

April 2021



Emmanuel

**21 Day Challenge
Devotional Guide**

21 Days

Sufferings & Victories

By

Jeff House



Pastor Jeff House is originally from Boardman, Ohio where he met his wife Carrie. He has several years of ministry experience in Montana and Ohio and holds a bachelor's degree in Pastoral Theology from Crown College in Powell, Tennessee.

Jeff joined our staff in January 2020 and serves in the role of Adult Ministry Pastor and Life Group Pastor. His responsibilities include overseeing our Life Group and Senior Adult ministries as well as developing ministry opportunities for other life stages such as young marrieds, singles and empty nesters.

Jeff is passionate about encouraging believers to see their full potential as Christians and to help them become all that Christ has saved them to be.

Jeff and Carrie have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. In his free time, Jeff enjoys anything outdoors from hunting to fishing to ATV riding.

Introduction

When we look at the sufferings of Christ, it's hard for us to adequately understand really all that the Lord went through during the hours leading up to His crucifixion and ultimately His death on the cross. There have been many books written seeking and explaining Christ's sufferings, and I would encourage you to find one of these books if you are interested in diving deeper into this study. The purpose of this devotional is not to be exhaustive, but to just graze the surface of His sufferings and to see how the Lord handled himself through His sufferings and apply his example to our own lives.

Over the next twenty-one days, my hope is to encourage you to have a greater understanding of Christ's sufferings and His victories. Fourteen days will be spent looking at some of the things that Jesus suffered for us. Then we will take seven days and look at the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we study the resurrection, we will be looking at it as if there were no resurrection and what impact that would have on the life of each believer. I hope you enjoy these short devotionals and may the Lord speak to you as you read each of them. Also, my desire is that you might find something in these devotionals to share with someone else.

Day 1

14 Days of the Sufferings of Christ

Betrayed with a Kiss

Opening Thoughts:

As we look at the Lord's sufferings in His life, specifically His last week, one of the first things that we see is His betrayal. Betrayal is difficult in and of itself, but it is magnified when it is from a friend or loved one.

Scripture:

Prophecy: Psalm 41:9, Fulfillment: Matthew 26:47-56.

Devotion:

In Matthew 26:48, Judas gives instruction to the hoard that was with him, "the one I will kiss is the man; seize him." Clearly the crowd wouldn't be able to capture Jesus. (Remember in Luke 4:30 when the religious rulers wanted to take Jesus by force but He walked through the midst of them.) But a friend could get close to him. The gospel according to Luke records the Lord asking Judas, "*Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?*" You can sense the Lord's broken heart as he is betrayed by one so close to Him. Yet we know that the Lord loved him and prayed for him.

Application:

In Matthew 5:44 the Lord gives us a principle to live by. He says, "*But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,* When we are betrayed, our first thought is to retaliate but Jesus tells us that we should love, bless and pray for those who hurt us.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to follow your example to love, bless and pray for those who have wronged me.

Day 2

14 Days of the Sufferings of Christ

A False Witness Who Spoke the Truth

Opening Thoughts:

The chief priest and religious rulers of the day tried time and time again to capture, imprison and even kill Jesus. They were never successful, because either Jesus evaded them or they were scared of the crowd that had formed to hear Jesus speak.

Scripture:

Matthew 26:59-61, Mark 14:55-58

Devotion:

The religious leaders tried over and over to find fault with the words that Jesus said but were never able to accuse Him of wrongdoing. The only thing that they could bring against Him was in His statement; "I will tear down this temple and in three days I will build it up again." Of course, the Lord wasn't speaking of the stone building but rather his death, burial & resurrection of His body. The Bible tells us that we (those who have put their trust in Christ) are the temple of the Holy Spirit and because Christ rose from the grave so will we in the last days. Praise the Lord!

