May 1

Life of Jesus

Kingdom Parables

The treasure: Read: Matthew 13:44.

The treasure is eternal life; we must give up our old life so that we can find the treasure of eternal life.

The pearl: Read: Matthew 13:45, 46.

The pearl represents the body of Christ. The pearl is different from other fine jewels that are cut; the pearl is painfully produced in an oyster, hidden under water. The Church, the body of Christ, was founded after suffering, the oyster has to give his life for the finding of the pearl, like Christ died establishing the Church.

The growth of the Church, like the pearl, is hard to see, because God’s Word is in our hearts and we are mixed in among the nations of the world.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Matthew 13:43.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for your Son who died so that I could become part of your kingdom.

May 2

Life of Jesus

Not Just a Healing

Jesus was in Jerusalem for a religious festival, He passed the pool called Bethesda, where sick layed waiting for the pool to stir so that whoever got in first could be healed.

Jesus saw a man there who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years – Read: John 5:6b. That seems like a silly question, but maybe this man was afraid of change or responsibility for himself and wouldn’t want to be healed. That wasn’t the case here; he did want to be healed.– Read: John 5:8. The man did as Jesus said, and the day happened to be the Sabbath, the man got in trouble for carrying his mat on the Sabbath. Later, after meeting Jesus in the Temple, he got Jesus in trouble for healing on the Sabbath. When asked about healing on the Sabbath – Read: John 5:17

By saying that Jesus really made the Jewish authorities mad, they really wanted to kill Jesus, not only for healing on the Sabbath – Read: John 5:18b.

We must also always be working for our Heavenly father.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Philippians 2:6, 7.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I always follow your example and be your humble servant. Thank-you for your example, O Lord.

May 3

Life of Jesus

Five Thousand Fed

Jesus and his disciples left by boat to a quiet place but the crowd just followed them around the lake. Jesus took pity on them because they were so in need of teaching.

Jesus taught them and the hour was late, the people were hungry, the disciples wanted to send the people away to find food on their own - Read: Mark 6:37.

Jesus had the disciples see how much food was among the crowd - Read: Mark 6:38-44.

We come as we are to Jesus, give Him our all and let him use us as He wills; there will be blessings and then some!

We are like the disciples, distributors of God’s love!

VERSE FOR TODAY: John 6:14.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I never turn away from someone that I can help in Your Name, O Lord, thank-you for all the blessings.

May 4

Life of Jesus

Walking on Water

The five thousand were fed; Jesus sent the disciples across the lake while he sent the crowd away and went by himself to pray.

By the time Jesus was ready to join the disciples the boat was long way away from the shore, so Jesus went, walking to the disciples on the water.

Dawn was approaching when Jesus came near the boat; at first the disciples thought Jesus was a ghost! – Read: Matthew 14:27-29. Peter got out of the boat and started toward Jesus, but the strength of the wind made him afraid and he started to sink – Read: Matthew 14:30b, 31.

We are often like Peter, we walk with Jesus but when temptation assails our faith begins to waver and we sink in sin! We need to keep growing in faith and walk with Jesus in love and hope.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Psalm 116:8, 9.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to walk in the light of your Word and always know you are there to walk and talk with.

May 5

Life of Jesus

The Calm Sea

At another time the crowd was pressing in on Jesus, so he got into a boat with the disciples to teach. They decided to cross the lake to the other side, on the way over Jesus fell asleep in the back of the boat.

As they were sailing, a storm came up suddenly, the disciples became frightened they woke Jesus up saying, - Read: Mark 4:38b-40.

The disciples although still frightened were surprised at what Jesus had done – Read: Mark 4:41.

We are often like the disciples, we don’t trust in Jesus to help us through the storms in our lives. Big or small, Jesus is always there to help us through our storms!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Psalm 65:7.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, not to call on you only in the storms but also in the happy times of life. Always being thankful for the many blessings you have given me.

May 6

Life of Jesus

Pigs and Demons

When Jesus and the disciples landed, after the storm, in the territory of Gerasa, they were met by a man possessed with many demons. These demons had driven the man out of his mind.

-Read: Luke 8:28-38:

* Did the man know Jesus?
* What were the demons afraid of?
* What did the herdsmen do?
* How did the town people react?

There are many people today who would follow Jesus if they weren’t afraid of change, afraid of the unknown.

The freed man wanted to go with Jesus but Jesus sent him away to tell others about what happen to him. When we follow Jesus, there are times that doing the Will of God is not exactly what we planned to do! Our best testimony is what we know and what has happened to and for us.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 8:39.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Let me always follow your will, O Lord, because you know what is best for me, telling others of what you have done for me.

May 7

Life of Jesus

Jairus’ Daughter

After the “pigs incident” Jesus returned to the other side of the lake, where people were waiting for him. Jairus, a synagogue official, came running up to Jesus, throwing himself at the feet of Jesus, begging Jesus to go to his home and heal his dying twelve year old daughter.

As Jesus passed through the crowd on his way to Jairus’ house, a woman with a twelve year bleeding problem touched the cloak of Jesus and was healed. Jesus felt the power go out of him and questioned the crowd as to who touched him – Read: Luke 8:47, 48.

Just then a messenger came to Jairus and said not to bother because the girl was dead. – Read: Luke 8:50-56. We often are like the people in this story, we pray; ask God for help and then when things happen we are amazed!

We must never doubt what Jesus can do for us if we only believe.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Matthew 21:22.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me not to doubt but only believe.

May 8

Life of Jesus

Peter’s Confession

Jesus asked the disciples an interesting question – Read: Matthew 16:13b-14.

Jesus was not their idea of what the Messiah would be like, so many did not believe and accept Him as their Savior he was like a prophet to them. They expected an earthly king and kingdom, not a spiritual one.

Then Jesus asked the disciples - Matthew 16:15-16.

Jesus praised Peter for his answer which was a divine inspiration from the Heavenly Father. Jesus foretells here of establishing of the church, on the rock of Peter’s faith as its foundation and this church would last forever –Matthew 16:18.

Our confession of faith is our belief that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God and on this belief we have the foundation for our lives.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 9:23.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I always be true to my confession of faith and establish a firm foundation in that faith.