

“The Follow Jesus Project”

Monday, Oct. 26

Scripture to read: Matthew 25:34-40

Thoughts to consider:

Jesus tells us who may have entrance to the eternal kingdom of the saved. You may remember that Jesus previously enumerated the greatest commandments: 1) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind; 2) Love your neighbor as yourself. Now He tells us some specifics: feed the hungry; give water to the thirsty; show hospitality; clothe those who need clothing; care for the sick; visit those in prison. When we perform these acts in Jesus' name we are serving Him. Which one of these deeds can you perform this week?

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Scripture to read: Matthew 25:41-46

Thoughts to consider:

Some words to contrast with those spoken by Jesus to those on His right and on His left at Judgment Day: come/depart; blessed/cursed; kingdom/eternal fire. Hell is a place prepared for the devil and his angels; God wants no one to go there. Jesus here condemned those on His left for doing nothing. They had opportunities to do good, but chose to do nothing. Certainly fear of Hell is not the best motive for following Christ. However we have been duly warned!

Wednesday, Oct. 28

Scripture to read: Matthew 26:1, 2

Thoughts to consider:

The Tuesday before Jesus' crucifixion was a very long and busy day. Jesus is now speaking to His disciples and He knew what events would transpire in a few days' time. Jesus was preparing Himself to fulfill His mission. The Passover was a major Jewish feast and ordinarily was a time of celebration of the escape from enslavement in Egypt. This Passover, however, was going to be marked by a devastating event; the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified. Can you imagine how Jesus felt at this time? Not only would He face the trials, the scourging, the mockings, and the crucifixion. He knew that one of His own apostles would betray Him. It hurts Him just that much each time we betray Him.

Thursday, Oct. 29

Scriptures to read: Matthew 26:3-5, Mark 14:1, 2, Luke 22:1, 2

Thoughts to consider:

Hundreds of thousands of Jewish pilgrims came to Jerusalem for Passover. Riots were not unknown, and the religious leaders knew that many people admired Jesus. They had seen Jesus' extreme popularity at the Triumphal Entry. This irritated them.

They were determined that He must be put to death as soon as possible. So they began to look for a way to bring this about. Apparently these chief priests, scribes, and elders of the people reached the conclusion that nothing less than Jesus' lifeblood would suffice. It is noteworthy that they feared their own safety from the people more than God's honor. They desired nothing more than the praise of men, but dreaded nothing more than the rage and displeasure of men. We must be on guard that we do not act in order to please people.

Friday, Oct. 30

Scriptures to read: Matthew 26:14, 15, Mark 14:10, 11, Luke 22:3-5

Thoughts to consider:

Although the chief priests had not intended to apprehend Jesus during the Passover Feast, they seized the unexpected opportunity offered by Judas. This was too good to be true! It is interesting that Luke expressed Judas' decision by saying, "Satan entered Judas." Of course Judas had control over his actions. Judas Iscariot was chosen by Jesus as one of the twelve apostles. He was further honored by being made treasurer of the group. We should be reminded to be on guard lest we fall to Satan's temptations. Even Jesus' own can fall. We can never feel totally safe. May we pray for strength to withstand any temptation Satan may put in our path.

Saturday, Oct. 31

Scriptures to read: Matthew 26:16, Mark 14:11, Luke 22:6

Thoughts to consider:

After Judas' agreement with the religious leaders to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, he began the cold-blooded search for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to His enemies. Judas bargained on Tuesday night and would find the opportunity to fulfill his contract on Thursday night. We read in other Scripture that the root of all evil is the love of money. This is a perfect example of such greed. Lest we self-righteously condemn Judas; let's examine our own hearts and actions. Can you think of ways that people betray Christ? Have you been guilty of doing so? Pray for forgiveness right now. And make sure that you seek opportunities to do good and not evil.

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