Life of Jesus May 28

The Triumphant Entry

 At Bethpage, Jesus sent two disciples ahead into the village with instructions to get a donkey and foal that Jesus knew would be tied there. This was to fulfill the prophesy – “Tell the city of Zion, look, your king is coming to you! He is humble and rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” Matthew 21:5.

 The disciples found the animals where Jesus said they would be, the donkeys were brought back, cloaks were spread on them and Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem. A large crowd gathered along the road, they spread cloaks and palm branches on the road in head of Jesus – The crowds walking in front of Jesus and those walking behind began to shout, “Praise to David’s Son!” “God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God!” Matthew 21:9.

 We have seen Jesus entering Jerusalem, humbly riding on a donkey’s back, to the cries of the crowd that threw the whole city into an uproar. – The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see, we were not succeeding at all! Look, the whole world is following him! John 12:19.

 If we allow Jesus to make a triumphant entry into our heart and show forth that love to others, the Devil will feel as unsuccessful as the Pharisees.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good, and his love is eternal. Psalm 118:29.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I never lose the joy that you gave me, O Lord, when you entered my heart.

Life of Jesus May 29

The Fig-Tree Cursed

 Jesus had been to Bethany and on the road from Bethany back to Jerusalem the next morning, Jesus was hungry, he saw a beautiful green leafy fig-tree along the road, so Jesus went to get some figs, but there were none – So he said to the tree, “You will never again bear fruit!” At once the fig-tree dried up. Matthew 21:19b.

 This little incident can be applied to us today, we can look like a productive Christian, but if we don’t bear fruit we could face eternal damnation. Actually winning others to Christ is the ultimate fruit we can bear, but if we produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit, others will see Jesus in us and be led to Him.

 The disciples wanted to know how the fig-tree dried up so fast – Jesus answered, “I assure you that if you believe and do not doubt you will be able to do what I have done to this fig-tree. And not only this, but you will even be able to say to this hill, ‘Get up and throw yourself in the sea,’ and it will…” Matthew 21:21.

 It then is a matter of doubtless belief and faith.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” Matthew 21:22.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to have this doubtless faith and be able to bring others into your saving light.

Life of Jesus May 30

The Widow’s Offering

 Jesus returned to Jerusalem, after spending the night in Bethany away from the Palm Sunday crowds.

 Jesus went into the Temple to teach, he observed the people putting their offerings in to the treasury, the rich were dropping in a lot of coins, but they had a lot more to give, then a poor widow came up and dropped in two copper coins, which was all the money she had – He said, “I tell you that this poor widow put in more than all the others. For the others offered their gifts from what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, gave all she had to live on.” Luke 21:3, 4.

 We should give first to the Lord, not what we have leftover from our budget.

 Same with our life, we should not give a portion of our life over to God and keep the rest in the old ways of sin. We must give 100% of our life to the Lord.

 These things are easier said than done, but complete submission to Jesus is the goal to strive for, a hope to pray for assistance in obtaining, we have the Lord to help and guide us if we only rest upon his strength and promises.

VERSE FOR TODAY: So then, submit to God. Resist the Devil, and he will run away from you. James 4:7.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Guide me, O Lord, to total submission of your ways, which leads to total freedom in your grace and love.

Memorial Day May 31

Remembrance

 This is the day, once a year that we honor those who have gone before us, especially those who have given their lives in wars. – “…The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them…” John 15:13. In a broad sense the soldiers lay down their lives for their friends, even though we may not be personal friends of the dead soldier, it is the love of their country and the unity of the nation that makes a soldier go to war to protect the lives of the people.

 This day is a special day for parades and speeches, but we should remember those who so courageously went into battle to uphold the principals of our great nation and lost their lives, much more often, thanking God for these unsung heroes. So we can continue to enjoy the freedoms we are accustom to, freedom of speech, press, assemble and most important, to Christians, the freedom of religious belief.

 We cannot ever repay these people for what they have done for us, just as we can never repay Christ for dying on the cross for us. We can, more than once a year remember them and reflect on all they have given us for today and for eternity, because they gave their lives for us.

VERSE FOR TODAY: This is how we know what love is: Christ gave his life for us. We too, then, ought to give our lives for our brothers and sisters! I John 3:16.

PRAYER THOUGHT: God, please bless all soldiers today that are in harm’s way to keep our freedom and secure the freedom of others. Thank-you for all who have given their lives in the past.