Application:

In Daniel 6, the presidents and princes of Babylon wanted to destroy Daniel, but couldn't find fault in him unless it was concerning the law of his God. Daniel wasn't perfect but what a great testimony! We should desire to live a life that is God honoring and above reproach. *"Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."*
1 Peter 2:12

Prayer:

Lord, help me live a life that honors you and is above reproach.

Day 3

14 Days of the Sufferings of Christ

The Stripes of the Innocent Heals the Guilty

Opening Thoughts:

When we think of the prophetic passages of Christ's sufferings, we have to go to Isaiah 53. The scriptures give us a list of all the things Jesus suffered for us so that we could spend eternity with Him.

Scripture:

Prophecy: Isaiah 50:6, 53:3-11, Fulfilment: Matt. 26:67, 27:27-30

Devotion:

It doesn't seem fair that the innocent should suffer for the guilty, but this was God's plan for Jesus all along. After reading the passages about what Jesus went through for you and me, it should drive us to our knees in worship and thanksgiving for what Christ went through so that we can have life. Let's look at the list: spit in His face, whipped him, pulled out His beard, stripped Him, mocked Him, blindfolded & slapped him, crown of thorns, hit Him on the head with a reed, carried His cross & crucified. He didn't deserve any of this but willingly suffered it for you and for me.

Application:

Christ went through all of this so we could accept His free gift of salvation. We know that we can't save anyone, but many times you and I won't allow ourselves to be inconvenienced to point someone to Christ. We wouldn't dream of inviting a neighbor or co-worker to church because we're afraid of what they might think. Or we wouldn't dream of spending our hard-earned money to help someone hear the gospel. We have become very selfish with the things that God has given us that can be used for the furtherance of the gospel.

Prayer:

Lord, give me the courage & faith to be willing to be inconvenienced so that I can reach souls for you.

Day 4

14 Days of the Sufferings of Christ

The Proof is in the Piercing

Opening Thoughts:

The gospels don't record the piercing of the Lord's hands & feet. But we know because of the prophecy and His conversation with the Apostle Thomas that it happened & it was just what Thomas needed to believe.

Scripture:

Prophecy: Psalm 22:16, Fulfillment: John 20:25-29

Devotion:

The Apostle Thomas, much like all of the apostles, struggled with the Lord's death because they didn't understand his teachings on the resurrection. The first time the Lord revealed himself to the apostles, Thomas wasn't with them. They told Thomas about seeing the Lord and Thomas said, *"unless I see & put my fingers in the nail prints, I won't believe!"* But he decided to stay close to the apostles in case the Lord showed up again. The Lord did reveal himself to them again, and showed Thomas the prints in his hand and offered for him to thrust his hand into His side. Thomas did believe but from that point on he is known as "Doubting Thomas."

Application:

The scriptures reveal to us that we are to live by faith and not by sight. Many times as Christians, whether we realize it or not, we do just the opposite. Maybe it's because we're afraid, hesitant or just apathetic to God's leading. May the Lord help us to have faith even when we can't see God. Jesus tells us the same thing that He told Thomas; "...be not faithless, but believing."

Prayer:

Lord, help me to trust your leading in my life and to walk by faith.

Day 5

14 Days of the Sufferings of Christ

Numbered with the Transgressors

Opening Thoughts:

At first glance when we read of the Lord's crucifixion we might feel it was "insult to injury" that He was crucified between two common thieves. But in reality, He died next to the exact type of people he came to save.

Scripture:

Prophecy: Isaiah 53:9,12, Fulfillment: Mark 15:27-28

Devotion:

Jesus tells us in Luke 5:32 *"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."* More often than not, as you read the gospels you find Jesus in the highways, hedges, homes & fields preaching to the masses, because that was where the sinners were. We should not be surprised, then, to see that even in the middle of his ultimate sacrifice and show of love for mankind that Jesus welcomes to heaven the thief who calls out to him. The scriptures are true, *"For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* (Romans 10;13) Praise the Lord for His unspeakable gift!

