Life of Jesus June 21

Suffering and Humility

 We have hardly touched on the pain, suffering and humility Jesus experienced after his arrest.

 The manner in which the Temple guards and soldiers arrested Jesus, with weapons and clubs, which was completely against the nature of Jesus. They bound him and took him to the High Priest, as if he was a common criminal.

 After the High Priest was done with Jesus – then they spat in his face and beat him; and those who slapped him said, “Prophesy for us Messiah! Guess who hit you!” Matthew 26: 67, 68.

 Jesus was taken in chains to Pilate, who had him whipped when he was through with his questions.

 Before the soldiers took Jesus to be crucified, they mocked him by taking his regular robe and replacing it with a scarlet robe and forced a crown of thorns on his head. Then mocked him about being the King of the Jews, spat on him and hit him.

 At the cross the soldiers also gambled for Jesus’ robe. The passersby also hurled insults at Jesus, jeering at him to save himself.

 Words cannot describe the pain and agony that Jesus suffered up to and after the nails were driven into his hands and feet. All this pain was suffered so WE can have eternal life.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…Now come down from the cross and save yourself!” Mark 15:30.

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

Life of Jesus June 22

The Empty Tomb

 On Sunday, the day after the Jewish Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and some other women followers of Jesus, arrived at the tomb of Jesus very early in the morning, to anoint his body. They were worried on the way that they would not be able to roll the very large stone from the entrance of the tomb, but when they arrived the stone was already rolled away.

 An angel spoke to them – “You must not be afraid,” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has been raised, just as he said. Come here and see the place where he was lying.” Matthew 28:5, 6. He told Mary to go and tell the disciples that Jesus had risen and that he would meet them in Galilee.

 -So they left the tomb in a hurry, afraid yet filled with joy and ran to tell his disciples. Matthew 28:8.

 When joy of the risen Savior enters your heart, you must go filled with excitement and love to tell others.

 The guards that were on duty were given money by the Chief Priests and elders to say if questioned that the body of Jesus was stolen so the common person of Jerusalem would not hear about the resurrection.

 What a wonderful thing for us believers, our Lord Lives!

VERSE FOR TODAY: ‘The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful men, be crucified, and three days later rise to life.’ Luke 24:7.

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

Life of Jesus June 23

On the Road to Emmaus

 On the same day Jesus arose from the dead, two of Jesus’ followers left Jerusalem and were on their way to Emmaus. They were discussing the events that had just happened during the Passover. Jesus walked up to them – they saw him, but somehow did not recognize him. Jesus said to them, “What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?”

 They stood still, with sad faces. Luke 24:16, 17.

 Jesus inquired as to what happening, just to see what they had to say, they went on to tell Jesus all the things that had just happened to him. They told how Jesus was sentences to death, crucified and found missing from the tomb. How the angel had told the women that Jesus had arisen.

 -Then Jesus said to them, “How foolish you are, how slow you are to believe everything the prophets said! Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and then to enter his glory?” Luke 24:25, 26.

 They invited Jesus to stay with them, so he ate with them, but as soon as they realized he was Jesus, he left them. They went back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples they had seen Jesus.

 They invited Jesus to stay; we too have to invite Jesus into our hearts and to stay with us day by day.

VERSE FOR TODAY: The two then explained to them what had happened on the road, and how they recognized the Lord when he broke the bread. Luke 24:35.

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

Life of Jesus June 24

Appeared in Jerusalem

 Most of the disciples were together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the authorities, they were against Jesus and his followers. The disciples let the two men who had seen Jesus on the road to Emmaus in because they were telling of seeing Jesus, as they were speaking Jesus appeared in the room.

 At first the disciples thought they were seeing a ghost! – But he said to them, “Why are you alarmed? Why are these doubts coming up in your minds?” Luke 24:38. – After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. John 20:20.