Life of Jesus June 1

Temple Teaching

 Jesus went on to teach parables in the Temple.

 Jesus told the parable of the two sons, when their father asked the older son to work in the vineyard, he said he didn’t want to but later changed his mind and went to work. When the younger son was asked to work in the vineyard, he said he would, but then he didn’t go to work. From Matthew 21:28-30.

 Jesus asked –“Which one of the two did what his father wanted?”

 “The elder one,” they answered.

 -So Jesus said to them, “I tell you: the tax collectors and prostitutes are going into the Kingdom of God ahead of you…” Matthew 21:31. John the Baptist preached the Word, showing everyone the way, the religious leaders of the day showed interest but never really repented. The tax collectors and prostitutes heard and believed.

 Today many of us are like the older son, we are hard hearted, but we eventually repent and believe. There are probably many more that say ‘yes’ to Jesus but never give him their all, they still go about in their old ways.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…God’s wisdom, however, is shown to be true by all who accept it.” Luke 7:35.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me always to give you my all, O Lord, always putting you first.

Life of Jesus June 2

Tricked or Not

 Jesus so far has been a healer, a prophet, a teacher, a leader, a story teller, a brother, a son and most of all the Messiah! Of course his death was in the days to come, he had just made his entry into Jerusalem, which made the Pharisees afraid and angry at what Jesus was all about! They had nothing to fear from Jesus as far as their leadership in the Temple or community was concerned, because he was not interested in an earthly kingdom like theirs.

 The Pharisees were always trying to trap Jesus with questions that would show Jesus was against the government, so they could hand him over to the authorities and get him out of their way. On this occasion the Pharisees bribed some men to ask questions about taxes – These spies said to Jesus, “Teacher, we know that what you say and teach is right. We know that you pay no attention to a man’s status, but teach the truth about God’s will for people. Tell us, is it against our law for us to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor, or not?” Luke 20:21, 22. Jesus was not tricked, he asked them whose face was on the coin – “The Emperor’s,” They answered.

 So Jesus said, “Well, then pay the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor, and pay God what belongs to God.” Luke 20:24b, 25.

 We too, have taxes that we pay our government and money to pay the Lord, Jesus was not tricked and neither should we be when it comes to paying what is owed.

VERSE FOR TODAY: There before the people they could not catch him out in anything, so they kept quiet, amazed at his answer. Luke 20:26.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to know the answers but also to understand the meaning of those answers.

Life of Jesus June 3

The Plot Unfolds

 With all the teaching, healing and all the people that had become followers of Jesus, the Chief Priests and elders were determined to kill Jesus. They had gathered trying to figure out a quiet way to kill Jesus, because they were afraid of the large crowd that had gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover.

 -Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples. Luke 22:3. Judas – went to the chief priests and asked, “What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?” They counted out thirty silver coins and gave them to him. From then on Judas was looking for a good chance to hand Jesus over to them. Matthew 26:14b-16.

 The ground work was laid for the betrayal of Jesus.

 Stop for a minute and think in terms of American currency, Judas betrayed his own Master, for amounts from $1.30 to $30.00. What a small value Satan puts on life, but to God our eternal life is more precious than silver or gold.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ. 1 Peter 1: 18a, 19a. KJV

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for the priceless value you have put on my life, because of your life you gave for me.

Life of Jesus June 4

Passover Preparations

 The Passover was and is one of the most important events on the Jewish calendar; the very first Passover was when the angel of death “passed over” the Israelite homes that had the blood of a lamb on the doorpost.

 Jesus and his disciples were looking forward to getting ready for the Passover – Then Jesus sent two of them with these instructions: “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house he enters, and say to the owner of the house: ‘The Teacher says, Where is the room where my disciples and I will eat the Passover meal? Then he will show you a large upstairs room, prepared and furnished, where you will get everything ready for us.” Mark 14:13-15.

 The disciples went into the city and found everything just as Jesus had told them. They spent the rest of the day preparing the Passover meal. In the evening Jesus and the rest of the disciples arrived at the Upper Room.

 Jesus knew this would be his last Passover, he also knew his blood would be shed, like a lamb, the Lamb of God.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Let us celebrate our Passover, then, not with bread having the old yeast of sin and wickedness, but with the bread that has no yeast, the bread of purity and truth. 1 Corinthians 5:8

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, not to “Passover” your grace and truth for sin and hate.