

6. In what way does this passage serve as a reminder and encouragement those who serve the Lord?

Prayer: Pray for your personal service in the Church. Ask God to teach us how we should follow our Lord in our service to Him.

February 16 (Friday)

Jesus predicted His imminent death

John 12:27-50

Time: A.D. 30, Monday

What is true bravery? True bravery is when even while stricken with fear, you still insist on doing what should be done.

1. From Jesus' prayer in verse 27, "Father, save me from this hour. But for this purpose I have come to this hour," what can you understand about the struggle that Jesus was having at that time?
2. The Father responded by saying, "I have glorified it (My name), and will glorify it again." What does this mean? How did the Father glorify His own name? And how can His name be glorified again? How can I glorify the name of the Lord?
3. In verses 30 – 33, what were the 5 signs that Jesus gave to His disciples at that time?
4. Verses 35-36 are not only the responses to the disciples' questions as stated in verse 34, but they also introduced the idea that Jesus is the light of the world as mentioned in verses 37-50. Throughout verses 35-50, how does the theme "Jesus is the light of the world, and those who believe in Him are to become sons of light" respond to the question that the disciples brought up asking, "the Christ will remain forever?"
5. Are my actions and behaviours in line with being called a son of light? How will others recognize that I am a son of light, a believer in Jesus Christ?

Prayer: Please take some time to meditate and reflect in silence before the Lord: Is there anything in me that is not done in the light? Ask for God's forgiveness and renewal, in order to grow as a son of light who follows our Lord.

February 17 (Saturday)

The parable of the two sons

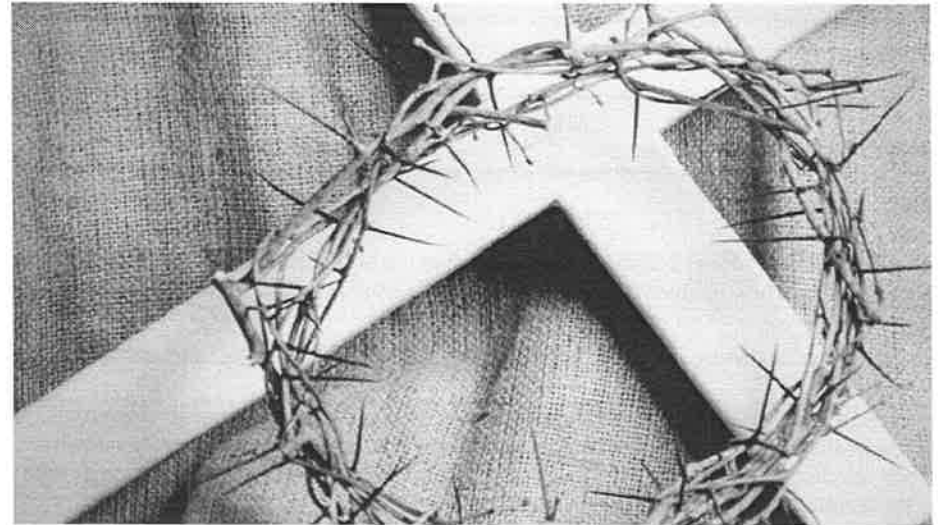
Matthew 21:23-32

Time: A.D. 30, Tuesday

1. What was the purpose of Jesus' question of the priests in verses 24-27? Were the priests really aware, or were they pretending that they do not know?
2. What two kinds of people do these two sons, respectively, represent? Which kind of people do you think the priests represented? Take a serious look at yourself, and ask yourself, what kind of person am I?
3. What do you think is the meaning of this parable? Was it pointing towards acceptance of God's grace or pointing at knowing before taking action?
4. We all know that obedience includes taking appropriate actions. Are there any things that I know I have to do in obedience, but am neither willing nor able to do?

Prayer: Pray for yourself and the Church. Ask God to give us a heart to obey joyously. Let go of yourself, trust and obey the will of God for yourself and the Church.

Remember Christ Draw Near to the Cross



1st Week

February 12-18, 2018

February 12 (Monday)

Jesus in Bethany near Jerusalem

John 11:45-57

Time: A.D. 30, Friday afternoon

This was the third time that John mentioned the Passover was at hand. The other two times are recorded in John 2:13 and 6:4. This Passover was probably in the year AD30, showing not only that Jesus died on the cross around April or May of that year, but indicating that the length of Jesus' public ministry on earth was only about 3 years.

