Life of Jesus June 5

Serving and Being Served

After the disciples were seated – Jesus knew that the Father had given him complete power; he knew that he had come from God and was going to God. So he rose from the table took off his outer garment, and tied a towel round his waist. Then he poured some water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and dry them with the towel round his waist. John 13:3-5.

All went good until Jesus came to Simon Peter, who refused to let Jesus wash his feet, but when Jesus said that Peter could no longer be his disciple if he would not let Jesus wash his feet. Then Peter wanted a whole bath, but Jesus said that Peter was clean except for his feet.

Jesus went on to tell them why he had washed their feet – “…I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then should wash one another’s feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you…” 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 to be teachers as well as servants to others. We, too, must serve others in this way be servants of the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: ‘I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these members of my family, you did it for me!’ Matthew 25:40b.

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

Life of Jesus June 6

The Passover Meal

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

Jesus knew but yet was deeply troubled by the fact that one of his disciples would betray him, so he – declared openly, “I am telling you the truth: one of you is going to betray me.” John 13:21b. The disciples didn’t know what to think of the statement, so each in turn asked – “Surely Lord, you don’t mean me?” Matthew 26:22b.

Jesus answered, “One who dips his bread in the dish with me will betray me.” 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.

So we have the stage set for the Last Supper, Jesus and the disciples dining together at the Passover meal. There were other topics of discussion, but the main one was the betrayal of Jesus and who was going to do it.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “I am not talking about all of you; I know those I have chosen. But the scripture must come true that says, ‘The man who shared my food turned against me.’…” 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.

Life of Jesus June 7

The Lord’s Supper

The Passover Meal was over, Judas had left, Jesus now institutes the Lord’s Supper, or Communion as it is called by some today –

Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.” In the same way, he gave them the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is God’s new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you.” 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 blood, what a vivid reminder all these hundreds of years later of the suffering and dying of our Saviour.

Your next time at the Communion table try and 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: So then everyone should examine himself first, and then eat the bread and drink from the cup.

1 Corinthians 11:28

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

Life of Jesus June 8

Jesus Teaches

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

Jesus promised to return again – “…And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am…” John 14:3.

Jesus told them how to get to the Father- “I am the way the truth and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me.” John 14:6.

Jesus also promised the Holy Spirit – “… I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever…” John 14:16. Jesus went on to tell them that believers would have the Holy Spirit but the world wouldn’t – Judas (not Iscariot) said, “Lord, how can it be that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?”

Jesus answered him, “Whoever loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and my Father will come to him and life with him.” John 14:22, 23.

Jesus had a lot to tell them but they would not have understood – “…When, however, the Spirit comes, who reveals the truth about God, he will lead you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own authority, but he will speak of what he hears, and will tell you of things to come…” John 16:13.

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

VERSE FOR TODAY: “Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid…” 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.

Life of Jesus June 9

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.

We must remain in Jesus – “I am the vine, and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me…” John 15:5.

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

How can we remain in Jesus and bear fruit? – “…If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you…” John15:10&12. We know that Jesus loved us enough to give his life for us – The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them. John 15:13.

The grand thing is Jesus chose us not we him – “…You did not chose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name…” John 15:16.

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

VERSE FOR TODAY: “… I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love…” 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.

Life of Jesus June 10

Prayer for Disciples

When Jesus was through teaching, he prayed to heaven – “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your Son, so that the Son may give glory to you…” John 17:1b. God has given us the glory of his love so we can glorify Him.

Jesus has given the message to the disciples and they received it, now Jesus was praying for them – “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those you gave me, for they belong to you…” John 17:9

Jesus knew he was leaving them so he prayed for the safety of the disciples –“…And now I am coming to you; I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world. Holy Father! Keep them safe by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one just as you and I are one. I do not ask you to take them out of the world, but I do ask you to keep them safe from the Evil One…” John17:11 & 15.

Jesus did not only pray for his disciples, but for all who believe – “…I pray that they may all be one. Father! May they be in us, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be one, so the world will believe that you sent me…” 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: They are for you, who through faith are kept safe by God’s power for the salvation which is ready to be revealed at the end of time. 1 Peter 1:5

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

Life of Jesus June 11

Peter’s Denial Predicted

Now when all was finished, the Passover meal, the Lord’s Supper, teaching and praying for the disciples – they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. Matthew 26:30

On the way Jesus was speaking about how the disciples would all run away and leave him – for the scripture says – ‘God will kill the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will scattered.’ Matthew 26:31b.

Peter being both bold and loyal to Jesus - spoke up and said to Jesus, “I will never leave you, even though all the rest do!”

Jesus said to Peter, “I tell you that before the cock crows tonight, you will say three times that you do not know me.”

Peter answered, “I will never say that, even if I have to die with you!” 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: “…But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith will not fail. And when you turn back to me, you must strengthen your brothers.” 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.

Life of Jesus June 12

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 – and he said to them, “The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Matthew 26:38.

Jesus went on a little way – threw himself face downwards on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it be possible, take this cup of suffering away from me! Yet not what I want, but what you want.” Matthew 26:39. We must remember that Jesus was human, although from his divine being he knew what 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.

-An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. In great anguish he prayed even more fervently; his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. Luke 22:43, 44.

The first time Jesus returned to find the disciples sleeping he woke Peter up and said – “How is it that you three were not able to keep watch with me even for one hour? Keep watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” 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: “…Look, the son of Man is now being handed over to the power of sinners.” Mark 14:41b.

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