

Resurrection

Day One – Resurrection

Today's reading: Page 381 through gap on page 384

This reading covers: Matthew 27-28; Mark 16; John 20

Summary: Jesus rose from the dead, just as he said he would. When Jesus died it appeared evil had finally won. But just as he promised, Jesus rose from the dead. With that one act he secured his identity as the son of God, and proved that he could be trusted to do whatever he said he would do.

In the end, Jesus' victory was not just over evil. It was victory over death itself.

Consider this:

What do you need Jesus to overcome? Are you trusting yourself to overcome? Or are you trusting Jesus? Do you need to overcome something in the world, or is it within you?

For further reading: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 1 John 5:1-5

Prayer:

Jesus, thank you that you are who you say you are. Thank you that you can do what you say you can do. Thank you that, because you have overcome the world, I can have peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day Two – Back to Fishing

Today's reading: Gap on page 384 through gap on page 388

The reading covers: Luke 24; John 20-21

Summary: When they go back to their previous ways, the disciples encounter Jesus. The disciples figured it was time to fish or cut bait. It's what they knew. It's what was comfortable. They thought they'd lost their identity as Christ-followers when they no longer had Christ, so they picked up where they had left off in life ~ as fishermen. But Jesus did not leave them where they were. Jesus never wants to leave us where we are.

As believers we have a new identity. We are a new creation.

Consider this:

Who are we supposed to be like? Our goal is not to know more of Jesus, but to be more like him. Our identity is not what we make of ourselves, but what Jesus wants to make of us. Some Christ-followers have a profound life change when they become believers. Others have subtle changes which happen deep within their souls. Thinking of your old identity, without Christ, what comes to mind? How have you changed as a new creation?

For further reading: Romans 8:28-30; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:13-16

Prayer:

Jesus, help me to know you better in order to be more like you. Conform me to your image. In your name, Amen.

Day Three – What's Next?

Today's reading: Gap on page 388 through end of chapter

This reading covers: Matthew 28; John 20-21

Summary: Jesus gives his followers direction for the future. Spiritual growth is all about taking Next Steps. Everyone has one. The surest way to make zero progress in our lives is to stay right where we are; the same mistakes, the same habits, the same hurts. The surest way to move ahead into a life of victory is to take the next step on our journey with Christ.

Consider this:

The next step for any believer is to do more, go farther, dig deeper. Have you just become a Christ-follower? The next step is to begin a daily time with God. If you have that habit down well, maybe it is time to start serving. If you've been a Christ-follower for years, consider yourself mature in the faith, and maintain consistent godly habits in your Christ-filled life, then you'd better be making disciples.

Jesus loves us where we are, but he does not want us to stay there. Following Christ is never accomplished. We finish when we die. Until then, there is always room for growth.

For further reading: Romans 12:1-2

Prayer:

Dear Father, help me to take my next best step with you. Challenge me to move ahead in my journey with you. I know it is not always easy, but you promised to be with me always. And I can do all things through you. In Jesus' name, Amen.