

EVERY DAY WITH JESUS (October 5 – October 11)

Savor a segment of the gospel each day so that you may...

“...grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ.” “II Peter 3:18)

October 5 Luke 12:35-48 Remember school days when the teacher would say, “I need to be out of the room for a while. Behave while I am gone.” Remember how things went? How naughty we were?!? And worse, we would pick on the kids who weren’t, who *actually* were quiet, did school work, read! But remember also how we would cry and complain when the teacher *shockingly* came back, just like he or she had said, and chided and punished us for being the brats we were! And remember how we would say, “Why didn’t you tell us when you would be back? (Translation, “Teacher, it’s all your fault! If you had told us *specifically* when you would be back, we could have misbehaved all we wanted to, and then hypocritically been behaving when you entered the room, as if we were nice studious children, when we actually, by in large, are not. It’s your fault we were caught and punished.”) Take those memories and lessons and apply them to Jesus’ “. . .be ready, for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” Really, now, if we are not ready for his return, whose fault is it? Are we ready?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, grant that I am always ready for your return, no matter when it comes. May I so long for it that you always find me attentively and faithfully waiting for you and doing your work. Strengthen me when I am weak so I do not give into my flesh or the world or satan’s lies. O Savior, in mercy do this act of kindness so I am not surprised by your return nor have need to stand before you shamed faced because I was not ready. Amen

October 6 Luke 12:49-53 Today’s reading points out the horribleness of sin and how devastating the corruption of satan’s evil is. Jesus is the Prince of peace. But, because of satan and sin, Jesus is also the Bringer of division. That division comes as he rips precious souls away from satan, confronts the unbelief and religious hypocrisy of this world, and as he in saving love is not PC about sin and sinners. Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” The Truth when he speaks does hurt, and the world resents that healing hurt. The Way is the only way, but the world doesn’t want to hear or submit to such exclusivity. The Life is life, but the world would rather settle for a superficial way of life where partying, head-banging, entertainment, busyness and any amount of play-acting-living goes on, but very little, if any, real living.

Prayer: Jesus, come and daily work your life-giving division in my life. By your Word and sacraments, separate me from my sinful nature, from the world that would pull me away from you and from the deadly clutches of satan. Bring me division so I may have life and rest in your peace. Amen

October 7 Luke 12:54-59 It is not uncommon with today’s GPS technology to hear of people getting lost or into major trouble because as they drive they listen to their GPS system and DIDN’T pay attention to road signs that tell of new dangers or construction the GPS is unaware of. The lesson? Pay attention to the road and read the signs or you will pay. What is true for GPS, is even truer for our life in Christ. Don’t listen to the babble the world, or satan, or your flesh tells you. Read God’s Word, heed his warnings, follow his directions, stay on his path. Only then will we be safe, and arrive home safely.

Prayer: Jesus, you are the Way; through you alone can we the Father find. You are the Way, the Truth, the Life; grant us that way to know, that truth to keep, that life to win whose joys eternal flow. Amen (CW 356).

October 8 Luke 13:1-9 It is easy to see sin in others, and not so easy to see it in self. It is easy to be patient with self, and not to be so with others (This is especially true in spiritual matters!). Jesus tells us not to do either. Rather, he says, “First look at and deal with self. And the patience you want others, especially God, to show you, show yourself. Repent yourself, and be patient with the unfruitful.” What moves us to do all this?¹

Prayer: Lord, give me a heart like unto yours so I may deal with others as you have lovingly and patiently dealt with me. Amen

¹We do such when, first of all, we look at ourselves, as God looks at us. When we do that we will note that there is more than enough wrong and evil in me that needs to be dealt with, so much so

that, in comparison, other's evil is small and insignificant. We also deal compassionately with others when we ourselves remember how God in Christ in love has dealt with us. If he dealt with us as we wish to deal with others we would have been dead and condemned long ago.

October 9 Luke 13:10-17 We become angry when we read about those who begrudged Jesus' doing a good thing for a hurting woman. "Why be so mean spirited, mean and picky about the Sabbath Law?" we rightly ask. But do we rightly judge and ask the same question of our own small mindedness and mean spiritedness? We too have our 'sacred cows' and woe to anyone who desecrates them. Brothers and sisters in faith, let's remember that as we deal with people, especially with brothers and sisters on faith, it is not ours to judge and condemn one another (Rom 14, James 4:11-12), but to build each other up (1 Thes. 5:8-11, Eph 4:29). Let's also remember that God prefers mercy to sacrifice (Mat. 12:7).

Prayer: O Lord, O Lord, how quick and gleeful we are to judge and condemn, and how slow and grudging to build and lift up. Forgive us. Forgive us. Then in response to the love you have shown us, let us show the same love to others. Amen.

October 10 Luke 13:18-21 Note we act, but God gives the growth. In both of Jesus' illustrations in today's reading we see that a person acts, but God who is the actual Causer of growth. Why is that important to remember as we consider our day to day lives and especially in the work we do for the kingdom?¹ How can we be then assured of a 'good' crop (whatever it is)?²

Prayer: Father, let me pray as if all success and fruit depend on you. And work as if it all depends on me. Amen

¹ We are to act – we are not just to sit around and expect God to do it all and take care of us. But also we are to remember, even though we act, ultimately the growth that arises only comes because God gives it. Keeping these two thoughts in mind will keep us from laziness, on one hand; and presumption on the other – presumption that *I* did it, or that God must give growth as *I* expect. ²We should, as in all things, be in prayer and ask God's blessing on our labors, remembering that part of that prayer is, "Your will be done," thus asking God to give us a heart that accepts *his* will concerning how 'good' the crop is.

October 11 Luke 13:22-30 We don't like it when someone treats us like a buddy when long years of being ignored by the same person says, "You are my friend when it's convenient for me." It is no wonder that Jesus likewise doesn't appreciate or accept such treatment. We cannot really believe that Jesus, who personally came into the world to save us and to have a personal one-to-one relationship with us, is contented if we think that it is enough to have a long distance relationship with him in which we rarely are in his presence, listening to his Word, or talking to him. On the last day is he really going to be content with us if we say, "Don't you remember me? I used to sit in church every once and a while and heard you speak. I had your supper in your house a couple of times. Don't you remember me? I spoke to you once when . . ." How can we have the kind of one-to-one relationship with Jesus that he desires?¹

Prayer: Savior, let our love of you be in deed and in truth.

¹Go to Jesus and openly confess our failures to be a good friend to him and seek forgiveness for that sin. In the Spirit and by prayer treat him like a friend that we care about, who is important to us, whose presence and company we delight in and long for. Treat him as One with whom we desire a such a relationship and let him know we will not be satisfied with just a passing acquaintance. Be in his Word daily, giving him quality time as we actively listen to him. Regularly and attentively be in his house to worship him. Be in prayer about any and everything. Bring family and friends to him to introduce him to them, and them to him. By being ones who daily take up our cross and following him, being ones who hear his Word *and* do it.