 Jesus went on to tell the disciples how he had fulfilled the scriptures – and said to them, “This is what is written: the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later…” Luke 24:46. Jesus opened their minds so they could understand all these things.

 As the words of the hymn go –“Open my eyes that I my see glimpses of truth Thou has for me; Open my ears that I may hear… but most important …Open my heart, and let me prepare Love with Thy children thus to share.

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

VERSE FOR TODAY: Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. Luke 24:45.

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

Life of Jesus June 25

Thomas the Doubter

 Thomas was not with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them the first time. – So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

 Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” John 20:25.

 Don’t we sound like Thomas sometimes? You show me and I’ll believe.

 About a week later, Thomas got his proof. He was with the disciples behind locked doors, when Jesus appeared to them – Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands; then stretch out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting and believe!” John 20:26b, 27.

 Thomas saw and believed! – Jesus said to him, “Do you believe because you see me? How happy for those who believe without seeing me!” John 20:29

 How happy for us because we believe in Jesus without seeing Him. That is the purpose of the Bible, we can read, and believe in Jesus. We have the accounts of eye witnesses who walked and talked with Jesus!

VERSE FOR TODAY: But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life. John 20:31.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me never to doubt like Thomas, but to always put my faith and trust in You, O Lord.

Life of Jesus June 26

The Stranger on the Beach

 Seven of Jesus’ disciples had gathered at Lake Tiberias. Peter decided to go fishing; the other disciples went with him. They fished all night but did not catch any fish.

 The day was dawning when Jesus appeared on the lake shore – Then he asked them, “Young men, haven’t you caught anything?”

 “Not a thing,” they answered. John 21:5

 Jesus told them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat, they caught so many fish they couldn’t pull the net back in, but even under the weight the net did not tear.

 When Peter and John realized who this stranger on the beach was, Peter got out of the boat and walked to shore. When the boats got close enough, Peter went aboard the boat and drug the net full of fish ashore.

 Jesus and the disciples ate once again together, on this third appearance of Jesus to the disciples.

 We, too, can do anything if our hearts are right with God. If we listen to what Jesus tells us to do, everything is possible.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Jesus said to them, “Come and eat.” None of the disciples dared ask him “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. John 21:12.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to keep my heart right with you and listen to what you tell me to do, because I know I can do nothing without you.

Life of Jesus June 27

Last Instructions

 Jesus instructed the remaining eleven disciples to meet him on a hill in Galilee. The disciples went there, and when they saw Jesus they worshipped him.

 -Jesus drew near and said to them “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20.

 There were the last instructions Jesus gave his disciples, not only instructions but also a promise to go with them.

 If we are believers and followers of Jesus, these instructions and promise also pertain to us. We are to go everywhere and tell everyone about Jesus and through the Holy Spirit; Jesus will be with us forever. We must not only tell them about Jesus but baptize them and give them a foundation for faith and love.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, thank-you for being with me as I go about witnessing about you. Help me, O Lord, to be an effective witness for you everywhere I go.

Life of Jesus June 28

The Ascension

 Jesus walked and talked with the disciples for forty days after his resurrection, proving that he was definitely alive.

 On the day of the ascension, Jesus and the disciples were to meet on a hill in Galilee and Jesus told them, -“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift I told you about, the gift my Father promised. John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:4b, 5.

 Jesus went on to tell them about preaching to others after they receive the Holy Spirit – After saying this, he was taken up to heaven as they watched him, and a cloud hid him for their sight. Acts 1:9.

 The disciples just stood and stared at the sky, as we would if the person we had been talking to suddenly started to rise to heaven. As they were gazing to heaven two angels appeared to them, - and said, “Galileans, why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him to heaven.” Acts 1:11. What a wonderful promise!

 The disciples went back to Jerusalem to wait for the gift Jesus had promised.

VERSE FOR TODAY: As he was blessing them, he departed from them and was taken up into heaven. Luke 24:51

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to wait upon your promises and to know through faith that they will come to pass.