

Readings for May 26, 2019

Sixth Sunday of Easter

"The Great Mystery of Faith...Direction"

9:30 AM

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 5:1-9

10:45 AM

Acts 16:9-15

John 5:1-9



Readings for June 2, 2019

Seventh Sunday of Easter

"The Great Mystery of Faith...The Living Word"

9:30 AM

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

10:45 AM

Acts 16:16-34

John 17:20-26



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Daily Walk for the week of May 27, 2019

"The Great Mystery of Faith: Direction"

Written by Robbie Schwartz

Monday, May 27th

The text of John 5:1-9 could easily serve as a wake-up call to the world today. Because in the text, we are reminded that God's healing does not always depend on the quality or quantity of one's faith. The invalid who lay at the pool was no man of discernable faith and for all intents and purposes did not know he was speaking with Jesus. For 38 years this man lay as an invalid and most likely without faith and in fact did not even bother learning the name of he who helped. Jesus worked with compassion and healing that was not just utilized for those who were deemed to be deserving but it was also used to show the will of God. Like many of His other healing acts, Jesus did not perform these miracles for the sake of praise or gratitude but rather to show himself as a servant of God the Father, chosen to display His compassion for all humanity.

Tuesday, May 28th

One of the most important messages to take away from John 5:1-9 is the fact yes, Jesus healed a man who was most likely without faith in God. But for me, it was the fact that like many of the actions that defined Jesus as our Savior, it was the fact that He went to the invalid who lay by the pool. We are called to go out and help others, and herein lies the proof of that mission. While the man could not get to the water, Jesus could get to him. The reality is that at one point we all were just like the invalid man of the text, lying and waiting for someone to help guide us toward a path where we find not just meaning for this life, but for the life we are meant to live after we are done dwelling here on Earth. Jesus offered this man life, as he has offered to each of us. He also gave this man direction, and it is up to us to allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives each day to guide us along the path God has set for us to follow.

"The Great Mystery of Faith: The Living Word"

Written by Vernon Mukhlall

Wed May 29 Word Of God: Alive And Powerful

"And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD. And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book. And he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers." 2 Chronicles 34: 30 – 32. Have you ever rummaged through your attic, basement, or your storage room and found something - a photo, a letter or a document - which you did not consider a usual find but something of great value about which you're excited? The priest had found the Book of the Law of the Lord which is perhaps Deuteronomy or the entire Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. The Law somehow survived the long period of religious suppression that God's people had faced. No one knew who put it there but God cause it to be preserved, discovered, and brought to King Josiah who "walked in the ways of the Lord". King Josiah's response to the book inspired him to initiate a religious revival. Like King Josiah, are you excited about God's word which is "alive and powerful" Heb 4: 12. How can we know what God is telling us if we do not read his word? Are you excited about glorifying God by reading, hearing, studying, and meditating on His word daily so as to grow in his grace? Prayer: Holy God, your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Help me to read, listen, and meditate on your word as often as possible. Grant me wisdom to understand and live according to your commands. Amen.

Thu May 30 Power To Share The Gospel

“But you shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1: 8. The power of the Holy Spirit is always mentioned in relation to the sharing of the Gospel of truth so that the true and living God will be glorified and the lives of people will be changed. Here, Jesus is preparing his disciples for mission to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth. But first they must wait for the Holy Spirit who the Father has promised to send and who will empower them for this mission. Similarly, God has important work for us to do so as to glorify his name and to change the lives of people. However, we must do it by the power of the Holy Spirit. All believers, including you and I, are indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3: 16) who is working to confirm us to the image of Christ and to empower us for service. That is, to tell people of the love and grace of God which are available to them in Christ. Where do you feel called to be Jesus’ witness? Where is your “Jerusalem”, your “Judea”, your “Samaria” to which you want to take the good news of the Gospel? Take the first step towards that relative, that friend, that neighbor, that member of your community who may not know Christ and then trust the indwelling Holy Spirit to help you to do the rest. Prayer: Almighty and merciful God, your Son has shed His blood to make a way for me to have a close relationship with you. Mercifully grant me the courage and the skills to help others to know you and to have a right relationship with you. Help me also to live my life worthy of that calling. Amen.

Fri May 31 Mary Visits Elizabeth

“And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah; And entered into the house of Zachariah, and greeted Elizabeth. And it came to pass, that, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit: And she spoke out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” Luke 1: 39 – 42. God uses His people in ways best suited to His purpose and for His glory. Luke records that God uses Elizabeth who was old and barren (v 7) to give birth to John the Baptist, and Mary a very young and unmarried girl to give birth to Jesus, the Son of God, the long awaited Messiah. In her pregnant condition, Mary hastily visited Elizabeth. We can deduce from their greetings that Elizabeth had recognized that the child that Mary was carrying was really the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word, by referring to Mary as “the mother of my Lord” (V 43) . The Holy Spirit indicated to Elizabeth that Mary’s child was the Messiah. John, while in his mother's womb also joyously reacted to the presence of Jesus still in Mary’s womb. The fore-runner gave testimony to the Messiah even before he (John) was born. God has the power to do the impossible. God uses Mary and Elizabeth to bring to fruition His plan of salvation for the world. What if God wants to use you for His purpose? Will you be willing to accept the challenge? Prayer: Mighty God, by

whose grace Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary and greeted her as the mother of the Lord. Help us Lord that with Mary, we may magnify your holy name and rejoice that her Son, Jesus Christ, is our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Sat June 1 Jesus The Eternal Word

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.” John 1: 1 – 3. The first words of John, “In the beginning was the Word”, recall the first words of Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning when God created”. In both cases it means before the world was created. That is, the Word had an existence before the world was created. What does John mean by the “Word”? He clearly shows that he is speaking of Jesus Christ, a human being he knew and love, but who at the same time is God and creator of the world and the revelation of the nature and will of God the Father . Although Jesus took upon Himself the form of a human being, He never ceases to be the eternal God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and the source of eternal life. This is the fundamental truth of Jesus, the Word that became flesh. With this truth in mind, we as believers, can boldly put our trust in our Savior, Jesus Christ, and have an open mind to understand God’s message and to fulfill his purpose in our lives. Prayer: Almighty God, you have helped me to realize that every thing around me and everything that I can see is made by the Eternal Word, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He also came down to earth to reveal the heavenly Father to the whole world. Grant me the wisdom to know more about the nature of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sun June 2 The Word Intercedes For Us

“I am praying not for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one – as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.” John 17: 20 – 21. We value the prayers of the prayer team or someone who intercedes on our behalf. How much more we should value our Lord's intercession on our behalf. John records that after Jesus prayed for Himself and His disciples, He also prayed for all believers, both present and future. That includes us. Jesus prayed for unity among us (V 17:11) , protection from the evil one (V 17:15), and holiness (V 17:17) . Jesus ‘desire is for us to be unified as a powerful witness to the reality of God's love , grace, and mercy. Knowing that Jesus prayed for us that should give us confidence as we work for his Kingdom. He wants us to pray for others, uplift others, work together in humility to build and care for his church. Prayer: Lord Jesus, you have prayed for all your faithful people to be drawn into your one will. Make me love what you command and desire what you promise, that in the midst of all the changes of this world, my heart may be fixed in you, and to be a part of your mission where true joy is found. Amen.