

## EVERY DAY WITH JESUS (November 2-8)

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)*

**November 2, Luke 19:11-27** Why was the noble so harsh with the third man, who hid his mina? After all a mina was a considerable amount of money, about three months' wages for a laborer. It would seem the man was prudent and faithful in at least hiding it so none was lost. But notice his 'tone' in verse 21. Why did his own words condemn him?<sup>1</sup> What will keep us making the same mistake as we deal with God?<sup>2</sup>

**Prayer:** Lord, work in me by your Spirit so that I have a relationship with you that is not just one of 'awareness', but of intimate knowledge. Be my best Friend, my Counselor, my Savior. Do this so I know you for who you are, and so I am not the loveless and suspicious fearful servant in this reading. Amen.

<sup>1</sup>Note how the man did not "fear and love and trust" his Master, but feared him (in the bad sense) and thought evil of him. He wasn't a faith-filled steward. Neither are we if we, instead of showing love for God, serve him in servile fear and resentment. <sup>2</sup>One thing is to seek a relationship with Jesus so we know what he is really like, instead of a passing acquaintance in which we 'assume' we know what he is like. Another aspect is seeking from God a heart that sees, appreciates and is thankful for all the blessings God has given and done for us physically for our life here on earth, and especially spiritually so we might ever live with him.

**November 3, Luke 19:28-44** A recent story on the internet told of a high school football team that in the last seconds of the game, blocked a field goal – and by so doing won the game. But the 'victorious' team's joy soon turned to grief – they thought the game was over and the ball dead; neither were true. The opponents took advantage of those mistakes, picked up the ball and with the seconds running out scored the winning touchdown. For the one team their triumph lasted a brief moment and ended in tears. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was triumphant, but it also ended in tears. His tears came, not because he was wrong and lost a game, but because his people were wrong and lost, literally, the chance of a lifetime. The Victor, for that is what he would become on Calvary, wept over the tragic mistake his people made that lost them heaven.

**Prayer:** Lord, give us a heart like yours that weeps over the needless and tragic loss that occurs to so many, because they too do not recognize the day they were visited by you. Hear our prayers and supplications on their behalf, and in your mercy have pity on them. In grace, let them have other opportunities to hear of and see you that they may turn and believe. Amen.

**November 4, Luke 19: 45-48** Two related lessons are in today's reading. 1) While many professed concern for God's house in Jesus' day, by turning it into a marketplace, as it were, they showed great disrespect for it and for God. In zeal for his Father and his house Jesus cleansed it. We too are to have zeal for God's house, the sanctity of it, how we worship in it, and its upkeep. We are not to treat it as if it were an ordinary 'just another place.' 2) Ironically those who showed disrespect for God's house, also showed disrespect for God's Son as they tried to destroy him. While they were trying to destroy Jesus, others showed that they had great respect for him as they hung on his words. (Note that in Mt 22:40 a related verb tells us that all the Law and the Prophets 'hang' on the first and second tables of the Law.) By emulating those who heard Jesus that day we too show respect for God and his Son.

**Prayer:** Let my love for you, Lord, not be just for the concept of you who you are, nor the physical building of your house and the activities that go on there. Let my love for you be 'love' for you. Let that love be reflected in how I care for you, how I worship you, and care for your house – its members and its structure. Amen.

**November 5, Luke 20:1-18** Remember how Jesus wept over Jerusalem in vv. 41-44? In today's reading how did the chief priests and scribes and elders show that Jesus was right for his weeping and saying, "You did not know the time of your visitation"?<sup>1</sup> What can we learn from this about ourselves and our relationship to God?<sup>2</sup>

**Prayer:** Father, it is so easy to make myself and ‘what I think’ into gods. In doing so, I forget about you and don’t submit to you. By your grace, Spirit, Word and sacraments, keep me from that damning mistake. Keep me mindful of who you are, and of who and whose I am. Amen.

<sup>1</sup>1) By their questioning Jesus’ authority, thus arrogantly and mistakenly making themselves the authority. 2) By refusing to answer a question which had only one obvious answer, because they thought more of self and their prestige than the one they stood in front of; 3) Finally, by forgetting that the Church is God’s and not man’s, and thus abusing the Church’s messengers and ultimately its Savior.

<sup>2</sup>Remember who and whose you are.

**November 6, Luke 20:19-26** In light of the religious leaders’ question about paying taxes to Caesar, or not, the implication of Jesus’ “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” seems obvious – “Pay the tax you owe to Caesar.” But in the context of the previous parable (vv. 9-18), which came about as a result of a challenge to his authority (vv. 1-8), the significance is considerably deeper. The Talmud (“the authoritative body of Jewish tradition comprising the Mishnah and the Gemara” *Merriam-Webster*) states that secular law is binding on the Jews – so paying taxes was not a real question at all. But were they really ready to give to God, and specifically his Son, the recognition, worship, honor and respect he was due? Yesterday’s parable about the vineyard (Lk. 20:9-18) says they were not. But let’s not be too hasty to condemn and judge them for their question – but instead ask ourselves, “Am I ready in all things to render to God the things that belong to him?” Now that’s a profound question!

**Prayer:** King of all creation, let me ever render to you your due, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Where I have failed to do that, forgive my rebellion, heal my traitorous heart and return it and me to you. Amen.

**November 7, Luke 20:27-40** Contrary to what we may think, the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection because they were theologically liberal. This particular sect of Judaism was very conservative and the ancient Jewish historian Josephus said they held only to the first five books of the Bible (Gen. –Deut.) and did not accept the authority of the “Prophets and Psalms” – the other two divisions of what we call the “Old Testament.” Their rejection of the resurrection may be due to the fact that in the Pentateuch (Gen.- Deut.) Moses does not *explicitly* speak of a physical resurrection. We would do well to note how Jesus met them where they were. To do this he first had to listen to them to know them and their reasoning. Then based on their reverence for Moses and the Books of Moses, Jesus shows exactly how their hero Moses did speak of the resurrection. How good are we at doing the same; that is - listening to what others have to say and getting to know who they are and where they are coming from, then answering them on the basis of that, instead of on the basis of my assumptions? Doing as Jesus did, in love we too may show others their faulty theology in order that they may, by grace, see Jesus.

**Prayer:** Spirit. Let me ever treat all your Word with the respect that it deserves. Also, open my ears so I hear your voice as it comes to us through that Word, so I am blessed as I keep it. Then in love for you and the souls of others, let me loving and caringly share you with all. Amen.

**November 8, Luke 20:41-47** Today, as in Jesus day, there were those who knew chapter and verse and could beat anyone at Scriptural Trivial Pursuit, but when it comes to the core and meaning of Scripture – that was a different story. Jesus shows this truth twice in today’s reading. Quoting Ps. 110:1 he in essence says to the leaders, “You don’t even realize that it points to me.” Then citing the religious leaders practices he says, “Nice show, but, again, because they do not know me, beware of what’s in their heart.” So what about me? Do I know that all Scripture testifies about him? What’s in my heart; is it in line with him? Am I all religious show and glitter, but no substance?

**Prayer:** Jesus, where my knowledge of Scripture is only of the mind and not the heart, where my worship of you is just external ritual and not from my heart, forgive me. Create in me a clean and new heart, Lord, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation and uphold with your free Spirit. (Ps. 51) Amen.