

Study Guide for the Week of February 20, 2005

Who Was Jesus? Tempted Like You and Me...

This study guide is designed to help you to become more familiar with the Bible. Study these passages on your own, with a friend, or with a group. If you or someone you know needs a Bible, please take one from under a chair in the Worship Center. They are there for you to take home and use! Sermon manuscripts are available at www.saintpauls-umc.com.

Monday. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 in the New Testament. This passage gives us specific ways that we can defeat the devil as he attacks us. See how many pieces of “armor” we can put on to protect our selves. The last piece is prayer, our connection to God. This gives all the other pieces of armor their strength. Are you missing any pieces of your spiritual armor? Which pieces? Ask God to help you acquire what you need and protect you where you are weakest.

Tuesday. Read Luke chapter 5. In this chapter Jesus calls the first disciples. What do we know about these first followers? Were they special? Why do you think Jesus chose them? What does Jesus call them to become in verse 10? In this passage we see two healing miracles. In the first Jesus orders the man not to tell anyone about the miracle. This may be because Jesus did not want to be seen as a mere miracle worker. It may have been because Jesus did not want to draw too much attention to himself early on. The calling of Levi begins in verse 27. Levi, as a tax collector would have been hated. Why would Jesus choose someone like this to be a disciple?

Wednesday. Read Luke chapter 6. From verses 1 through 11 we see that Jesus begins to encounter difficulties with the religious leaders of the day. They lived by the letter of the law. Jesus, however, came to show the true spirit of the law. Their rigidity makes them hate Jesus and his graciousness. Verses 27-36 are powerful lessons on love. How closely do you live out what Jesus is saying here? In verses 46-49 we see the story of the houses built on the rock or on the ground (or on the sand). What is Jesus saying in these verses? Would you describe your life as built on rock or on unstable ground? Why?

Thursday. Read Luke chapter 7. This chapter begins by showing that people who were not Jewish were beginning to see Jesus’ power. In verses 36-50 we are given a powerful story where Jesus shows God’s love toward a woman who was a sinner and an outcast. She seems to know that Jesus is the one, the only one, who can take away her sins and make her clean again. She humbles herself by washing Jesus feet with her tears and drying them with her hair. This is a powerful image of true humility and love. How can we express our love and humility to Jesus today?

Friday. Read Luke chapter 8. Don’t miss the very beginning of this chapter. Luke wants us to notice that Jesus treated women with dignity. This was unusual at that time in history. These women become followers and even provide for the disciples out of their own pockets. Verses 4-11 are some of Jesus’ teachings. He explains the parable of the sower. What does this mean to you? In the following verses we see more healing. Notice that in the case of the woman with the hemorrhages she reaches out to Jesus and is healed, but the girl cannot reach out to him so he reaches out to her. This reminds us that when we cannot reach out to Jesus he will do so to us. His desire is for our healing and wholeness.