Application:

This passage shows the effects the cross would have on people. Some will be confronted with the cross and their soul's salvation and reject Christ like the thief who mocked and died and is tormented in hell this very day. Or, you can accept Christ's free gift of salvation and spend an eternity with the Lord. The choice is yours. What will you do when confronted with the cross of Christ?

Prayer:

Lord help me to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading in my life to witness to others of your love and salvation.

Day 6

14 Days of the Sufferings of Christ

Prayed for His Persecutors

Opening Thoughts:

You might be thinking; I thought we were talking about Jesus' sufferings? We are. How easy is it for you to pray for those who have hurt you? Here we find the Lord making intercession for those who were in the process of killing him.

Scripture:

Prophecy: Isaiah 53:12, Fulfilment: Luke 23:34

Devotion:

The Lord could have done anything he wanted to do against his persecutors. He could have said a word and destroyed them. He could have summoned the angels of heaven to free him. He could have called fire down from heaven to consume them. If we would be honest, these are the exact things that we would have done if we had the power and ability. But this is not what Jesus did, rather He chose to pray for the men who nailed Him to the cross. Later in Luke 23:47, at the time of Jesus' death, the bible records a centurion glorifying God. I believe that possibly this same man heard Jesus pray for him and it changed his life.

Application:

So many times, our first reaction is to get revenge. They were wrong and they deserve it. Rarely do we ever think to pray for those who are actively trying to destroy our lives. But this is exactly what Christ has illustrated for us. This very act of prayer during persecution might be the thing that God uses to bring your enemies to Christ.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to have the mind of Christ when it comes to those who desire to hurt me. Help me pray for them and not desire retaliation.

Day 7

14 Days of the Sufferings of Christ

If You Really Are the Son of God

Opening Thoughts:

You've heard the phrase "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." We all know that it's not true.

Scripture:

Prophecy: Psalm 22:7, 109:25, Fulfilment: Matthew 27:39-43

Devotion:

There were many hurtful things said to, and about, the Lord while he hung on the cross. The scriptures tell us that they shook their heads, reviled & ridiculed the Lord all the while he was dying for their sins. One time they looked at Him and said; "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." The Lord surely could have done this, but the world would die in their sins. Jesus did die and rose again. He is the Son of God. He is the King of Kings and He did trust in God. He didn't come off the cross because of His love for the world.

Application:

Just because you are trying to live for the Lord and serve Him doesn't mean that you will be loved by everyone. On the contrary, the bible tells us in John 15:18-19, *"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you...therefore the world hates you."* When you live for the Lord there will always be those who will criticize and ridicule. We must not quit, but rather fulfill God's will with our lives.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to only be concerned with following you. And don't let me get discouraged when others criticize my work for you.

Day 8

14 Days of the sufferings of Christ

Why Have You Forsaken Me?

Opening Thoughts:

Of all of Christ's sufferings, this very well could have been the worst.

Scripture:

Prophecy: Psalm 22:1, Fulfilment: Matthew 27:46

Devotion:

How can God forsake God? It is beyond our comprehension to think of eternality. The thought of no beginning and no end. God is not bound by time, so to think that God the Father, Son, and Spirit have coexisted for all time, perfect fellowship, oneness and unity ended for one moment in time. I can't imagine the pain and suffering Jesus felt physically in his body, but I believe it pales in comparison to the suffering that Jesus went through when God had to turn his back on him while he became sin for us.

Application:

Many times we think the physical sufferings of this world are the worst things we can go through, but it should affect us just as much when we sin and break fellowship with the Lord. Jesus became sin for us, so you and I wouldn't have to die and go to hell. We, on the other hand, voluntarily sin knowing that it will cause a riff in our fellowship with the Lord. May the Lord help us to see sin as he sees it, a fellowship and unity breaker.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to be mindful of my sin. Help me to confess my sin to you so that our fellowship can be renewed.

