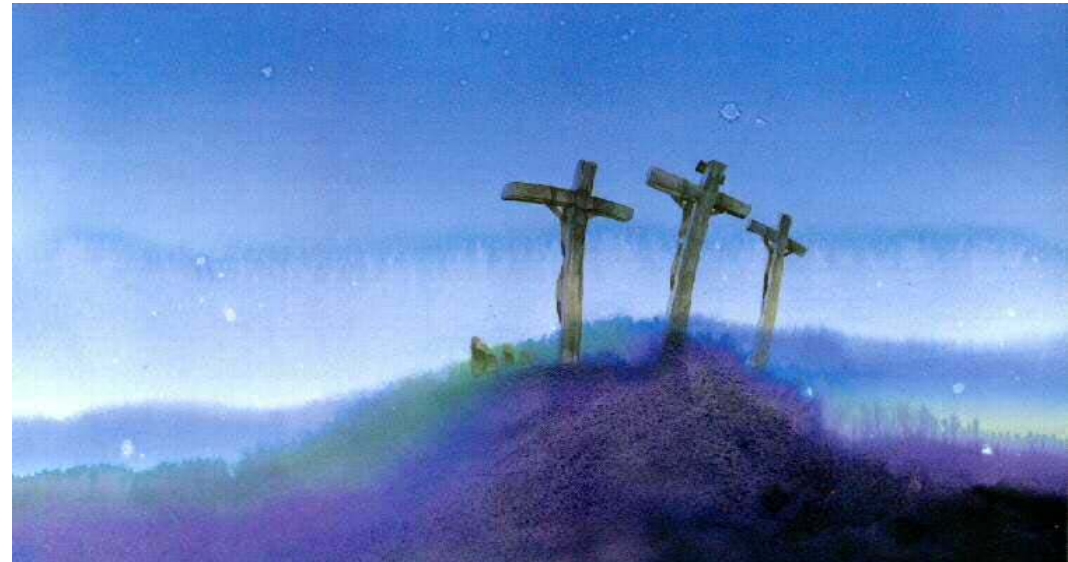


Journeying with Jesus



December 2 (Friday) **The Cost of Following Jesus** Luke 9:57-62

1. Are you surprised by the claim of one of Jesus' follower, "I will follow you wherever you go" (v. 57)?
2. What do you think cause that the followers to make such claims? (vv. 57, 59, 61) Is it because after witnessing Jesus' miracles? Hearing Jesus' wise teachings? Experiencing Jesus' heart for the lost? Or maybe Jesus plainly asked the followers to "follow me" and waited for each of their response?
3. Why did Jesus quickly ripped away the romanticism of what it meant to be with Him? (vv. 58, 60, 62)
4. Are there any elements of comfort, convenience, or life choices that might keep you from fully committing to Jesus?
5. What particular problem is Jesus addressing among His disciples?
6. After reading Luke 9:57-62, how would you now answer "What is a Christian?"

My thought:

My prayer:

December 3 (Saturday) **The Coming of the Kingdom** Luke 17:20-37

1. How could the Kingdom be in or in the midst of the Pharisees? (vv. 20, 21)
2. How do we know for certain that we will not merely chase after miracles or messiah-sightings? (v. 22)
3. Why was it so difficult for the disciples to comprehend that Jesus had to suffer? (v. 25)
4. Jesus warns those on the roof or in the field not to go back to get their possessions. Why? What does this have to do with Lot's wife? (vv. 31, 32; Genesis 19:26)
5. What does "seeking to preserve his life" have to do with turning to get one's possessions? What does this tell you about following Jesus? (vv. 31-33)

My thought:

My prayer:

December 4 (Sunday) **Reflection**

3rd Week

November 28 -

December 4, 2016

*Material this week was prepared by Pastor Joseph Tang, Pastor Brian Wong and Pastor Joel Tang. Thank you!

**Source of the picture in cover page: <http://www.andong-ch.org>.

3rd Week: The Teaching of Jesus

Nov 28 (Monday) **Born Again Discourse with Nicodemus** John 3:1-21

1. Nicodemus's view of Jesus (3:2) was very similar to that of the Jews mentioned in 2:23. What was Nicodemus's view of Jesus?
2. Why is being "born of the water and the Spirit" (3:5) essential?
3. What do we need to do in order to receive the life-giving Spirit (3:15-16, 18)?
4. On what basis are human beings judged and condemned (3:14-21)? What is your present situation in relation to Jesus' proclamation about being saved and condemned? Are you saved or still under condemnation?

**In the Old Testament, "water" (joined with "spirit") sometimes depicts God's renewal and salvation. See Ezek 36: 25-26 and Isa 44:3.*

**In verse 8, the Greek word "pneuma" can mean "wind" or "spirit." Simply put, "spirit" and "wind" both refer to the life-giving Spirit.*

My thought:

My prayer:

November 29 (Tuesday) **The Beatitudes** Matthew 5:1-12

1. The Beatitudes cover a wide range of Christian values. Most commentators identify eight values (5:3-10). Among these values, which three do you think you admire most? Which two do you think you need to work on?
2. In what ways are the Beatitudes similar to or different from the good works advocated by other traditions and religions?
3. How do you envision persecution and insult leading to "blessing," as described in verses 11 and 12?

**"Blessed" is not a psychological state of mind or feeling. It represents a life condition which is to be recommended, or even envied.*

**"Poor in spirit" denotes those who humbly trust God.*

**"Pure in heart" refers to those who love God with all their heart.*

**"Righteousness" in verse 10 means living a life that always seeks after God and his will.*

**Verses 11-12 can be read as an expansion of verse 10 which talks about persecution for the sake of righteousness.*

My thought:

My prayer:

November 30 (Wednesday) **Discourse on Anxiety** Matthew 6:25-34

1. The rich worry about where to store their treasures (Mt 6:19-21). Conversely, what do the not-so-rich worry about as suggested in this passage?
2. Is it normal to worry about the necessities of life? How does this passage help you deal with your own worries?
3. What are God's promises in this passage, particularly in verses 23 and 24?

**"Worry" here means being filled with anxiety. It points to a mindset as mentioned in verse 21, in that the heart is fully preoccupied with whatever one is anxious about.*

**Faith in verse 30 can be understood as trusting God for our physical needs.*

**"His kingdom and his righteousness" denotes God's concern and care for this world.*

My thought:

My prayer:

December 1 (Thursday) **What Defiles a Person** Mark 7:1-23

1. In this passage, what were the Pharisees and Jesus arguing about? What is wrong with adhering to traditions from men? Do you feel that, like the Pharisees, you are hypocritical in some areas? Try to reflect and pray, and ask God to forgive and help you regarding any hypocrisy.
2. What example did Jesus bring up to demonstrate that the Pharisees rejected God's commandments for the sake of tradition?
3. Examine your personal Christian conduct. Is your emphasis on the word of God, or on tradition?
4. "Whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him. What comes out of a person is what defiles him." How does this saying remind and help us live holy lives?

My thought:

My prayer: