

Sunday, March Twenty- Seventh

The late Billy Fuccillo was a divisive figure. As the loud, bumbling man who did the Fucillo Kia commercials, Billy always reminded us that his car sales were going to be huuuuggge. Some people liked his personality. Others couldn't stand him. Love him or hate him, it was hard to not notice him almost every day living in the Tampa Bay area. In today's passage, Jesus presents the case that He will be a divisive figure throughout history.

Read: Luke 12:35-59

Reflect: Use the passage in Luke to work through these questions

- Why are we to be watchful for Jesus' return? (see verses 35-38)
- How does Jesus describe the division He will bring? (see verses 51-53)

While Jesus brought eternal peace into the hearts of His followers, His coming also brought division all over the world. Families and communities were broken apart because some vehemently defended Jesus as the Messiah, while others vehemently denied His Godly status. Even today, Jesus is still as divisive of a figure as He was back then. If you take a look at your own family, chances are you have a family member or two who deny Jesus as the Messiah. This should not discourage us from continuing to witness to our family members, but it does remind us of the constant battle we face in doing so.

- Why are people missing the big picture of what is happening here? (see verses 54-56)

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

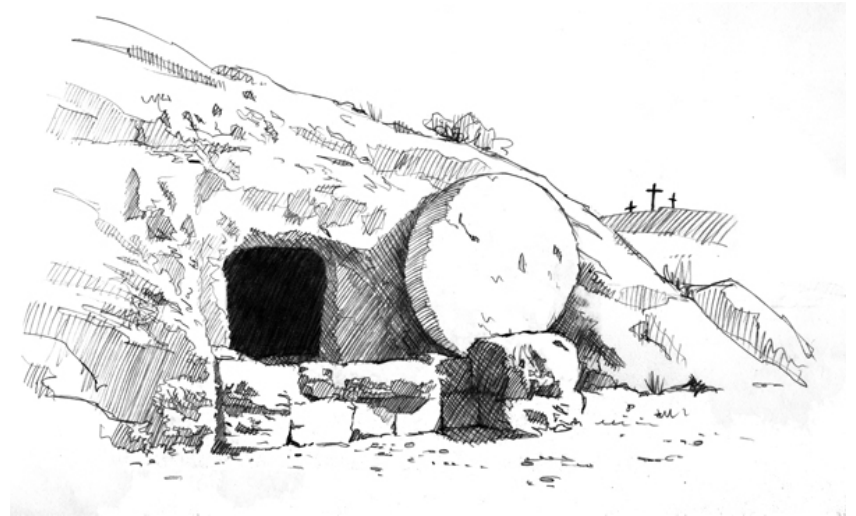
Take some time to go to God in prayer and ask Him to prepare your heart for the coming week.

Questions? Comments? Contact Pastor Chris at chris.futch@oursaviorfl.org or (727) 531-2761.

Read through the Bible



Luke Week 3



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Monday, March Twenty-First

Every day, Bo Paske, a boy with autism, sits down at a table to eat his lunch in the cafeteria at Montford Middle School in Tallahassee. And every day, his mom's heart sinks when he comes home and tells her he ate lunch alone. But one early afternoon, a group of FSU football players came to visit the school, and wide receiver Travis Rudolph noticed Bo sitting at a table alone. Travis immediately sat down with him and began eating a slice of pizza. After receiving a photo from a friend of the exchange, Bo's mom was stunned at how kind Travis had been to her son, especially when the wide receiver could have easily sat at a table full of popular, athletic kids asking for his autograph. In today's passage, Jesus makes it clear which table He's sitting at.

Read: Luke 9:1-36

Reflect: Use the passage in Luke to work through these questions

- Why does Simon (later named Peter) decide to throw his nets out into the deep water? (see verse 5)
- Why were the Pharisees and teachers of the law appalled by what Jesus said to the paralytic? (see verses 20-21) How does Jesus respond to them? (see verses 22-24)

Whoa! Did Jesus just forgive someone's sins? How could He say such a thing? While it may make perfect sense to us today, people back then didn't fully understand yet that Jesus was God. They knew He could teach. They knew He could heal. But to forgive sins? That's something only God could do. Bingo!