Day 9

14 Days of the Sufferings of Christ

I Thirst

Opening Thoughts:

When was the last time you were thirsty? After playing, working or running? You know how it feels when your lips are dry and cracked. This is how Jesus felt, and more.

Scripture:

Prophecy: Psalm 22:15, 69:1, Fulfillment: John 19:28-29

Devotion:

Ever wonder why Jesus was thirsty? In John 4:10, Jesus told the woman at the well that she should be more concerned about living water than the physical. Plus, Jesus was moments from dying. The answer is in the verse. When Jesus knew that the end was near he said "I thirst" to fulfill the scriptures. It was necessary that every prophecy be fulfilled and this was the last one. You see, if all the prophecies about Christ were not fulfilled, then the scriptures would be false. It was important for Jesus to fulfill every prophecy, no matter how insignificant it might seem.

Application:

Since Jesus was concerned about the details, then so should we. Details such as: reading our Bibles, spending time in prayer, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, witnessing to others, tithing, serving, disciplining and many other things that we can do. We major on the details not only to be pleasing and honoring to God, but to prove the truth of what God will do in a life that is surrendered to him.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to be concerned about the details in my Christian life. Help me to show others the truth of your salvation.

Day 10

14 Days of the Sufferings of Christ

His Last Words

Opening Thoughts:

I have a book in my office that is entitled, *All the Last Words of Saints and Sinners*. Some of the most profound words ever spoken are someone's last words.

Scripture:

Prophecy: Psalm 31:5, Fulfillment: Luke 23:46

Devotional:

"Father into your hands I commit my spirit!" These were the last words Jesus spoke before he died. When we look at this phrase we see first that He calls God, Father. This showed his heritage. Jesus is God's son. Then he said, *"into your hands I commit my spirit!"* This shows the Father's protection. Jesus speaks of the Father's hands in John 10:28-29, *"...no one will snatch them out my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. And no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."* The Lord "committed" his spirit to God meaning, he gave all to God.

Application:

If Jesus was willing to trust and commit everything to the Father, then so should we. If you are a believer, you already trust God to take your soul to Heaven when you die. So why is it so hard to trust God with our daily lives? Jesus committed everything for your salvation. In turn, we should commit to God all of ourselves and every part of our life to Him.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to have the faith to commit all my life to you. I know that you love me and desire what is best for my life. Take all of me. I freely surrender all.

Day 11

14 Days of the Sufferings of Christ

Being Watched from a Distance

Opening Thoughts:

Struggles and difficulties in life are hard enough to bear when you have a support group at your side, but to go through these times alone makes the suffering even worse.

Scripture:

Prophecy: Psalm 38:11, 88:8, Fulfillment: Luke 23:49

Devotion:

Jesus had poured his life into his disciples for over three years. He protected them, provided for them and preached to them the deep truths of God's word. When it appeared the time Jesus needed them most, they stood afar off. Whether it was fear, like Peter denying Christ, or for lack of faith, we read nothing in the scriptures of His disciples helping him in his time of need. We only read of John being close enough to hear Jesus when he gave the charge of Mary to him. The Lord was truly alone. It was true when Jesus said, *"...strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."*

(Matthew 26: 31)

Application:

Jesus didn't bleed and die to pay your sin debt for you to watch from the sidelines. When you accepted Christ as your Savior, you joined a battle for the souls of men, women and children. Christianity is a relationship with Jesus Christ and an opportunity to bring honor and glory to God with your life.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to get off the sidelines and back into the battle. Help me to use the talents you have given me to help build the Kingdom of God.

Day 12

14 Days of the Sufferings of Christ

Sticks & Stones But No Broken Bones

Opening Thoughts:

The soldiers and religious rulers thought that they were in charge of Jesus's crucifixion, but the Bible shows us that they were not.

