UPC Family Devotoinal

January – Week 4

Memory Verse of the Week

“But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.”

Luke 8:15

Jan 23 Sunday Luke 6:39 – 49

Both the wise and the foolish engage in building a house they hope will last. But one hardship after another will reveal each house’s worth. Those who hear and carefully obey Jesus’ words will survive the inevitable storms of this life. But for those who neglect the foundation, disaster awaits. Let us take the time to examine our lives and tune every aspect to Christ’s teachings.

Which illustration in this passage catches your attention and why? How can you dig deep and build solid foundation for your life?

Jan 24 Monday Luke 7:1-10

The Roman centurion’s faith is seen in his deep humility and understanding of the nature of Jesus’ authority. His spiritual insight and unwavering trust is, according to Jesus, beyond anything he has seen among God’s own people. Our faith is best reflected in the kind of humility that allows God to work in our lives however He chooses. When, where, or how He decides to respond to us is of little importance. What matters is our submission to God’s divine authority and our trust in His goodness.

Why is it important to allow Jesus to answer our prayers in his time and his way? When has God answered your prayers in an unexpected way?

Jan 25 Tuesday Luke 7:11-17

Jesus returning the resurrected son to his mother is reminiscent of Elijah doing the same in 1 Kings 17:23, further demonstrating that Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of both the Law and the prophets. Appropriately, the people are filled with awe and declare rightly that “God has come to help his people.” Truly, Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. Let us praise him with overflowing gladness.

How have you witnessed God restoring you from brokenness? In what ways are you experiencing God’s help every day?

Jan 26 Wednesday Luke 7:18-35

Jesus tells a short parable where he compares His generation to spoiled children who refuse to participate in the activities of their peers. The Pharisees criticize Jesus for his willingness to dine with “sinners” yet also reject John who practices strict abstinence. While this warning is aimed at unbelievers, we must also be careful not to have this attitude in our own lives. It is all too tempting to sit cynically on the sidelines and judge the way that other believers practice their faith. It is better for us to be like the tax collectors, who come to Jesus with nothing except their brokenness and sin. Having an open heart toward God allows him to work in our lives and produce lasting change.

Why is cynicism destructive for believers? How can you better cultivate a childlike heart that eagerly participates in the things of God?

Jan 27 Thursday Luke 7:36-50

To confront Simon’s snobbery, Jesus shares a quick parable that makes a sharp comparison for Simon to understand. The lesson is clear: the woman has poured out her costly perfume knowing how much God has forgiven her, but Simon does not see himself as needing forgiveness. Therefore, the woman responds with deep, sacrificial affection while Simon cannot be bothered to offer Jesus even the most basic signs of hospitality. When we humble ourselves and realize how sinful we are, we learn to savor the wonder of the gospel even more. We become flat-out amazed at how a perfectly holy God covers and cancels all of our sins. And then, like this woman, our hearts are filled with joy and worship for the one who saved us.

What obstacles keep you from knowing how much God has forgiven you? How can you demonstrate your love for Jesus, for what he has done for you?

Jan 28 Friday Luke 8:1-18

The disciples can understand the secrets of the kingdom of God because God has given them the ability to do so. The same holds true for believers today. We understand the truth about Jesus through the Holy Spirit’s revelation, not because we are wiser or have studied more than others. Had God left us to search for the truth on our own, we would never have found it because we were dead in our sins. Knowing the truth is a gift from God, undeserved and impossible to repay. Let us never forget that we have come to know Jesus only because he first opened the eyes of our hearts to see him for who he is.

How have you experienced God teaching you the truth? How does your knowing that understanding is a gift from God shape the way you approach His Word?

Jan 29 Saturday Luke 8:19-25

In today’s scripture, Jesus’ words here seem strange, perhaps even somewhat disrespectful. Yet his words should not be interpreted as indifference or rudeness. Rather, he shows that he gives as much attention to his spiritual family – those who hear and obey God’s word – as to his earthly family. When you are born again into God’s household, the Holy Spirit works in you a desire to hear and obey God’s word, and when the Son of God looks at you, he feels as strong a tie to you as to his mother, brothers and sisters.

In what ways have you experienced the family tie that binds you to Christ? How close do you feel to your brothers and sisters in God’s household?

A group of people in uniform standing in front of a large monument

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