- How did the Pharisees and teachers of the law view Jesus' association with 'sinners' and tax collectors? (see verses 29-30) How did Jesus respond to them? (see verses 31-32)

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

Who is somebody you know who often gets overlooked or goes unnoticed? How might you "sit" with that person this week?

Saturday, March Twenty-Sixth

In the movie 'The Jungle Book,' Baloo the bear sings a song to his new human friend Mowgli called 'The Bare Necessities.' The opening lines speak to what exactly he means: "Look for the bare necessities, The simple bare necessities, Forget about your worries and your strife, I mean the bare necessities, Old Mother Nature's recipes, That brings the bare necessities of life." In today's passage, Jesus presents a 'bare necessities' case as to why we shouldn't focus on our own worries and strife.

Read: Luke 12:1-34

Reflect: Use the passage in Luke to work through these questions

- What does Jesus say in regard to our public allegiance to Him? (see verses 8-9)
- According to Jesus, how will the disciples be able to defend themselves before the authorities? (see verses 11-12)

Here, we again see Luke's emphasis on the Holy Spirit at work in the life of the believer. In this instance, Jesus reveals to His disciples that the Spirit will even give them the words to say when they are arrested and brought before the authorities.

- How does the parable of the rich fool illuminate the foolishness of storing up our possessions? (see verses 13-21)
- Why does it work against us to worry? (see verses 25-26)

How often do you worry? Most of us worry at least once if not multiple times a day. While it may be natural for us to do so, Jesus reminds us that there is no real benefit to worrying. Instead, we must constantly remind ourselves that we are valuable to God (v. 24). When we allow ourselves to live in this truth, we will find ourselves worrying a whole lot less than we used to.

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

What do you worry about? How can Jesus' words bring you comfort today in a specific situation you are worrying about?

Friday, March Twenty-Fifth

In the late 1970s, a young man arrived on a bus in Tallahassee. Known for his charm and charisma, he hoped to get a job and get involved in the community. But Ted Bundy was not who he appeared to be. On January 15, 1978, Bundy broke into the Chi Omega sorority house and brutally attacked four young women. Detectives would later learn about Bundy's horrific pattern of abuse and murder. In today's passage, Jesus calls out the Pharisees and teachers of the law for not being who they appeared to be.

Read: Luke 11:29-54

Reflect: Use the passage in Luke to work through these questions

- Why does Jesus mention Jonah? (see verses 29-30 and 32)

People didn't want to simply believe in Jesus; they wanted signs to prove He was really the Messiah. When Jonah came to Nineveh, he didn't come with signs to prove he was a trustworthy messenger. He simply shared truth with the people, and they believed. Jesus reminds the people here that He has come to share truth with them, and they should believe too.

- Why did Jesus find the Pharisees to be hypocritical? (see verses 39-41)

People aren't always who they appear to be. For Jesus, it was clear that the Pharisees put on a good show in public, but were greedy and miserable people in private. As followers of Jesus, we don't just appear to be Christians on the outside. Faithful followers also exhibit Jesus on the inside. We are who we appear to be!

- How did the experts of the law abuse their power over the people? (see verse 46)

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

Is who you appear to others who you really are? Take some time to determine how you might become a more congruent and authentic witness to those around you.

Tuesday, March Twenty-Second

In the TV show 'Chopped,' four contestants compete against each other to determine who is the greatest chef in the room. Throughout the competition, the contestants cook three courses – an appetizer, a main course, and a dessert. After each course, one of the contestants is "chopped." Finally, after the dessert round, one of the remaining two contestants is crowned the Chopped Champion. In today's passage, the disciples want to know – who is the greatest among them?

