Life of Jesus June 13

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, when Judas walked up with a group of Roman soldiers, Judas went up and kissed Jesus – But Jesus said, “Judas is it with a kiss that you betray the Son of Man?” Luke 22:48.

When the disciples saw this group of armed soldiers, they got all stirred up for the safety of their Master, Peter pulled a sword and cut off the right ear of the High Priest’s slave – But Jesus said, “Enough of this!” He touched the man’s ear and healed him. Luke 22:51. This must have really raised 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 they were there, to arrest Jesus.

What Jesus couldn’t understand was, why they had come so well armed to arrest him, after all the Temple guards were among the group, who had seen Jesus every day, and had never made a move to arrest him – “…But this is your hour to act, when the power of darkness rules.” Luke 22:53b.

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

VERSE FOR TODAY: The traitor had given the crowd a signal: “The man I kiss is the one you want. Arrest him and take him away under guard.” Mark 14:44

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

Flag Day June 14

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 Bald Eagle.

There are also symbols of the church, the dove represents peace, the Holy Spirit also came down in the form of a dove at the baptism of Jesus, the cross reminds us of Jesus and there have been many more symbols added through the years. Just as the flag reminds us of the great country we love, 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 Church but Jesus himself.

Way back from the time God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, we have been told not to put anything before God – Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3. KJV. Do not bow down to any idols or worship it because I am the Lord your God and I tolerate no rivals. Exodus 20:5a.

So 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: So then, about eating the food offered to idols: we know that an idol stands for something that does not really exist; we know that there is only one God. 1 Corinthians 8:4.

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

Life of Jesus June 15

Peter’s Denial

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

There was a fire lit in the center of the courtyard, Peter joined those already sitting there – When one of the servant-girls saw him sitting there at the fore, she looked straight at him and said, “This man too was with Jesus!”

But Peter denied it, “Woman, I don’t even know him!” Luke 22:56-57.

Later a man noticed that Peter had been with Jesus and once more Peter denied it.

About an hour later another man insisted that Peter was with Jesus, because he was Galilean, like Jesus, - But Peter answered, “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about!”

At once, while he was still speaking a cock crowed. Luke 22:60.

Jesus turned around and looked at Peter and Peter remembered what Jesus had said about him denying Peter and cock crowing.

-Peter went out and wept bitterly. Luke 22:62. This had to be very crushing blow for Peter, the strong and loyal disciple of Jesus, the first disciple to really know that Jesus was the Messiah.

We too have had times of denial, maybe not out and out denial but times we should have responded as a better Christian witness.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “Before the cock crows tonight, you will say three times that you do not know me.” Luke 22:61b.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me not to deny thee, O Lord, but to witness for you.

Life of Jesus June 16

On Trial

The first trial of Jesus was before the High Priest and the Council. These men of the Temple, elders, scribes and Chief Priests had prearranged quite a “trial.”

First of all – some men stood up and told this lie against Jesus: We hear him say, ‘I will tear down this Temple which men have made, and after three days I will build one that is not made of men.’” Mark 14:57, 58. They could not get together on their story.

Then the High Priest took over the questioning and asked Jesus – “Have you no answer to the accusation they bring against you?” Mark 14:60b.

Jesus made not a sound in defense of himself.

-Again the High Priest questioned him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed God?”

“I am,” answered Jesus, “and you will all see the Son of Man seated on the right of the Almighty and coming with the clouds of heaven!” Mark 14:61b, 62.

That was enough for the council, they were convinced that what Jesus had said was blasphemy and voted to put Jesus to death.

We see here the highest religious council of that day could not believe that Jesus was who he said he was, they all voted against Jesus.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Some of them began to spit on Jesus, and they blindfolded him and hit him. “Guess who hit you!” they said. And the guards took him and slapped him. Mark 14:65.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to always be humbled by the way that you took the abuse of the High Priest and council.

Life of Jesus June 17

Jesus Before Pilate

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

Pilate’s first question- “Are you the King of the Jews?”

