

EVERY DAY WITH JESUS (December 14-20)

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)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21: Please Read: John 5:24-30 **Questions:** 1. When does a person “cross over from death to life”, that is, become spiritually alive? 2. How does one become alive? 3. How long does that life last? 4. Reading verse 29 apart from the larger context of Scripture, what might seem to be the way to eternal life? 5. Who are “those who have done good”? **Possible Answers:** 1. We become spiritually alive when we come to faith in Jesus as our Savior. 2. “Faith comes from hearing the message”. (Romans 10:1; John 5:24) 3. Faith receives eternal life. As a believer you are going to live forever! Part of that will be here on earth in struggle, the remainder will be in heaven in glory. 4/5. It sounds like you get to heaven by doing good. The Bible makes it clear that only believers can do good. Jesus is here pointing to the evidence of faith, good works, to prove the existence of faith. **Prayer:** Dear Jesus, Your Word has led me to believe in You as my Savior. May my life give ample proof to others of the faith You and I know is in my heart. AMEN!

TUESDAY, December 22: Please Read: John 5:31-47 **Questions:** 1. What “testimony” do you find in these verses that prove that Jesus is the promised Savior of the world? 2. What awful power does sinful man have with respect to all this testimony? 3. What is ironic about these particular unbelievers with respect to God’s testimony? 4. What is **the** “fact of life”? **Possible Answers:** 1. The words of John the Baptist, the works of Christ, God the Father’s testimony spoken at Jesus’ baptism, and the written Word of God all testify that He is the Promised One. 2. Sinful man as the power to not believe the ample testimony that God has given concerning Jesus. 3. They “diligently study the Scriptures” (some of them even had it memorized!) and they put their hope in what Moses wrote (that is, they relied upon keeping the commandments that God gave through him) yet they missed the whole point of the Scriptures. They didn’t see Christ in the Word. Yet He is the very center of the Word – “they testify about me”! 4. **The** fact of life is this: there is life only in Jesus. You need to “come to Him”, that is, believe in Him to have life. **Prayer:** Dear Father, continue to give us Your Holy Spirit that we may read and hear Your words and see and believe in the One of whom they speak - Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior. AMEN!

WEDNESDAY, December 23: Please Read: John 6:1-15 **Background:** This incident takes place on the northernmost shore of the Sea of Galilee (at the time John wrote, its name had been changed to the Sea of Tiberius, in honor of the emperor Tiberias Caesar). **Questions:** 1. Why (and why not) were the people coming to Jesus? 2. What typical aspect of our human nature do we see in the disciples as they faced the great obstacle of need? 3. It’s just a simple thing but it has enormous consequences – can you tell what it is in verse 11? 4. What was the people’s intent after the miracle? 5. Why did Jesus keep this from happening? **Possible Answers:** 1. The people were coming to Jesus because of the miracles they saw Him perform. They were apparently NOT coming to Him because of the Word of God which He spoke. 2. We see life’s obstacles and our meager supply and expect failure instead of showing faith. 3. In characteristic fashion Jesus looks at what God has provided and gives thanks to Him for it. Who can measure the gracious blessings God the Father gives in answer to such a simple thing as praying before we eat or as we start the day or begin the night?! 4. They wanted to make Jesus a temporal earthly king. 5. Jesus had infinitely more in mind. He came to be our Savior, our eternal King! **Prayer:** Dear Father, help us to trust in Your desire and ability to provide for our every need. Help us to receive Your blessings with thanksgiving. Most especially, keep us looking to Jesus to provide the eternal blessings our souls need - the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. AMEN!

