

Walking With Christ

A Morning Devotional

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SAMPLE

Week I: The Grace of God

Day One: Who Is Jesus?

Scripture: Isaiah, 9:6, Matthew 16:13-16

“At the name of Aslan, each one of the children felt something jump in his inside. Edmund felt a sensation of mysterious horror. Peter felt suddenly brave and adventurous. Susan felt as if some delicious smell or some delightful strain of music had just floated by her. And Lucy got the feeling you have when you wake up in the morning and realize that it is the beginning of the holidays or the beginning of summer.”

- C.S. Lewis, The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe

Jesus Christ caused quite a stir in His day. During His life, and in all the centuries since, there has been a tremendous amount of debate over just who Jesus is and was. Many people back then did not know who Jesus was. He was someone different to different people. Today, many still do not know. As we begin our walk with Christ, I think it is important to start out by looking at exactly who He is.

The first portrayal of Jesus we have is as a man. He was “born of a woman” (Gal 4:4), and was a flesh and blood human being. Not only does the Bible show Jesus being born as flesh and blood, we can also see evidence of Jesus’ humanity all throughout His ministry. Jesus Christ had hunger (Matthew 4:2), tiredness (Luke 8:23), anguish (Luke 22:44), and He faced temptation just like you and I (Matthew 4:1-11).

Everything that you have gone through, Jesus has gone through as well. He was fully human, and faced the same trials that we all face. He overcame them two ways: 1) Relying on the Word of God, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone.’” (Luke 4:4), and 2) Submitting to the Will of God, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42).

He was both loved by many and hated by many. Jesus was different things to different people, but He has touched, in some way, everyone on this planet. His teachings have probably had the single greatest impact on humanity. The question remains, though, who exactly was He? Who *is* He? Ask yourself, “Who is Jesus to me?”

Day Two: He's Alive!!!

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15

“Christ is risen from the dead: arise with him. Christ returns to himself: you also must return to him. Christ has come forth from the tomb: free yourselves from the fetters of evil. The gates of hell are open and the power of death is destroyed. The old Adam is superseded, the new perfected. In Christ a new creation is coming to birth: renew yourselves. ”

-- Gregory Nazianzen

1 Corinthians 15 is an absolutely awesome chapter. I love this chapter. I think this chapter says so much about the purpose of Christ, the purpose of Christianity, and the purpose of Christians. In this chapter, Paul "lays it on the line." I was reading it just the other day, when one verse jumped out at me.

In verses 12 through 19, Paul tells them, and us, that if Christ did was not raised from the dead, our faith is in vain and we are blasphemers. Seven times Paul mentions, "If not..." But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead...If there is no resurrection ...if Christ has not been raised...in fact the dead are not raised...if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either...if Christ has not been raised...but then...then, the kicker, verse twenty:

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

But. Christ. has. indeed. been. raised. Christ has been raised!!! I almost get the feeling Paul set them up and then clinched them. Christ has indeed been raised from the dead. "No more sin's sting, no more suffering!" We are free from the bondage of sin because Jesus Christ died and was raised from the dead. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor 5:21). He is alive and we are made alive through Him. What a blessing!!

Christ has indeed been raised from the dead. As you go through your week, praise God for what He has done for us. He raised Jesus from the dead, so that we may live. Hallelujah!