

WHEN YOU LOVE HIM, YOU WILL OBEY HIM

Psalm 31:1-5,7 NLT // John 14:1-17 NLT

MONDAY 5/8/23

PSALM 31:1 O Lord // I have come to you for protection; don't let me be disgraced. Save me, for you do what is right.

JOHN 14:1-17// 1-2 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me." 2 "There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?"

REFLECTION Soon after this meeting with His disciples, Jesus would be hanging on a cross, dying a very painful death. To prepare His followers for the darkness that is going to surround them, He reminds them of their future home. This gives them the much needed hope for when they will be tempted to run and hide from the authorities. He encourages them to trust in their faith in God. Whenever we are in despair, we too, ought to look toward Jesus who encourages us to seek His peace from reading these words, "I am going to prepare a place for you". This place is prepared for the day of our resurrection. The Son of God is the only heir of this heavenly "place". He took possession of it when He rose from the dead. Now, He calls our names and invites us to receive God's gift of eternal life. It is only through Jesus that we are permitted to enter in. Ephesians 1:3 reads, "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. "

PRAYER O'Lord Jesus, I come before you today asking for your protection from those who want to disrupt my life. Please, I pray, don't let my enemies keep me from doing what is right in your sight. In Jesus Name, Amen

TUESDAY 5/9/23

PSALM 31:2 // Turn your ear to listen to me; rescue me quickly. Be my rock of protection, a fortress where I will be safe.

JOHN 14:1-17/ /3-5 3 "When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. 4 And you know the way to where I am going. 5 No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

REFLECTION It is an undeniable truth that Christ dwells with us and in us by his Spirit. Jesus is being prophetic here with "I will come and get you so that you will always be with me." Christ will one day return to earth to collect all His people and re-establish God's Kingdom. This means the whole body of Christ (Church) will be redeemed. Now as Christians, we are waiting for our turn to enter into heaven. Christ's death and resurrection has far more implications than Thomas could have understood at the time. Soon these Apostles will see their beloved Lord hang on a Cross. This diabolical and destructive act is still shocking to us today. The magnitude of Jesus' death was not just for the Jewish people but all of humanity. Ephesians 3:1-3 says, "When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles 2 assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending his grace to you Gentiles. 3 As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me."

PRAYER Heavenly Father, please turn your ear to hear me. Rescue me from myself and help me to live by your mysterious plan for me. In Jesus Name, Amen

WEDNESDAY 5/10/23

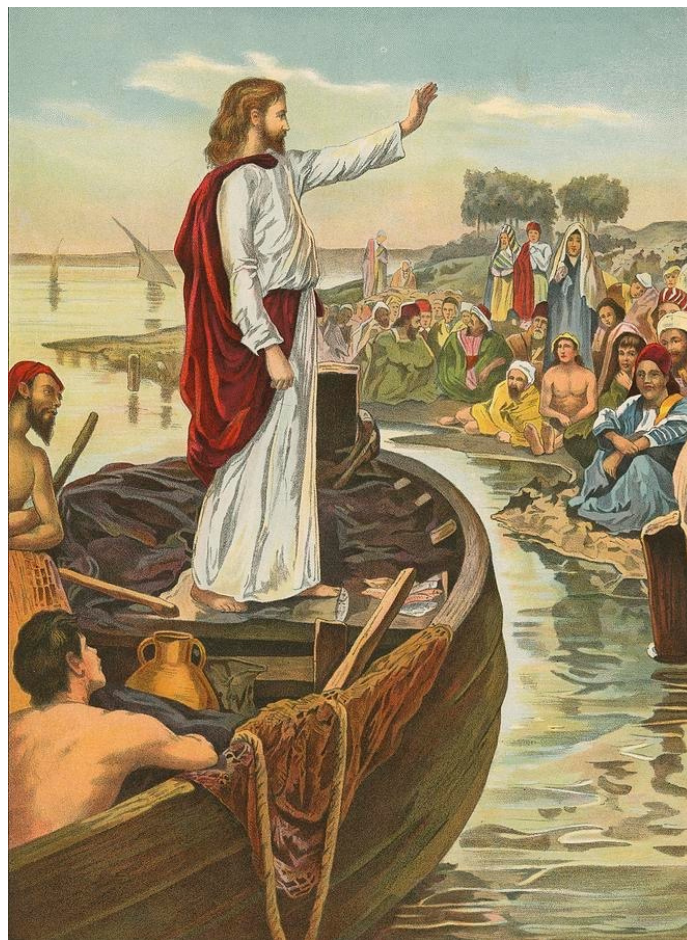
PSALM 31:3 // You are my rock and my fortress.
For the honor of your name, lead me out of this danger.