“So you say,” answered Jesus. Matthew 27:11b.

The Chief Priest and elders were accusing Jesus of all sorts of things, but Jesus would not answer to these accusations. This surprised Pilate so he asked Jesus – “Don’t you hear all these things accuse you of?”

But Jesus refused to answer a single word. Matthew 27:13b, 14a.

During Passover time the tradition was that a Roman governor could pardon a prisoner, since Pilate could find no fault in Jesus, he wanted to set Jesus free – But Pilate asked the crowd, “Which one of these two do you want me to set free for you?”

“Barabbas!” they answered. Matthew 27:21.

The crowd may have broken out into a riot if Pilate wouldn’t have given in and handed Jesus over to be crucified. Pilate washed his hands in front of the crowd to signify that he would not take the responsibility of Jesus’ death but it was on the crowd.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Then Pilate set Barabbas free for them; and after he had Jesus whipped, he handed him over to be crucified. 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.

Life of Jesus June 18

A Traitor’s Death

Now Judas Iscariot, disciple turned traitor, was still around Jerusalem and when he learnt that Jesus had been condemned to death, he tried to give back the thirty pieces of silver and repent of the deed he had done. The chief priests and scribes had no sympathy for Judas. – Judas threw the coins down in the Temple and left; then he went off and hanged himself. Matthew 27:5.

Seeing the money on the Temple floor, the Chief priests picked up the money realizing it was “blood money” decided to buy Potter’s Field for a cemetery for foreigners - That is why that field is call “Field of Blood” to this very day. Matthew 27: 8.

As we learned earlier Satan entered Judas, Satan can murder and destroy, and he accomplished both these traits in Judas. Satan caused Judas to betray Jesus, that made Judas a murderer, and that destroyed Judas when he realized he had been caught in the act. We must not be caught in Satan’s trap of sin.

We are always “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.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I said to them, “If you are willing, give me my wages. But if not keep them.” So they paid me thirty pieces of silver as my wages. Zechariah 11:12

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.

Life of Jesus June 19

Jesus is Crucified

Jesus was tried and sentenced to be crucified.

The soldiers took Jesus, forcing Simon of Cyrene to carry the heavy cross for Jesus to Golgotha, which means “The Skull” where Jesus was to be crucified.

When they arrived at the hill, the soldiers hung Jesus on the cross, along with two criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Jesus said of those who had him crucified – “Forgive them, Father! They don’t know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34.

Now the criminals hanging with Jesus spoke, one of them insulted Jesus but the other rebuked him saying – “Don’t you fear God? You received the same sentence he did.” Luke 23:40b. He also went on to say that they deserved what they the criminals received but Jesus was innocent, then Jesus promised him a place in Paradise with him.

We must also fear God and realize who God is and we too will receive a place in Paradise with Jesus if we believe and accept Jesus as our personal Savior.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, “He is your Son.” Then he said to the disciple, “She is your mother.” From that time the disciple took her to live in his home. 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!

Life of Jesus June 20

Jesus Died

The crucifixion began about nine o’clock on Friday morning. At noon an uncommon darkness fell over the land, which lasted for three hours.

At three o’clock the darkness lifted, Jesus cried – “My God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Mark 15:34b. KJV.

Some of the bystanders thought Jesus was calling on someone to save him, possibly Elijah.

-With a loud cry Jesus died. Mark 15:37. At his moment the curtain in the Temple separating the regular people from God, was torn from top to bottom.

When the soldiers came around to break the legs of the crucified men, they did not break Jesus’ legs because he was already dead, breaking the legs usually brought death on faster. One soldier did however pierce the side of Jesus.

The bodies were taken down from the crosses and prepared for burial because the Sabbath was near. Joseph of Arimathea, a secret follower of Jesus, asked Pilate for Jesus’ body and received it for burial. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus’ and put it in a cave-like tomb. There was a large stone placed over the entrance, which was sealed and guards posted.

VERSE FOR TODAY: So they left and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and leaving the guard to watch. Matthew 27:66

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