Read: Luke 9:37-62

Reflect: Use the passage in Luke to work through these questions

- How does Jesus' respond to the father's plea to heal his son? (see verses 41-42)

These seem like harsh words coming from Jesus, but they speak to the lack of faith that people had in Him. The crowds had seen Him perform miracles and healings, and yet, many still did not believe. The disciples had been given the authority to heal, but it seemed they too lacked the faith to do so at times (see verse 40). Even the father of the demon-possessed boy wasn't quite sure Jesus could heal him (see Mark 9:22-23). Where was this generation's faith?

- According to Jesus, who is the greatest? (see verses 46-48)
- Why were Jesus and His disciples not welcome in the Samaritan village? (see verses 52-53)
- How does Jesus respond to peoples' attempts to follow Him? (see verses 57-62)

In each of His responses, Jesus is clear: following Him requires an immediate determination to do so. We don't follow Jesus when we can get around to it; we follow Him now!

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

In what ways or instances might you have trouble believing Jesus and the promises He has given to you?

Wednesday, March Twenty-Third

Every time Mr. Rogers walked onto the TV screen, he made a statement, and then followed with a question: “It’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood! Won’t you be my neighbor?” For many children growing up in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, Mr. Rogers relayed an invaluable message to them – You can be my neighbor! In today’s passage, Jesus defines who our neighbors are.

Read: Luke 10:1-42

Reflect: Use the passage in Luke to work through these questions

- What reason does Jesus give for sending out the seventy-two? (see verses 2-3)

Many churches, pastors, and congregations today often pray through the words of verse 2. As it was in Jesus’ time, there are many people today who need to hear about Jesus, but there are also not many laborers to do this instrumental work. This is why so many people continue to pray for more missionaries, pastors, church workers, and members of congregations who can be sent out into the mission field to share the love of Jesus with others.

- What message does Jesus want the people to know regardless of whether they welcome His followers? (see verses 8-11)
- Why are the disciples privileged to be with Jesus? (see verses 23-24)

Many people still remember the first US shuttle launch into space because it was such an important moment in the history of American technology and ingenuity. Imagine what it must have been like for the disciples to experience the most important moments in the history of the world!

- According to Jesus, who is a neighbor? (see verses 29-37)

Respond: Apply what you’ve learned in prayer and action

What is one way you can be a neighbor to someone today? Also, consider praying through the words of verse 2.

Thursday, March Twenty-Fourth

In the Harry Potter series, Potions Professor Severus Snape is portrayed as a complex, and at times, highly ambiguous character. Throughout the series’ seven books, many readers wrestled with his role – is he a good guy or is he a bad guy? While people had their theories and guesses, nobody really knew for certain until the final book came out for all to read and find out for themselves. In today’s passage, after seeing Him drive out a demon from a mute man, people wonder whether Jesus is of God or of the devil.

Read: Luke 11:1-28

Reflect: Use the passage in Luke to work through these questions

- What are the main components of the prayer that Jesus teaches to His disciples? (see verses 2-4)

You may have noticed that the Lord’s Prayer has a few footnotes in your Bible with slight variations of its wording from other manuscripts that were found over the years. The message, though, remains the same – Jesus has taught us a prayer we all can pray!

- If we have needs (like the man who needs three loaves of bread), how can God supply them? (see verses 9-13)
- Who did some of the people think Jesus was associated with? (see verses 15-16) How did Jesus respond? (see verses 17-20)

When Jesus drove demons out of people, the onlookers often had one of two reactions: “He is from God!” or “He is of the devil!” You can understand why some folks might have thought Jesus was of the devil because He was able to speak to and control evil spirits. But Jesus pokes a hole in their theory by stating the obvious – if He were truly of the devil, He would not drive demons out of people. Instead, He would try to keep them in and even encourage them!

Respond: Apply what you’ve learned in prayer and action

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, and as you do, pause for a few moments of reflection before going on to the next line of the prayer.