JOHN 14:1-17//6-8 6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. 7 If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!" 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

REFLECTION "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." This famous Bible verse has been heard around the world by millions of people. There are three points of our faith in this text. There is the first introduction to God through Christ. (I am the way); secondly this message is not a lie about God but the truth about God (many false prophets); thirdly, we now live in a relationship with God (everyday) breath we take. Each day new wisdom is revealed to us about the mysteries of God and it will continue throughout our lives. All this leads to

a joy filled life. God's compassion and mercy comes to us in Jesus who guides us. Psalms 36:9 reads, "For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light."

PRAYER: Keep me always under your protection Lord, may I not be deceived, nor led astray. In Jesus Name, Amen



THURSDAY 5/11/23

PSALM 31:4 // Pull me from the trap my enemies set for me, for I find protection in you alone.

JOHN 14:1-17 // 9-11 9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me and does his work through me.

REFLECTION Jesus is reprimanding Philip for not seeing or accepting this pure and certain faith standing before him. Phillip is living day after day with Jesus and participating in His miraculous powers. John 1:45 says, "Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."" Yet, now he remains naive to who Jesus is as the incarnation of God. What drives Phillip to have such ingratitude? We too are not satisfied with Christ alone and rush ahead with foolish human intensions. God has shown to us His infinite goodness in Jesus and let's never lose sight of this powerful truth.

PRAYER: Lord forgive my doubt, when I know in my heart it is only you who I can follow and trust in all things. In Jesus Name, Amen.

FRIDAY 5/12/23

PSALM 31:5 // I entrust my spirit into your hand. Rescue me, Lord, for you are a faithful God.

JOHN 14:1-17 // 12-14 (Jesus said) 11 “Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do. 12 I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. 13 You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. 14 Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!”

REFLECTION We all need to be reminded daily that our faith in Christ is a gift from God. All of us are invited to do the will of God our Father. The best way to do this is not out of guilt and shame, but out of respect, honor and a love for God. It is true God has laid every kind of blessings upon us. Verse 12 reads, “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done.” This means that Christ has a continuous power that goes far beyond the confinement of His physical presence on earth. In other words, Christ continues to demonstrate His power in all believers. The ascension of Christ (Luke:24:50-53) is seen by His followers was a full display of Christ’s Divinity. The proof of Christ’s Divinity is not confined to just His body but is dispersed into each believer who makes up the true Church. Philippians 2:10, "so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth."

PRAYER Lord, why is it so hard to see through your eyes when I know all things work together for your good? Help me to show your face to others. In Jesus Name, Amen

SATURDAY 5/13/23

PSALM 31:7 // I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love, for you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul.

JOHN 14:1-17 // 15-17 15 “If you love me, obey my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.”

REFLECTION Jesus is straight forward in verse 15: “ If you love me,” you will obey His commands. The love we have for Christ is to be true and sincere. Sometimes our sinful nature resists to bend to our spiritual nature. It may even seem like a war going on in our hearts. To correct this fault, Jesus tells us to direct our love, not only to Him, but to one another. My love for Christ is in a battle with my flesh. I do not always honor Him as I ought to. The good news is no matter how frail we are in our faith we still strive to love more and be humble of heart. Jesus informs us the Spirit (or 'Advocate') is a gift from the Father. The Spirit leads us if we take time to reach out to Him. Jesus is our intercessor who obtains from the Father the grace of the Spirit . As a response, we learn to love Him by showing mutual love and respect to others.

PRAYER Gracious God I am so glad and rejoice in your unfailing love for me. You reach out in times of my troubles and give comfort to my soul. In Jesus Name, Amen



Psalm 31:1-5,7 NLT // John 14:1-17 NLT

Rev Bruce J VanDer Kolk