

WEEK FIFTEEN

The Power Of The Holy Spirit

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The Holy Spirit has power to reveal Jesus Christ and His glory to man. When Jesus spoke of the Spirit's coming, He said: "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me" (John 15:26). And it is only as He does testify of Christ that men will ever come to a true knowledge of Christ. "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." If you wish men to get a true knowledge of Jesus Christ, such

a view that they will believe on Him and be saved, you must seek for them the testimony of the Holy Spirit. Neither your testimony nor that of the Word alone, will suffice, though it is your testimony, or that of the Word, which the Spirit uses.

But unless your testimony is taken up by the Holy Spirit and He Himself testifies, they will not believe. It was not merely Peter's words about Christ that convinced the Jews at Pentecost. It was the Spirit Himself bearing

witness. If you wish men to see the truth about Jesus, do not depend upon your own powers of exposition and persuasion, but cast yourself upon the Holy Ghost and seek His testimony. If you wish yourself to know Jesus with a true and living knowledge, seek the witness of the Spirit through the Word. Many a man has a correct doctrinal conception of Christ, through a study of the Word long before he has a true personal knowledge of Christ through the testimony of the living Spirit.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST:
CRUCIFIXION EVE

CONSPIRACY

Jesus would never pillow His head again. By Luke's account, we see that the day has changed once again and it is now Wednesday. Christ would be crucified the next day without any rest through the night.

The combined feasts of the Passover and Unleavened Bread were at hand. Christ our Passover Lamb was about to be sacrificed. His time had come. All of the details were falling into place according to the Scriptures.

Judas had grown discontent. Recall from John 12 how he had grumbled about the waste of worship when the expensive ointment had been poured upon Jesus. He saw the money slipping through his

fingers.

Some believe that Iscariot designates his hometown while others believe the it means of the Scariot or the Siccarri. The Sicarri were a group of zealots and assassins highly motivated to overthrow Roman oppression. Imagine the anger in his heart when Jesus answered the question of paying taxes to Rome: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Rather than start a revolution Jesus was foretelling His own death by crucifixion.

Discontentment opens the door to devilish devices. Unlike Peter, John and even doubting Thomas, Judas never got

the point. He never fully understood or accepted Jesus. He was the tare among the wheat. He was the goat among the sheep.

The other disciples had not noticed. He looked good on the outside. They had even been influenced by his persuasive but false argument concerning giving to the poor. Always beware of associating with the complainers. They may give an appearance of spirituality but in reality they are in league with the devil.

Judas' lack of commitment to Christ and willful rebellion in his heart opened to door for him to be used possessed and used by Satan. Judas felt empowered as Satan entered in but soon he would be left empty and alone. That's the devil's way.

DAILY READING: Mark 14:1-16, Matthew 26:1-19, Luke 21:37-22:13

DAY
1

Cities/Places

1. After how many days would it be the feast of Passover?
2. What were the chief priests and scribes seeking?
3. Which day did thy not want to do it on?
4. What was the purpose of this unnamed woman's anointing of Jesus?
5. Who was the high priest?
6. For how much did Judas agree to betray Jesus?
7. What happened to Judas before he agreed to betray Jesus?
8. Why did they not want to take Jesus in the midst of the multitude?
9. Who did Jesus send to prepare the passover?

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

Jesus left two ordinances for the church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Some institutions have added a third - foot washing. However, this does not meet the criteria of an ordinance.

The synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) were written between 50 and 64 AD. John's gospel, which is the only one to record the account of Jesus washing the disciples' feet, was not written until 85 AD. It would seem that if foot washing were an ordinance to be kept, the Scriptures would not have been silent on this for over thirty years. Furthermore, it is never again mentioned in the Scriptures.

Although the other Gospels are silent on

this account, the Holy Spirit inspired Luke to give us the purpose behind it. We are taught by the example of the Lord to serve one another. This truth is repeated again in Galatians 5:13.