1. What were the reasons that the priests and the Pharisees wanted to kill Jesus?
2. How did Caiaphas, the high priest, see the death of Jesus? Did he really know the identity and mission of Jesus as the Son of God and decide to make Jesus die for the people, or was it for his own benefit?
3. How do I see the death of the Lord Jesus Christ today?
4. Why did the Jews need to cleanse themselves before the Passover?
5. How should I prepare myself before this Easter?

Prayer for yourself: Pray that God will help us to gain a better understanding of the meaning of the death of our Lord Jesus, and how we can remember Christ and commit to the Cross.

February 13 (Tuesday)

Jesus, as the Messiah, received all the glory upon entering Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11

Time: A.D. 30, Sunday

500 years ago, the Prophet Zechariah prophesied that the King of Israel would enter Jerusalem riding a colt. Matthew quoted Zechariah 9:9 in order to emphasize that Jesus was the Messiah King.

The value of an object depends on who the person using it is, and how the user uses it.

1. Luke 19:28-40 records that the colt was originally tied in place in a village. It was a small colt of which no one would take notice and on which no one had ever ridden. What was the reason for and what was the focus of this narrative? How does it contrast strongly with the identity of a Messiah King?
2. The value of an object depends on who is the person using it, am I willing to be used by the Lord, just like this small colt?
3. This little colt was used only once by Jesus Christ. Would I be willing if my life is used only once by the Lord? Will I be obedient?
4. How did the people greet Jesus Christ when He entered Jerusalem? What were their emotions? What did they do to prepare for it? How can I prepare myself to meet Jesus Christ today?

Prayer: Pray for yourself and for the Church. Ask that God will use the Church and yourself so that many will be blessed.

February 14 (Wednesday)

Jesus cursed the fruitless fig tree

Mark 11:12-25

Time: A.D. 30, Monday

The first harvest from fig trees usually is in the month of May, followed by the second harvest in the months of August to October. At the end of March, the fig tree will become very leafy; at

the same time, some finger-sized young fruit will sprout from the branches. These are not the final fruit of the fig trees, but they are also edible. When these little young fruit come out, it means that there will be a harvest of fig fruit in May. However, if there are only lush leaves but no such young fruit, then there will be no harvests of fig fruit in either May or August.

Israel is typically represented by the city of Jerusalem, and the centre of Jerusalem is the Holy Temple. The fig tree is commonly used as a symbol for Israel.

The Lord Jesus quoted from the books of Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:11 to explain why he cleared the Holy Temple.

1. Mark pointed out that it was not the season for fig trees, then what time of the year did he mean? What were the fruits that Jesus was looking for under the tree? Do you think it was reasonable for Jesus to curse the fig tree? And why?
2. The fig tree was leafy but bore no fruit, and the Temple should have been solemn and holy, but it had become a den of robbers. What warnings do these two analogies highlight?
3. The prophet Isaiah predicted that the salvation of the Lord would be for all nations, and that the object of His grace was not only the Israelites. Gentiles could also come to His temple to pray. Jeremiah, the prophet, warned Israel seven hundred years earlier that they had turned the temple into a place of incessant sin. They thought mistakenly that their sins would be forgiven because of the sacrificial offerings they made in the Temple. What were the lessons about prayer that Mark wanted to bring out by way of these two Old Testament references?
4. Jesus mentioned faith in verses 22 – 26; what are the relationships among these three: faith, bearing fruit, and prayer?
5. How is my faith in Jesus Christ today? How does this faith affect my personal prayer, and how does it encourage me to bear fruit in my life now?

Prayer: Pray about your faith. Ask God to give us the confidence that through trusting our Lord we can be changed. May we by faith face the many challenges that life brings our way.

February 15 (Thursday)

A kernel that will produce many seeds

John 12:20-26

Time: A.D. 30, Monday

The Greeks, may also refer to the Gentiles who were under the influence of Greek culture during those times. They went to Jerusalem to worship at the Feast, showing that they were Gentiles who believed in God.

"We would like to see Jesus" means, "We want to meet the Lord Jesus in person to ask him some questions."

1. From the response that Jesus Christ made with regard to 'service' in verses 23-26, what might the subject of the questions have been that these Greeks were asking our Lord Jesus?
2. What did Jesus mean when he said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified"?
3. What is the metaphor of "a kernel" meant to tell us?
4. How does the metaphor of "a kernel" relate to the qualities and attitudes of those who serve Jesus as mentioned in verse 26?
5. What do I need to do to improve my attitude towards serving the Lord today and what motivations should I have when serving?