

First Things First

Daily Devotionals



Devotional Guide for March 29-April 4, 2021

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

Holy Monday, March 29TH

“WHO?”

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 NIV

To explore just who Jesus is to us, let's ask the five basic questions of any investigator: who, what, where, when, and why? The psalmist tells us the 'who' of God, that He is the Lord and "He is good; His love endures forever" (v.1). The apostle John would later tell us, in his first letter, that God is love. The psalmist writes of the gates of righteousness, "through which the righteous may enter" (v.19). He who is righteous imparts that righteousness to us; that's who Jesus is.

Question: If you were asked, who would you say that Jesus is to you?

Holy Tuesday, March 30TH

“WHAT?”

Scripture: Matthew 26:1-13 NIV

Prior to Jesus' triumphal entry, on that first Palm Sunday, Jesus was staying in a home in Bethany. During this time, chief priests and the elders had gathered, to stir up a plot to take and kill Jesus. They saw Him as a threat to their power, as a doer of signs and miracles which they could not understand. The disciples saw Him as their Savior. That is 'what' Jesus is.

Question: What part of your relationship with Jesus do you cherish most?

Holy Wednesday, March 31ST

“WHERE?”

Scripture: Matthew 26:14-16 NIV

We know that Jesus entered Jerusalem, that He had cleansed the Temple, and that preparation had been made for Him to celebrate the Passover with His disciples. As this was transpiring, Judas was making his own preparations—to betray Jesus, to determine a time that he could hand Jesus over to them. Judas would be paid thirty pieces of silver, equivalent to 120 denarii. One denarii would be a day's pay, for a common laborer of that day. Judas thought that he knew the 'who' and the 'what' of Jesus, but his thoughts and his perspective were a bit skewed. Some scholars wonder if Judas may have been trying to force Jesus into becoming a mighty conqueror. Judas provided the 'where' for Jesus during Holy Week.

Question: Where do you feel the closest to Jesus in your life?

Maundy Thursday, April 1ST

“WHEN?”

Scripture: Matthew 26:17-30 NIV

The day of preparation for the Passover would be the 'when' for Jesus and His disciples to share this ritualistic meal together. At this meal, the Lord emphasized that all of the terrible events that were soon to take place were totally under the control of their Heavenly Father. Under the old covenant, the Passover meal was the memorial celebration of Israel's deliverance from Egypt. By transforming His last Passover meal to institute the Lord's Supper, Jesus shows the consistent focus on the redemption, throughout God's revelation. The Lord's Supper thus demonstrates the essential continuity that exists between the old and the new covenants, by revealing that the true meaning of the Passover lies in the deliverance effected by Jesus' death. That's the 'when' of Jesus.

Question: What does receiving communion mean to your journey of faith?

Good Friday, April 2ND

“WHY?”

Scripture: Matthew 7:15-23 NIV

Going backwards in Matthew's gospel for a moment, we find Jesus teaching about true and false prophets, as well as true and false disciples. The message of false prophets may be attractive and even seem to be orthodox. The only way to test out the falseness of these prophets was to allow time to see "their fruits" (vs.16-20). Some of the false prophets' fruits are mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament: controversies over leadership, divisions with the church, destruction of faith in those who follow Jesus, and self-destruction by heresy. Yet a genuine link with the Lord—either as a prophet or as a disciple—means knowing God and being known by God. That's the 'why' of Jesus.

Suggestion: Take some time, this weekend, to read the two Scripture lessons for Easter Sunday (Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 and Matthew 28:1-20).

Easter Sunday, April 4TH
Celebrating the Resurrection of Christ!

Sunrise Worship Service @7:00 am (outside)
Worship @8:30 & 10:45 am/Sanctuary
Online @10:45 am via Livestream

Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 NIV
Matthew 28:1-20 NIV

Pastor's message: "Who are You Looking For?"
*Lenten theme: "Upside Down—
Lessons from the Sermon on the Mount"*

