

Prayer and Study Guide

Daily Scripture Readings – 3/10/19

Monday – Read Luke 22:1-6 and Matthew 26:14-16. **Conspiracy.** Judas spent three years with Jesus, but he never gave his heart to Jesus. By the time Jesus headed towards Jerusalem he had begun talking about his own suffering and death, and Judas began thinking, “I’m not going to die with this man.” Judas wondered, “Can I get anything for the last three years of my life?” Thirty pieces of silver was worth about \$10,000. What would you be willing to do for \$10,000? If someone was going to write you a check for \$10,000, how much would you be willing to compromise your faith and sell out what your beliefs? Judas had to decide, “Do I love my political views, or do I love Jesus?” Jesus wasn’t a Republican or a Democrat or a Libertarian. We have to decide if we are going to follow Jesus or our political views. Judas chose to follow his political views. What does it mean to you to be loyal to Jesus? Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you grow in faithfulness to Jesus.

Tuesday – Read Luke 22:7-13. **The Passover Lamb.** Luke tells us, *“Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.* The Apostle Paul calls Jesus our Passover Lamb. The Passover Lamb was not a sacrifice for sin. That happened on Yom Kippur. The Passover Lamb was a sacrifice to remember God’s deliverance and the way God freed God’s people from slavery. The theme of Passover is liberation and freedom from slavery. Every time the Passover is celebrated, it is a drama that reenacts the Exodus story when God freed the Hebrew people who were slaves in Egypt. Remembering the story helped them remember what God has done for them. As you pray, consider the way God has freed you from sin and death and fear. Offer your thanks to God.

Wednesday – Read Luke 22:14-20 & Matthew 26:26-29. **The Last Supper.** That night as they celebrated the Passover with a Seder Meal, Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper. Through this Holy Meal, Jesus offered himself fully to his disciples. After blessing and breaking the bread, he said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he gave them the cup and said, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Spend some time thinking about what these words mean to you. When we receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, Jesus fully gives himself to us and offers us forgiveness of our sins. In your prayer, thank God for Jesus’ sacrifice and for the Holy Meal that helps us to never forget what Jesus has done.

Thursday – Read Luke 22:21-23 and Matthew 26:20-25. **Judas Iscariot.** Matthew wants us to see that Jesus is in control and that he willingly submits in obedience to God’s will even when it leads to death on a cross. As his time drew near, Jesus knew that Judas Iscariot would betray him, and yet he still included him with the disciples in celebrating the Passover. Here, Judas calls Jesus, *Rabbi* instead of *Lord*. In Matthew’s Gospel, usually unbelievers called Jesus *Master, Teacher, or Rabbi*. As you consider this story, think about the ways you have betrayed Jesus. Ask Jesus to forgive you. Think about the people who have betrayed you. Ask Jesus to help you extend that same forgiveness to those people.

Friday – Read Luke 22:24-27 and John 13:1-17. **Foot Washing.** Jesus knew that he was about to face the greatest suffering of his entire life, but the disciples were oblivious to this. As they gathered with Jesus for his Last Supper, they argued with each other about which of them would be the greatest. So Jesus taught them one more lesson about what it means to serve in ministry. During the meal, he got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet. He told them, ¹³ “*You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am.* ¹⁴ *So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.*” Ask God to show you how God wants you to serve in ministry.

Saturday – Read Psalm 118:1-29. **Passover Hymn.** Mark put no detail in his brief account of how the Last Supper ended. Perhaps that is because anyone who knew the Jewish faith would have known that the last hymn sung at the end of Passover was Psalm 118. Psalm 118:6 says, “*The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can human beings do to me?*” What do you think those words would have meant to Jesus as he sang them in the upper room hours before his crucifixion? How do those words speak to any fears you carry in your heart? Psalm 118:17 says, “*I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.*” Try to imagine the thoughts and feelings Jesus might have had as he sang those words. When we suffer, we may be tempted to think that God has forgotten us. As you pray, consider what the Lord has done for you in and through suffering?

Lectionary Readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13.

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