Another error concerning the ordinances is to ascribe a purpose other than that which Jesus ordained. Some institutions refer to the Lord's supper and baptism as "sacraments." This implies that they have some saving power. To be excommunicated meant one could not receive communion and therefore had no hope of salvation.

To accept the efficacy (power) of communion in salvation is to add our works to the finished work of Christ. Furthermore,

it places an expiration date on salvation because it would have to be maintained through regular observation.

Jesus was very clear in purpose when He said, "This do IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME." It is for this reason we refer to it as a memorial feast. We are reminded of His sacrifice. We are reminded of His efficacy and not our own. We are reminded that Jesus Paid It All!

As we observe the Lord's Supper, we remember His sacrifice and are motivated to examine ourselves. "How is my walk with Christ? Am I walking worthy of my vocation?" Ephesians 4:1. "Does my life demonstrate a grateful heart to my Lord?"

DAILY READING: John 13:1-38, Mark 14:17-25,
Matthew 26:20-29, Luke 22:14-38
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

1. What did Jesus know specifically as mentioned in this passage?
2. Where did Jesus come from and where was He going?
3. Who resisted Jesus?
4. When one receives another sent by Jesus, who are they really receiving? One one receives Jesus, Who then are they receiving?
5. How are we recognized as His disciples?
6. Who did the disciples first suspect of betraying Jesus?
7. What are the two elements of the Lord's Supper and what do they represent?
8. Why was Jesus blood shed?
9. What did Jesus prophesy that Peter would do?

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

DAY
2

Cites/Places

READING IN RED...

John is known as the Red Letter Gospel because it contains more of the spoken words of Christ than any other gospel. This is no where more evident than in chapters 14-17. With minimal interruption, one can sit back a listen to Jesus speak.

This is His last opportunity to prepare His disciples, the Apostles themselves for the challenges that lay ahead. This is the message that Judas missed.

“Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.” John 13:26,27.

How many times have you said, “I wish I had been there?” Did you ever regret leaving too soon? I believe Judas did. He made a very poor choice that night. It was a choice he would regret for eternity.

Shortly after Judas left, Jesus had some special words for the remaining eleven disciples. These were truths that He intended for Peter, James, John and the others to cling to in the coming days. These truths were relevant to all the disciples: all that is, but Judas.

What was it that Jesus could say to the remaining eleven that He could not say to Judas?

“Let not your heart be troubled.”

Have you ever missed an important event? In spite of the fact that there were some

difficult days ahead Jesus told the remaining eleven not to worry. There was no need for them to fret or be anxious. They were in God’s hands. None of them needed to be troubled by the upcoming events. None but Judas.

“I go to prepare a place for you.”

I often think of this passage when I consider the death of a Christian. Nearly 2000 years ago, Jesus went to prepare a place for us. If He created this world in only six days, think of the marvels He has been working on for the past two millennia. He told the disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them. All, that is, but Judas.

Jesus also promised not to leave them comfortless. One of the wonderful joys of being a Christian is receiving the comfort

DAILY READING: John 14-15

Continued ---->

**DAY
3**

Cites/Places

1. If we believe in God, Who else must we believe in?
2. What three ways does Jesus describe Himself to Thomas?
3. If we love Him, how can we show it?
4. What titles are used to describe the Holy Spirit?
5. How can we tell that one does not love Jesus?
6. How does the branch bear fruit?
7. How is the Father glorified?
8. Why is Jesus teaching these things?
9. What commandment does Jesus give?
10. Who does the Holy Spirit testify of?

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God’s Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

...THE MESSAGE JUDAS NEVER HEARD

of the Holy Spirit even during the darkest days of our lives.

Jesus said to them, "Peace I leave you." Only He can give a peace that passes all understanding. There is no greater gift than the peace of God that rules in the heart of a Christian.

But Judas would never again know comfort or peace. His life would soon end in desperate suicide. But even death did not bring rest to his weary soul. As Judas tied the noose around his neck and leapt from the tree, he most certainly landed in hell.

Why?

