?
* What was the sound that clued the end of the denial?
* What did Jesus do?
* What was Peter’s reaction?

 This had to be a crushing blow to Peter the strong and loyal disciple of Jesus, the first disciple to really know that Jesus was the Messiah.

 We all have at times denied being a Christian, if not out and out denied it we have behaved in a manner not becoming a Christian, gone along with the crowd, when being a Christian would have been a great witness.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 22:61b.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, never to deny Thee, O Lord, and if I do, have me remember to seek forgiveness.

June 16

Life of Jesus

On Trial

 The first trial of Jesus was before the High Priest and the Council. These were men of the Temple, chief priests, elders and teachers had prearranged quite a “trial”:

 They had false witnesses – Read: Mark 14:57, 58. This must have been quite confusing with the disagreeing stories.

 The high priest took over – Read: Mark 14:60-61a.

 Then came the question to bring this circus to an end – Read: Mark 14:61b.

 And Jesus answered – Read: Mark 14:62.

 What was the conclusion to this “trial”? Read Mark 14:63-64.

 We see here how the leaders of the Temple reacted to the answer that Jesus gave to the chief priest, they did not believe Jesus that Jesus was the Messiah, if these learned men of the day could not see that Jesus was who he was, it had to be difficult for the common people to believe. This council condemned him to death for blasphemy.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Mark 14:65

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, as a common person to always know and love you.