THURSDAY, December 24: Please Read: John 6:16-24 Background: The disciples rowed about three and one half miles. This would leave them approximately in the middle of the lake. **Questions:** This really happened. The events of that night can serve like a template for the realities of our daily lives too. Can you think of some similarities? **Possible Answers:** Our circumstances sometimes seem “dark”, it seems like our lives are being lived “against the wind” of trouble. We do our best but don’t seem to get very far. Perhaps we forget about or don’t recognize the helping presence of Jesus. He speaks to us and as we listen to Him we are comforted. As soon as we let Jesus “get on board” in our life, things go better and we get to our destination with His blessing. **Prayer:** Jesus, You are truly awesome! Help us to keep our eyes fixed on You through the promises You give in Your Word so that we have the power of faith to survive and thrive in every circumstance of life. AMEN!

FRIDAY, December 25: Please Read: John 6:25-40 Background: Twenty two times (in the original greek text of John) Jesus uses the phrase “I AM” about Himself. That expression I AM was an assertion that He is God for that description is the distinctive Name the God of Israel gave about Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:14. When Jesus said “I AM...” the Jews who heard Him in His day knew what He was claiming. The reading today has one of the five most famous I AM statements, “I AM the Bread of Life...” v. 35. (The other four: 8:12; 10:7; 10:7; 10:11; 11:25,26) **Questions:** 1. What was the only thing this crowd of people wanted from Jesus? 2. What was the purpose of the miraculous signs Jesus did? 3. What is the will of Jesus’ Father? 4. Because of “the Father’s will”, of what can you be absolutely certain?! **Possible Answers:** 1. The only thing this crowd wanted was bread for their stomachs that day and every day. 2. The miraculous signs were to point to Jesus as the promised Messiah so that people would believe in Him and find eternal salvation for their souls. 3. “My Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day!” (John 6:40) 4. Through faith in Jesus you can be absolutely certain that you have eternal life in heaven awaiting you!! **Prayer:** Dear Father, thank You for giving me my daily bread. Most of all – thank You for giving me faith in Jesus, the Bread of life, in Whom I have eternal life and a home in heaven! AMEN!

SATURDAY, December 26: Please Read: John 6:41-59 Background: In these verses Jesus speaks of the fact that “My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink”. He also speaks of the necessity of “eating My flesh and drinking My blood” in order to be saved. The context of this entire chapter indicates that this is NOT a reference to the Lord’s Supper. Furthermore, the larger context of Scripture clearly teaches that faith in Jesus is necessary for salvation. The Scriptures do NOT make reception of the Lord’s Supper a requirement for salvation. **Questions:** 1. What’s the answer to their question in verse 42? 2. How is “the Bread of Life” eaten? **Possible Answers:** 1. The answer is no. Joseph is Jesus’ legal father but Jesus is NOT physically descended from Joseph. 2. Our bodies receive physical bread through our mouths. The “Bread of Life” for our souls is received through faith. This entire so called “Bread of Life Discourse”, is a plea to all people to believe in Jesus as the One sent from heaven as the only Savior of all. **Prayer:** Dear Jesus, I believe You are indeed the One the Father sent from heaven to save everyone, including me. THANK YOU FOREVER! AMEN!

SUNDAY, December 27: Please Read: John 6:60-71 Questions: 1. Some of Jesus disciples felt that His words were hard to understand, is that true? 2. How alone can a person believe these simple but profound words? 3. In verse 62 what event is going to happen that is equally amazing as the fact of the incarnation, that is, the coming down of Jesus in the flesh from heaven? 4. What scary astounding fact does Jesus share with His disciples? **Possible Answers:** 1. Yes and no. The words are simple enough. But, afflicted by sins, our minds are so sluggish that it is impossible for us to understand these astounding words. 2. Only by the insight given by the Father through His Spirit can we really understand what Jesus means. The words of Jesus are Spirit and life – they are God’s Words and they have the power to enable people to understand their meaning and believe them. 3. Jesus would some day ascend into heaven before the eyes of His disciples. 4. Jesus lets them know that one of them will not only stop following Him but will betray Him to His enemies!! Oh! The depths into which sin can lead! **Prayer:** Dear Jesus! We agree with Peter – You alone have the words that give eternal life. We believe and know You are sent from God, the only Savior, our Savior! Graciously keep us in this faith by the power of Your Spirit through the Word. AMEN!