Scripture:

Prophecy: Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12, Psalm 34:20,

Fulfilment: John 19:36

Devotion:

From the beginning of the sinless sacrifice, the picture of Christ's death for the sins of mankind was being portrayed. It has always been the case that the sacrificial lamb would be without spot or blemish and none of its bones were to be broken. The soldiers and rulers thought that they were the ones in charge and it was of their own choice how they were dealing with Jesus. But it wasn't their doing, it was of God, and all they did was help to fulfill the prophecies and prove that God's word is true. Even though Jesus was already dead, what stopped the soldiers from adding to their cruelty by breaking the legs of Jesus? It was the truth of God's Word.

Application:

I hate to burst your bubble, but you are not in control of your life. God allows things to come into your life, and mine, to mold us and make into a vessel that is good to the Potter. (Jeremiah 18:1-4)

If God can use the sin and hatred of the soldiers to bring Him glory, can he not use our faults and failures as well?

(Romans 8:28)

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you for leading and guiding me in my life. Forgive me for the times that I fail you, but Lord I know that even in my sin you can bring honor and glory to yourself.

Day 13

14 Days of the Sufferings of Christ

Blood & Water

Opening Thoughts:

Did you ever wonder what was meant when the soldier pierced Jesus's side, and out of the wound flowed blood and water?

Scripture:

Prophecy: Zechariah 12:10, Fulfillment: John 19:37

Devotional:

I'm sure there is a medical reason why blood and water flowed out of Jesus's side. Some say He died of a heart attack and the blood and water were from fluids that had built up around the heart and lungs, and that Christ's heart literally burst. Whether this is the case or not, I'd like to make a spiritual application. The blood represents "redemption." You are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb (Hebrews 9:22). The water represents "giving of life." Jesus said that he gives living water. Jesus died and shed his blood for us for the remission of your sin and to give you new life in Him.

Application:

Christ truly gave all for you and for me. When studying the cruelty of the crucifixion process, one can't comprehend the love that kept him on the cross. Can we not give our lives to Jesus who gave so much? Many have accepted His gift of salvation that came at such a great price, but won't live for Him even when it cost them nothing in return.

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for shedding your blood and giving me new life. Even though I could never repay my debt, help me to live for you in such a way that brings you honor and glory.

Day 14

14 Days of the Sufferings of Christ

Poured Out on Purpose

Opening Thoughts:

Isaiah 53:12 states “...*he poured out his soul to death...*” I am overwhelmed that the Lord would choose to suffer and die for me.

Scripture:

Prophecy: Isaiah 50:6, 53:12, Fulfilment: John 10:11, 17-18

Devotional:

I believe one of the most amazing aspects of the crucifixion is the fact that Jesus chose to give his life for us. When He was being mocked and ridiculed by the crowd, “he saved others but himself he cannot save,” they had no idea that he was staying on the cross for them! Jesus could have gotten down from the cross, destroyed all of his persecutors and went back to heaven. But He didn’t. He took the physical sufferings, the emotional sufferings and the suffering that came from paying the sin debt of the world, and sacrificed his life for you and me. Amen!

Application:

Have you ever poured out your life to help someone in their time of need, just to see them squander away your sacrifice for them? That is how the Lord feels every time you or I take the freedom that is in Christ and waste it living a selfish and worldly life. We have only one life to live. We should choose to live it for the one who lived and died for us.

Prayer:

Lord, forgive me for the times when I have wasted your sacrifice, living the life I desire. Help me to live the life you desire so that I can be pleasing and honoring to you.

Day 15

7 Days looking at the Resurrection

Christ is Risen!

Opening Thoughts:

If there was no resurrection, what would Christianity look like?

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:12-13, Luke 24:1-6

Devotion:

In 1 Corinthians 15:13, the bible answers this question for us. It states that if there were no resurrection then Christ is not risen. This statement alone should depress us. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the hinge on which true Christianity swings. If Christ had not resurrected from the grave then we would be no better off than any of the other religions that had their founder die and their bodies are still in the grave. But, Jesus did rise from the grave! Because of his resurrection, Christianity is not just another religion but a relationship. He rose to bring us new life in Him and reconcile us to God. Praise the Lord for the power of the resurrection.