Because he could never hear the words Jesus spoke to the eleven, "Ye are clean." Judas never put on the righteousness of

Christ.

Judas was not condemned because he betrayed Christ. He was condemned because he rejected Christ. He never had his robes washed in the blood of the Lamb.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches."

Judas had no part in Christ. He could not bear fruit. He had never been grafted in. He was the wheat among the tares. On the outside one could not tell the difference but the Lord knew.

"The Spirit of truth will guide you into all truth."

Judas' rejection of Jesus closed the door on the Holy Spirit's illumination. When Satan leaves him we will find him alone

and dejected. Judas could not have the truth because he would not have the Spirit of Truth.

"Your sorrow shall be turned to joy."

There are sorrows even in the Christian life but they are only temporary. They are tempered with hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). The sorrows of the lost are only magnified with time.

Judas missed that last message by choice. It didn't take him long to regret it. In a moment he made a mistake that cost him an eternity! He chose the world over Jesus. He chose ambition over sacrifice. He chose self over Christ. He chose death rather than life.

Make your choices carefully.

DAILY READING: John 16-17

1. Why will people mistreat believers?
2. Why must Jesus go?
3. What three things will the Comforter reprove the world of?
4. How does Jesus illustrate sorrow turning to joy?
5. Why should we be of good cheer while we face tribulation in the world?
6. What is "life eternal?"
7. Who does Jesus ask to keep those who are His?
8. How are believers sanctified (set apart unto holiness)?
9. How do we know that Jesus has prayed for us specifically?

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

DAY
4

Cities/Places

NOT MY WILL

Jesus taught us in the model prayer to pray “Thy will be done.” He models this very concept in Gethsemane as He prays “Not my will but Thine be done.”

This is a great lesson to be learned by Peter. As we examine the chronology of events in comparing the gospels, we learn that he was admonished both in the upper room and en route to Gethsemane. Luke and John record the first instance while Matthew and Mark report the second.

Peter’s love and loyalty towards Jesus were diminished because He was not following His leading. Good intentions without good instruction are good for nothing. Recall it was also Peter who rebuked Jesus in Matthew 16 saying that Jesus would not be killed. It was then that Christ said, “Get thee behind me Satan...for thou savourest not the things that be of God.”

His good intentions were not balanced by a good understanding of God’s will. Meaning well and doing well do not always run in parallel courses. In fact, they often go in divergent directions.

Our will, our understanding, our desires and our interests must give way to clear direction from the Word of God. Jesus not only taught this but He modeled it. Jesus said in John 8:29, “I do always those things that please him.” Unfortunately, God’s ways are often considered outdated even by many who claim the role and responsibility of spiritual leadership. They have become pragmatic and measure their success by the response of men rather than the will of God. This contemporary movement has removed the ancient landmarks.

I find it interesting that there appears to be a difference between the will of the Father and that of the Son. This is the only dichotomy between them I know of. Upon further reflection, I think you will find that it is not truly a matter of differing wills but conflicting desires. Jesus dreaded the task of becoming sin. He did not want to become guilty of our trespasses. But there was one thing that was worse: man’s impending judgment. The Father could not receive mankind unless sin had been atoned for. Therefore the Son yielded to the will of the Father and He became “sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21.

By His example of submission, we learn to have more than good intentions but rather yielded and submissive hearts and minds.

DAILY READING: Mark 14:26-42, Matthew 26:30-46, Luke 22:39-46

1. Where did Jesus take the disciples?
2. Who did Jesus take farther into the garden?
3. Why should they have watched and prayed?
4. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak?”
5. Where did Jesus say He would meet them after the resurrection?
6. How would you describe Peter’s attitude?
7. What information does Luke, the physician, add to this account?
8. Why were the disciples sleeping?

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you you have learned from God’s Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

DAY
5

Cites/Places

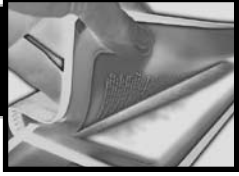


TABLE TALK



PASTOR'S MESSAGE