

September 27 - October 3

(Monday) John 16

1. Jesus said that it was for the disciples' good that he go away and that the Counselor come. Why was the Spirit's presence more profitable to the disciples than Jesus' presence?
2. The Spirit's ministry is one of the communications. What specific things did Jesus say the Spirit would communicate to the disciples (vv 13-15)?
3. How would Jesus' assurance of the Father's love help the disciples in the days just ahead of them (vv. 25-33)?
4. How can this incident help us when our questions to the Lord seemingly go unanswered?

Prayer Focus: Pray for those around the world who face persecution for their faith in Christ

Family Devotional: Read verses 1-4. What kind of treatment can the disciples expect from those who don't know Christ? How does it compare to how those who don't know Christ treat you?

(Tuesday) John 17

1. Jesus makes only one request for himself--that the Father would glorify him so that he might glorify the Father. In what way would each one glorify the other (vv. 1-5)?
2. Twice Jesus asked the Father to protect his disciples from the evil one (vv. 11, 15). Why would that protection have been so important in Jesus' mind as he faced the cross?
3. Jesus prayed that those who believe in him would be one "so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (vv. 21, 23)? Why is our unity a powerful argument for the reality of Jesus?
4. Jesus obviously prayed his prayer out loud to bring comfort and assurance to his disciples. In what particular ways do Jesus' words anchor or assure you?

Prayer Focus: Ask God to bring unity to the people of Harbor Church

Family Devotional: Read verses 6-19. According to verses 6-19, what specific ministries did Jesus have toward his disciples? In what ways does he minister to you today?

(Wednesday) Matthew 26

1. How do verses 1-16 set the stage for Jesus' betrayal and death?
2. Jesus' betrayal came at the hand of one of his own disciples (vv. 47-50). As you look over the role of Judas in this chapter, why do you think the religious leaders used him?
3. In answer to the high priest's question (v.63). Jesus declares that he is the Christ (alluding to Dan 7:13-14). Describe the immediate--and ultimate-- impact of Jesus' words on those present (vv. 65-68)

4. Both Jesus and the disciples faced temptation in the chapter. How can Jesus' example and the disciples' failures help us withstand temptation and testing?

Prayer Focus: Ask Jesus to give you a spirit of courage and proactivity

Family Devotional: Read verses 17-30. How is this occasion both ominous and hopeful?

(Thursday) Matthew 27

1. After the religious leaders hand Jesus over to Pilate, Judas feels remorse (vv.1-5). How is remorse different from repentance?

2. As Jesus hangs on the cross, he is repeatedly mocked and insulted (vv.32-44). How do these insults reveal the spiritual choices these people have made?

3. Observe the role Jesus' followers play during the events of his crucifixion and burial (vv. 55-61). How do you think they felt?

4. This chapter is filled with irony. Satan's "triumph" is actually his defeat. Christ's "defeat" is actually his triumph. How should this challenge our views about the way God works in our lives?

Prayer Focus: Ask Jesus to deepen your understanding of what his death on the Cross means.

Family Devotion: Read verses 11-26. Jesus stands before Pilate in verses 11-26. How and why does Pilate seek to avoid sentencing Jesus?

(Friday) Mark 15

1. What ironies are present in the charges and jeers directed toward Jesus on the cross (vv. 25-32)?

2. How can we keep from succumbing to the temptation Pilate faced?

3. How can this passage reinforce our commitment to sharing the good news of Christ with others?

Prayer Focus: Praise God for Christ and his work on the Cross.

Family Devotional: Read verses 1-15. What kind of man is Pilate? What keeps him from doing what is right?