Application:

We have been studying the sufferings of Christ for the past 14 days. If there was no resurrection, then all of His sufferings would have been in vain. But they were not in vain and we see the love of Christ clearer through his sufferings. Because there was a purpose to His sufferings, may we live a life that shows that love to a lost and dying world.

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for raising Jesus from the grave. Help me to live a life worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Day 16

7 Days Looking at the Resurrection

Empty Evangelism

Opening Thoughts:

If there was no resurrection, what would be the result of preaching?

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:14, Romans 10:14-15

Devotion:

1 Corinthians 15:14 again answers the question, “what if there was no resurrection?” The answer is that all of our preaching would be in vain. It would be just empty words. In Romans 10:14-15 the scripture asks us how people know about Christ unless they are told about him. Are you ever amazed when you see a person who has been fooled by Satan and they are so passionate and zealous about their religion when you and I know it is false? That would be us! But, Jesus did rise from the grave! And because of that, you and I can boldly preach the gospel of Christ, knowing that the word of God is not empty but is quick, powerful and changes lives.

Application:

Because our preaching is not in vain, then we should take every opportunity to share the gospel whenever and wherever we can. When was the last time that you shared the gospel with someone? Has it been days, weeks, months or maybe even years? Let’s not live out our Christianity as if it has no power but rather allow the power of the Holy Spirit flow through our lives and preach the Word!

Prayer:

Lord, help me to share my faith with someone this week. I want to allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through my life.

Day 17

7 Days Looking at the Resurrection

Fruitless Faith

Opening Thoughts:

If there was no resurrection, what would faith look like?

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:14, Hebrews 11:6

Devotion:

The scripture continues to tell us what our Christian life would be like if there was no resurrection. In 1 Corinthians 15:14, the end of the verse tells us that our faith would be in vain. Much like the emptiness of our evangelism we spoke about yesterday, our faith would be empty as well. Think for a moment what you have faith in when it comes to what the bible teaches about faith. Read Hebrews 11 and you will see all of the aspects of our faith. If my faith is futile then it draws into question everything I believe about what the bible teaches. But Jesus did rise from the grave! Because of this, I don't have to worry about whether I should believe what the bible teaches, I just believe.

Application:

In Romans 12:3, the Apostle Paul states that God has assigned to each believer a measure of faith. Then in 2 Peter 1:5, the bible tells us to supplement, or add, to our faith. Many times we live out our faith life as if it is empty. We care not for the things of God, nor desire to be bothered with living a Spirit filled life. This shouldn't be the testimony of a believer. We should be exercising and growing in our faith on a daily basis.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to have faith in your Word and desire to grow and increase in my faith. Work in my life and stretch my faith so that I will come to see your work and plan in my life.

Day 18

7 Days Looking at the Resurrection

Dishonest Disciples

Opening Thoughts:

If there was no resurrection, who do I live for?

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:15, Matthew 7:15-20

Devotion:

In Ezekiel 13:1-4, the Lord tells Ezekiel to prophesy against false prophets. 1 Corinthians 15:15 tells us that if there was no resurrection, then we are no better than these and every other person that goes around and preaches a false doctrine. Imagine spending your whole life believing and sharing with others what you thought was true, only to come to the end of your life to realize it was all a lie. But Jesus did rise from the grave! Praise the Lord, a life lived and shared for the Lord will not be in vain. There is purpose, fulfillment, and rewards for a life lived and shared for the Lord.

Application:

Knowing that Jesus rose from the grave, and all that is written in God's word, shouldn't we live our life for God and not ourselves? Referring to the end of the world, 2 Peter 3:11 states, "*Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness?*" If you and I know what the truth is, we should be bold and courageous in telling others about Christ because we are not spreading false doctrine, but the truth of a resurrected Lord and Savior.

