

Journeying With John: Holy Week for a Holy People

As we continue to hear by the Spirit what John wants us to understand and act on as we try to follow Jesus, let's remember that these final chapters are like a dying person telling those he loved all the important things they needed to know:

March 25th John 14 Way, Truth, Life.

Jesus emphasizes the need for absolute trust in Him! He alone embodies the Way to the Father, the truth about the Father, and Life from the Father! With all the grace we can muster we need to declare the utter uniqueness of Jesus (Acts 4:12). We need to boldly ask what we need to effective witnesses for Him! And the good news is that He will give us the Holy Spirit to be all we need to be for Jesus! Let 14:31 be written so you see it as you awake: 'The world must know that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.'

March 26th John 15 True Vine

Jesus is True Vine (source of Life itself): apart from Him we can do nothing, so why try? Father is the Gardener (the ultimate Garden makeover): He looks for fruitfulness, that how we show ourselves to be His disciples! Fruitfulness is not just fruit of the Spirit (Jesus' character), its ushering souls into the Kingdom! No such thing as a static Christian life! How can we be fruitful? By the Great Command: to Love! We are reminded: we did not choose Him, He choose us! With the Cross as the backdrop, Jesus tells us that the World will always hate us as it hated Him, because no-one likes to face up to the truth in the flesh.

March 27th John 16 Work of Holy Spirit

What are the crucial aspects of what the Spirit will do? Jesus tells his disciples three crucial parts of HS ministry they can rely on! When He (person Holy Spirit, like Jesus) comes (v8), He will convict the world of guilt 1. In regard to sin (you and I don't need to heap

judgement on another soul, just pray for the spirit to bring conviction that they are sinners, but can become sinners saved by grace!). Note that Jesus says the biggest sin is unbelief! **2.** In regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer (so the Spirit becomes the visual aid of what is right and how one can live in right relationship with God). **3.** In regard to judgement, because the prince of this world now stands condemned (choose Jesus, choose Light! Remember Satan is a defeated creature). Pray: Holy Spirit convict me of anything in my life stopping me be in full and right relationship with Father and Jesus. The chapter finishes with: In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world (v33). Lord give me an overcoming faith!

March 28th John 17 Prayer in the Garden

Called the High Priestly Prayer because Jesus is praying for himself (if he needs that how much more me!), for His disciples, and for you and me (all believers). Key issue for Jesus: that He had completed the work the Father had asked of Him (would that we could affirm the same one day). Key prayer for disciples: I have given them all you gave me Father, Father grant them your protection, but don't take them out of the world, just protect them from the evil one. Sanctify them by the truth (me, Jesus, Word made flesh). Key desire for all believers: Unity, One Church, One Faith, One Lord. How far we are from manifesting that in Canterbury!

John 18 Arrest & Trial Arrest: Fleshly betrayal by Judas, Fleshly attack by Peter, Fleshly denial x 3 by Peter, Religious control response mode by Annas & Caiaphas (sacrificial lamb v14), and then Pilate (political correctness embodied!). All are temptations which we will have to deal with as we seek to follow....

March 29th John 19 Died He For Me.

David Jacklin (Trinity Community Church) will be speaking on Good Friday (10am). Suffice it to say, lets each ask ourselves whether the final verse of 'When I survey' is our true testimony?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,

That were an offering far too small;

Love so amazing, so divine,

Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Pastor David

Easter 2013.