

Were You There Lenten Devotional
Friday, March 8, 2024
John 13:18-38

Scripture:

John 13:18-38

Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

18 “I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned[a] against me.’[b]

19 “I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. 20 Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.”

21 After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. 23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”

25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

26 Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” 28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. 30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial

31 When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him,[c] God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

33 “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

36 Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

37 Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

38 Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

Devotion:

A new commandment I give to you. Love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that you are my disciple.

I do for others what I want to do. I have learned that my gift or effort may not be their greatest need or want. If I loved them as Jesus loved us, I would find their wishes and needs. Gifts are from the giver and should always be accepted as given but that is different from helping with needs

To love others, as Jesus loved us there is nothing impossible to do. People that help others, love others. By this shall all men know that you are His

THY WILL BE DONE

Were You There Lenten Devotional

Saturday March 9, 2024

Submitted by Peggy Benson

Were You There Lenten Devotional

Scripture:

Luke 22:24-38

New International Version

24 A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. 25 Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. 26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. 27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. 28 You are those who have stood by me in my trials. 29 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, 30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

33 But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

34 Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

35 Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?"

"Nothing," they answered.

36 He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. 37 It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'[a]; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment."

38 The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords."

"That's enough!" he replied.

Devotion:

This passage tells of Jesus and his disciples after sharing the Passover meal. The disciples argued which of them would have the highest rank in the coming Kingdom after the death of Jesus. Jesus replied to them that the kings sat at the table and the servants had to serve them. Jesus had told them of his pending death, and that the one who served willingly, and the best would become their leader.

This reminded me of my parents as I was growing up. They urged me to participate in many activities, both in school and church. Their advice was that the more you put into a project or organization, the more you will get out of it. This has followed me throughout my life. As I have worked in committees and groups, new leadership roles have opened up to me, causing me to value even more those who served alongside me.

Additionally, this scripture tells how Jesus mentions to the disciples that they were able to follow Him and His teachings with little money or clothing. The lesson to me is that

riches and material things are not necessary to live a life of accomplishment and to help others.

Sunday March 10,2024

Submitted by Bro. Jaimie

Matthew 25:31-35

Scripture:

Matthew 25:31-35

The Sheep and the Goats

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. **32** All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. **35** For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, **36** I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38** When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? **39** When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. **42** For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, **43** I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Devotion:

In Matthew 25:31-46, we find ourselves at a moment of great significance in the life and teachings of Jesus. This passage takes place toward the end of his earthly ministry, as he imparts vital lessons to his disciples and the crowds gathered around him. In these verses, Jesus speaks about the final judgment, where he separates the righteous from the unrighteous, the sheep from the goats. He emphasizes the importance of acts of kindness, compassion, and service to the least among us. This teaching reminds us that our faith is not just about beliefs but also about how we live out our faith in practical ways

Jesus is telling a series of parables. He then describes what will happen at His Second Coming, “when the Son of Man comes in his glory” (v. 31). He will separate people like a shepherd separates sheep from goats. What was the difference? He bases this decision on their actions with regard to the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, and other needy or low-status persons. The sheep fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and visited the sick and the imprisoned (vv. 35-36), while the goats did not.

This parable illustrates the difference between true and false followers of Christ. The sheep were true disciples because they did what Christ would have done, and therefore it was as if the good deeds had been done for Christ Himself. The goats, on the other hand, did not, and it was as if they had failed Christ Himself in His hour of need. That’s the principle in this passage: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (vv. 40, 45).

Are you a sheep or a goat? True followers of Christ act with the compassion of their Shepherd. This shows them to be true believers, saved by faith. While we aren’t redeemed by good works, our behavior testifies to the genuineness of our faith.

Prayer:

Faithful Lord, give me the compassion I need to show you love to all people. I want to truly be your disciple. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.