



Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

August 23, 2020

Issue 34

Lessons In Faith

By: Ronnie Scherffius

When studying the gospel records we often discover multiple accounts of teachings and events in the life of Christ. One would expect to observe a repetition of *Jesus' betrayal* (Mt. 26:47-56; Mk. 14:43-52; Lk. 22:47-52; Jn. 18:1-11), His *trials* before the Hebrews (Mt. 26:57-75; Mk. 14:53-65; Lk. 22:54-71; Jn. 18:12-27) and Romans (Mt. 27:1-25; Mk. 15:1-14; Lk. 23:1-26; Jn. 18:28-40), His *suffering and crucifixion* (Mt. 27:26-66; Mk. 15:15-47; Lk. 23:27-56; Jn. 19:1-42), as well as His *resurrection and ascension* (Mt. 28:1-20; Mk. 16:1-20; Lk. 24:1-53; Jn. 20:1-25). However, we also find multiple recordings of parables and events. For example, the parables of *the leaven* and *lost sheep* are recorded by both Matthew (13:33; 18:12-14) and Luke (13:20-21; 15:3-7) while the parable of the sower is recorded by Matthew (13:3-9), Mark (4:3-9) and Luke (8:4-15). Similarly, we find the account of the *rich young ruler* recorded in three gospel accounts (Mt. 19:16-26; Mk. 10:17-27; Lk. 18:18-30) each with a varying degree of detail.

One event in the life of Christ found in multiple passages is the sending of Peter and John into Jerusalem to make preparations for the Passover (Mt. 26:17-19; Mk. 14:12-16; Lk. 22:7-13). While these passages provide background and information concerning Jesus' final observance of the Passover and the institution of the Lord's Supper, they also provide three lessons on faith. We will study from Luke's account as his is the more detailed.

"Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed. And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat. And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare? And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in. And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guest chamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready. And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover." (Lk. 22:7-13)

From this text we learn three key lessons regarding faith in Jesus Christ. First, we learn that faith in Jesus Christ will cause us to follow His will: "**follow him into the house**" (10). A faith that follows was demonstrated by Peter, Andrew, James and John when Jesus called them from their business of catching fish (Lk. 5:4-11) to become fishers of men (Mt. 4:18-22). Levi also exhibited a *following faith* when he forsook all earthly endeavors and took up the cause of the Savior (Lk. 5:27, 28). A genuine saving faith is that faith

that willingly and without regret follows the will of Jesus.

Second, we learn that faith in Jesus Christ will furnish us with what is needed: “*he shall shew you a large upper room **furnished***” (12). When Peter and John followed the will of Jesus they were led to an upper room that was furnished, i.e., carpet and couches were set for Jesus and His apostles and (Mark adds) the room was “prepared” (14:15). Thus, all that was needed for Peter and John to make ready was furnished. Such is the case with one who has faith in Jesus Christ. We are instructed that faith comes by hearing “the word of God” (Rom. 10:17) and that the word of God makes man “fully furnished” with nothing lacking (2 Tim. 3:16-17). John noted that one who has faith in Jesus has “the power to become” a child of God (John 1:12) and that faith is not simply verbal ascent but doing (John 3:36, cf. ASV). A deep abiding faith in Jesus furnishes man with all he needs both to live a life pleasing to God now and to dwell with God in the life to come.

Finally, we learn that faith in Jesus Christ will cause us to fulfill His commands that we may be ready: “*they **made ready the passover***” (13). Following the will and words of Jesus, Peter and John were able to “make ready” for the purposes and works of Christ. Faith alone will not save man (James 2:14-26), but faith together with fulfilling the commands of Jesus (obedience!) will make us ready, not only for judgment (Acts 17:30-31; Mt. 7:21-23; 25:31-46) but also living the Christian life and being fruitful in the works of God (Eph. 2:10; Col. 1:10; 1 Tim. 6:18 2 Tim. 2:21; 1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Pt. 1:18; et al).

Three tremendous lessons are learned from Luke’s record of preparations being made for the final Passover in Jesus’ earthly ministry. As Christians, are we maintaining a faith that *follows* Jesus in all things; *furnishes* us for a life that is pleasing to God and that *fulfills* the work of Christ? May we always have the mind of Jesus’ disciples: “Lord, increase our faith” (Lk. 17:5).

When Prayer Is a Coverup for Disobedience

Then all the commanders of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiiah, and all the people from the least to the greatest, came near and said to Jeremiah the prophet, “Let our plea for mercy come before you, and pray to the Lord your God for us, for all this remnant—because we are left with but a few, as your eyes see us— that the Lord your God may show us the way we should go, and the thing that we should do.” Jeremiah the prophet said to them, “I have heard you. Behold, I will pray to the Lord your God according to your request, and whatever the Lord answers you I will tell you. I will keep nothing back from you.” Jeremiah 42:1-4.

"I need to just pray about it."

Sometimes when I hear someone say this, it makes me nervous. What makes me nervous is that the truth of God's Word has been read and comprehended. Yet, the truth may require some inconvenience or sacrifice, and so the statement is made, "I need to pray about it."

I wonder what the prayer is for. If the prayer is for courage to do the right thing, that's good. If the prayer is for discernment to make sure everything has been appropriately interpreted and understood correctly, that's good. But if the prayer is for more revelation to come (especially revelation to contradict plain teaching in God's Word), then we've got a problem. It's kind of like when a child asks and doesn't get the response he or she wants and so they ask again and again until they succeed.

To pray for anything more than what God has already said (especially to suit our whims and fancies) is to pray for too much. In that situation we need to get up off of our knees and get our noses back in the Book.

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of August 23, 2020

subject to change

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Doug Jobes
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobes
Offering: Bryce Dolan

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Larry Nuckels
A.M. Closing: Jeff Harris

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Larry Nuckels
Wed. P.M.: Fred Scherffius

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Ron White

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Mark FitzSimmons

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

**Sermons are available on our website
www.midtowncoc.org under Resources.**

MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search MidTown church of Christ Victoria.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for the country during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Jerry FitzSimmons, who was in ICU at DeTar last week. He is now at home and doing better. Ken Marie, who had atrial fib and was in the hospital for a few days.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Jerry FitzSimmons (24); Rachel Harris (26), Christian Sneeringer (28); Yvonne Smith (29); Barbara Withers (31)

Happy Anniversary: Jim & Angy Hutt (24); Clark & Barbara Withers (31)

Men's Meeting TODAY!

There will be a brief Men's meeting today, immediately following morning worship regarding the fall gospel meeting.

*****FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING*****

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Janice FitzSimmons
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class: 9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Wednesday Bible Class— 7:00 PM
(Auditorium only)

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of August 16, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....65
A.M. Worship.....74
Online views during worship.....49
Wednesday Bible Class.....56

Offering week of August 16, 2020.....\$2,527

Reading for this week:

We have heard of the pride of Moab—
he is very proud—
of his loftiness, his pride, and his arrogance,
and the haughtiness of his heart.

Moab shall be destroyed and be no longer a people,
because he magnified himself against the Lord.
Jeremiah 48:29, 42

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony
Scherffius

GO PAPERLESS!

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