Prayer:

Lord, I want to be a Christian who isn't ashamed to tell others about Jesus. Give me the courage to study your truths and share them with others.

Day 19

7 Days Looking at the Resurrection

Forever Unforgiven

Opening Thought:

If there was no resurrection, am I even forgiven?

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:17, Hebrews 10:16-18

Devotion:

I believe that the phrase "Forever Unforgiven" is the saddest thing I have ever heard. Everything about Christianity revolves around Christ. The fact that he came to earth and died for our sins, but his death would be in vain if he didn't rise from the grave. Then if no resurrection, then no power to pay for the sins of the world and you and I would still be in our sins. But Jesus did rise from the grave! His sacrificial death paid for our sin. In Psalm 103:12 the bible says; "*As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*" In Hebrews 10:17 it states, "*I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.*" Oh, happy day oh, happy day when Jesus washed my sins away!

Application:

Just because Jesus paid for your sin debt doesn't mean you are not a debtor. Paul says in Romans 1:14 that he is a debtor to all men, because his sins have been paid for. He is indebted to the gospel to tell others of the love and salvation of the Lord. I dare say we are all debtors. We're indebted to our families, neighbors, co-workers, strangers we run into at the store. We are indebted to tell them of God's salvation just like someone told you when you accepted Christ as your savior.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to understand my indebtedness and tell others about you.

Day 20

7 Days Looking at the Resurrection

Hopeless Heritage

Opening Thoughts:

If there was no resurrection, then what happens to my loved ones?

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:18, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Devotion:

One of the greatest comforts in the Christian life is that when a loved one has passed away, and they were believers in Christ, we are assured we will see them again in heaven. If there was no resurrection, then that assurance is gone. More than that, the bible says they have perished. But, Jesus did rise from the grave! One day I will see my passed away loved ones who have put their faith and trust in Jesus. I don't totally understand how the unbelieving world copes with death. Many believe that because they were religious, or a moral person, or their good will outweigh their bad, they will be accepted. Some believe that it's just going to be one big party in hell or some choose to not believe in any afterlife. So foolish are these to reject Christ's gift of salvation.

Application:

Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, you and I have a responsibility to carry on and give our children a godly heritage. The greatest gift I can give my children is a godly example to follow, so they can be a godly example to their children. It has been said that a godly heritage is only one generation away from failure. Don't be the one to stop the godly heritage. Continue it or start it in your family to the glory of God.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to continue, or start, a godly heritage. Help me to be the example to my family of a Spirit filled life.

Day 21

7 Days Looking at the Resurrection

Miserable Men

Opening Thoughts:

If there were no resurrection, then what is there to live for?

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:17-18, Psalm 146:5

Devotion:

In 1 Corinthians 15:19, the Apostle Paul tells us that if our hope is in an un-resurrected Christ then we of all people are to be most pitied or miserable. This word means – wretchedly unhappy or uncomfortable. Do you remember how your life was before hearing that Jesus came to this earth, bled and died on the cross to pay your sin debt? If you were like me, I was pretty miserable. But Jesus did rise from the grave! When I understood what Christ had done for me, I was no longer a miserable person but one filled with hope because Christ had risen from the grave, and so would I, and so will you if you have accepted Christ's free gift of salvation.

Application:

So many Christians live a miserable life because they won't allow the hope that is in Christ to rule and reign in their life. What is our hope? In Titus 2:13, the bible tells us that our hope is, "*the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*" Why won't you give your life to the Lord to be your Savior? Christian, why won't you give you life to the Lord, to guide and direct you to bring glory and honor to Him? He is our only hope in this life and the life to come. Give yourself wholly and completely to Him.

Prayer:

Lord, I know that I don't have to be miserable in this life because you are my blessed hope. Help me to live a life that shows it.

myemmanuel.net

Corner of Monad & Shiloh Road, Billings, MT 59106, - 406.652.3161