May 17

Life of Jesus

Using Our Talents

This parable Jesus told about the talents He has given us – Read Matthew 25:14-30.

We, as servants of Jesus Christ, are also given talents, not money, but actual talents; according to the ability that Jesus wants us to serve him. When Jesus returns, we will also be rewarded according to how we have used our talents in His service. We have the choice of using our talents wisely and to the glory of God, thus receiving a higher reward or if we’ve hidden our talent, we perhaps will not lose our salvation, but our heavenly existence will not have as great of reward as it would if we would have used our talents wisely.

Our service won’t “buy” our way into heaven but part of our love for the Lord is using our talents in His service. Do you have a talent, an ability that you could be using in the service of the Lord and are not?

VERSE FOR TODAY: Matthew 25:23.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I, O Lord, use my talent for service that you have given me to its full potential.

May 18

Life of Jesus

Building a Foundation

For a happy and successful life we need to have a firm foundation to base our lives on, just as the builder builds a house on a solid foundation – Read: Luke 6:48. We must build our lives on the firm foundation of God’s Word by hearing and obeying them, so when the flood of life’s problems surrounds us, we can stand firm!

What if we hear but don’t obey – Read: Luke 6:49. Our life could crash equally as terrible.

Hearing and obeying is where our walk with Jesus starts, after hearing we start obeying and then doing the Will of God.

There is more than just “head knowledge” we must also have “heart knowledge”, the love of Jesus in our hearts! We must continually read and study our guide, the Bible, fellowship with other Christians to keep our foundation firm

VERSE FOR TODAY: Matthew 7:24

PRAYER THOUGHT: Guide me, O Lord, in maintaining a firm foundation and help me to help others as the Spirit leads.

May 19

Life of Jesus

An Anointing

Jesus was at a Pharisee’s house - Read: Luke 7:37-47.

Many of us like the Pharisee, “born into” our faith, we love the Lord but our walk may not be as exciting as a person that has turned from a whole career of sin to Jesus. There is nothing like the excitement of a new Christian and this excitement puts a whole new perspective on our walk with the Lord.

We must never become satisfied in our walk with the Lord but must continue to work and learn with zeal and enthusiasm.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 7:50

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me never to stop seeking your face, O Lord, and learning about your infinite love and wisdom.

May 20

Life of Jesus

Who is My Neighbor?

A teacher of the law asked Jesus, who his neighbor was. Jesus answered with this parable: Read: Luke 10:30-37.

* Why might a priest and a Levite pass on the other side?
* How would you define a neighbor?
* List some ways you can be a neighbor to others.

For a Jew to say a Samaritan had done right was not easy, most Jews considered a Samaritan beneath himself because of the Samaritan’s mixed back ground.

This parable teaches us to be a good neighbor to everyone, not just to people who ask for help or to people of our own race. We would do good to follow the Samaritan’s example.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 10:27

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to see the needs of others and do something about it.

May 21

Life of Jesus

Sabbath Healing

Jesus was teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath, there was a woman that had been suffering for eighteen years from an evil spirit. She was bent over and unable to stand straight – Read: Luke 13:12, 13.

The official of the synagogue was upset because Jesus had healed the woman on the Sabbath – Read: Luke 13:14b.

Jesus was saddened with the unfeeling attitude of this religious leader. After all they would feed their animals on the Sabbath but yet they wanted to deny this woman healing on the Sabbath!

These strict laws that the early Jews observed was one of the reasons Jesus came, to lift the burden of rules and institute saving grace through faith!

We now can do the work of the Lord seven days a week!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 13:17.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord for setting me free from the burden of unnecessary rules and help me never to deny anyone your love no matter what day of the week it is!

May 22

Life of Jesus

Humility and Hospitality

Jesus was eating at Pharisee’s house; the people were all taking the best places. Jesus pointed out to them that it is better to take a low place and be asked to move up, than to take a high place and be asked to move down – Read: Luke 14:11

Jesus also gave them these guidelines for meal invitations: - Read: Luke 14:12-14.

We so often are guilty of doing something for someone when we secretly know they can and will repay us, but that is not the true spirit of giving food, gifts or time. The true spirit of giving is to give to someone and not expect anything in return.

VERSE FOR TODAY: 1 Peter 5:6.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Dear Lord, I know I cannot ever touch the life of every needy person, but help me, O Lord, to help as many as I can.

May 23

Life of Jesus

The Prodigal Son

Read: Luke 15:11-20.

Isn’t it wonderful Jesus welcomes us back home with open arms every time we stray into strange countries of sin? Never forget, whether you stray on purpose or unconsciously, Jesus is always waiting with open arms for you to come to your senses.

It is also reality that most people have to reach their lowest point of existence before they can look up to Jesus.

Read: Luke 15:25-30. Discuss some of the reasons the older son was angry.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 15:24

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord never to stray into sin, but if I do, never let me forget you are there waiting for me to come to you for forgiveness.

May 24

Life of Jesus

Ten Lepers Healed

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, following the border between Galilee and Samaria. He came upon a village and was met by ten men with dreaded skin disease of leprosy – Read Luke 17:12b, 13, and 14.

When they discovered they were healed, only one, a Samaritan came back to thank Jesus – Read Luke 17:16a.

Jesus wondered where the other nine healed men were, only one and a foreigner at that, was the only one to give thanks to Jesus.

We must always be careful to give thanks and praise to God for the wonderful things he does for us! We are quick to go to Jesus with our troubles and needs but slow to give thanks for what is received.

VERSE FOR TODAY: LUKE 17:17-19

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, there are so many things to thank you for – thank-you for everything – most of all for your sacrifice that I may have eternal life.