Life of Jesus May 20

Who is My Neighbor?

A teacher of the law asked Jesus, who his neighbor was.

Jesus answered with this parable: There was a man beaten and robbed on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho and left there half dead. A priest passed by, seeing the hurt man, went on the other side of the road. A Levite came along and also passed on the other side of the road. A Samaritan came along, saw the hurt man, he stopped, bound his wounds, took him to an inn on his own animal and paid the bills. From Luke 10:26-35.

-Jesus concluded, “In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbor towards the man attacked by robbers?”

The teacher of the law answered, “The one who was kind to him.” Luke 10:36-37a.

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 background.

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: The man answered, “’Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind’ and ‘love your neighbour as you love yourself.’” Luke 10:27.

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

Life of Jesus May 21

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 – When Jesus saw her, he called out to her, “Woman, you are free from your illness!” He placed his hands on her, and at once she straightened herself up and praised God. Luke 13:12, 13.

The official of the synagogue was upset because Jesus had healed the woman on the Sabbath – “There are six days in which we should work: so come during those days and be healed but not on the Sabbath!” 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: His answer made his enemies ashamed of themselves, while the people rejoiced over all the wonderful things that he did. 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

Life of Jesus May 22

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 – “…For all those who make themselves great will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be made great.” Luke 14:11

Jesus also gave them these guidelines for meal invitations: - “When you give a feast invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind: and you will be blessed, because they are not able to pay you back. God will repay you on the day the good people rise from death.” Luke 14:13-14

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: Humble yourselves, then, under God’s mighty hand, so that he will lift you up in his own good time. 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.

Life of Jesus May 23

The Prodigal Son

A man had two sons, the younger son asked for and received his inheritance early, then sold part of the property and left home.

The son did not spend his money very wisely and soon found himself penniless in a strange country. A famine hit that country and the only job he could find was feeding pings and the only food available was pig’s food. – “At last he came to his senses and said, ‘All my father’s hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve!’…” Luke 15:17. So the young man started home, on the way he decided how he would say that he had sinned against God and his father and that he was not fit to be his son, but his father saw his son coming afar off, he ran out to meet him with open arms. From 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 unwittingly, 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.

VERSE FOR TODAY: ‘For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he is has been found.’ And so the feasting began. 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.

Life of Jesus May 24

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 the dreaded skin disease of leprosy. – They stood at a distance and shouted, “Jesus! Master! Take pity on us!” Luke 17:12b.13.

Jesus saw them and said to them, “Go and let the priests examine you.”

On the way they were made clean. Luke 17:14.

When they discovered they were healed, only one, a Samaritan came back to thank Jesus – He threw himself to the ground at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. 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: And Jesus said to him, “Get up and go; you faith has made you well.” Luke 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.

Life of Jesus May 25

The Blind Man Sees!

Jesus met a man that was born blind – His disciples asked him, “Teacher, whose sin caused him to be born blind? Was it his own or his parents’ sin?”

Jesus answered, “His blindness has nothing to do with his sins or his parents’ sins. He is blind so that God’s power might be seen at work in him.” John 9:2, 3. Sin does not cause blindness or disease, but forgiveness of sin can relieve the burden and make one feel better and strong enough belief in God can lead to a miracle healing if it is God’s will.

-Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud with the spittle; rubbed the mud on the man’s eyes and said, “Go and wash your face in the Pool of Siloam.” (This name means “Sent.”) So the man went, washed his face, and came back seeing. John 9:6, 7.

The man’s neighbors couldn’t believe that this seeing man was the same man as the blind beggar – So the man himself said, “I am the man.”

“How is it that you can now see?” they asked him. John 9b, 10.

The man told them the whole story of what Jesus did for him. When the Light of Jesus’ love opens our sin blinded eyes, we too must tell others what Jesus has done for us.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” John 9:5.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I let my light shine, the light of your love, O Lord, in this world blinded by sin and hate.

Life of Jesus May 26

Lazarus is Dead

Jesus had made friends with Mary, Martha and Lazarus, even so when he heard the news that Lazarus was ill he stayed on where he was for two more days and Lazarus died.

When Jesus finally arrived he found Lazarus had been dead four days, Mary and Martha were mourning, and Jesus wept with them he was so moved by their grief.

Jesus went to the tomb – “Take the stone away!” Jesus ordered.

Martha, the dead man’s sister, answered, “There will be a bad smell, Lord, He has been buried four days!”

Jesus said to her, “Didn’t I tell you that you will see God’s glory if you believed?” John 11:39-40.

The stone was removed, Jesus prayed to the Father, and then called to Lazarus to come forth; Lazarus came out, still wrapped in burial clothes. Lazarus was alive!

Many people believed in Jesus!

Once again Jesus turned a bad situation around and made it good in the Glory of God.

We can be dead to sin but Jesus can roll the stone away from our hearts and give us eternal life, if we only believe!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies;…” John 11:25.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for your resurrection that brought me eternal life.

Life of Jesus May 27

Anointed Feet

Later, only six days before Passover, Jesus and his disciples wet to Bethany to see Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Martha prepared a dinner for all of them, and Mary took expensive perfume and poured it over Jesus’

feet and wiped them with her hair.

Judas Iscariot stood by watching Mary and asked – “Why wasn’t this perfume sold for 300 silver coins and the money given to the poor?” John 12:5. Now Judas really didn’t care about the poor but he would have liked the money since he carried the money bag and it was not beneath him to take from it.

Jesus took Mary’s side – But Jesus said, “Leave her alone! Let her keep what she has for the day of my burial. You will always have poor people with you, but you will not always have me.” John 12:7, 8.

Judas was a disciple in body but not in heart like so many Christians today, they go through the actions but their heart isn’t in it! Mary’s act of anointing the feet of Jesus was done out of genuine love. When we do something out of genuine love, the joy, (like the fragrance of Mary’s perfume filled the whole house) spills out to everyone.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “Now I assure you that wherever the gospel is preached all over the world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.” Mark 14:9.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I, always, O Lord, act out of genuine love and not for selfish reasons.