

Devotion for Epiphany 4

Psalm 111

Praise the Lord. I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

Glorious and majestic are His deeds, and His righteousness endures forever.

He has caused His wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.

He has shown His people the power of His works, giving them the lands of other nations.

They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness.

He provided redemption for His people;

He ordained His covenant forever—holy and awesome is His name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding.

To Him belongs eternal praise.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Respecting one another's conscience

Why does knowledge puff up?

How does love build up?

3) Why should we be concerned about the conscience of fellow believers?

Mark 1:21-28

The Holy One of God

Why would an unclean spirit be in a synagogue or church?

How does the unclean spirit recognize Jesus?

Why does Jesus tell the unclean spirit not to identify Him?

Jesus' Words

Jesus began His ministry teaching the word. He said, "*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel.*" He gathered disciples by speaking the word saying, "*Come follow me.*" Jesus went into the synagogue at Capernaum and taught the word. People were astounded, both at His words and by the way in which He spoke God's word, "*He taught them as one who had authority and not as the scribes.*" Jesus spoke the word of God as the "Word of God" clothed in human flesh.

Jesus was not recognized as the Holy One of God by His physical appearance. On the contrary, His appearance led people to think He was a tradesman, "*the carpenter's son.*" Jesus revealed His glory to the disciples Peter, James and John on a mountain when His appearance was changed and His face shone like the sun. But they only later understood what they had seen through the instruction of His word. We see and understand Jesus through His word.

Jesus speaks words of forgiveness, spiritual healing and peace. He calls us to come to Him with our sins and lay them at the foot of the cross. He has atoned for our sins completely through the blood of His cross. He calls us to come to Him for courage when we are afraid. He gives His Spirit in baptism to dwell within us. He calls us to come to Him with our prayers and petitions when we are weary. He says, "*Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.*" He speaks words of comfort and hope in the darkness of grief and death saying, "*I am the resurrection and the life.*"

God bless us to join Mary the sister of Martha, who took time in her busy day to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to His word. His word empowers us for daily living. His word gives eternal life. He is the word of life.

Hymn: "COME, MY SOUL WITH EVERY CARE" (Public Domain)

**Come, My Soul, with Every Care, Jesus loves to answer prayer
He himself bids you to pray, therefore will not turn away.**

**You are coming to your King, large petitions with you bring;
For his grace and power are such, none can ever ask too much.**

**With my burden I begin. Lord remove this load of sin.
Let your blood for sinners spilt, set my conscience free from guilt.**

**Lord, your rest to me impart. Take possession of my heart.
There your blood bought right maintain. And without a rival reign.**

**While I am a pilgrim here, let your love my spirit cheer.
As my guide my guard, my friend, lead me to my journey's end.**

**Show me what I am to do. Every hour my strength renew.
Let me live a life of faith. Let me die your people's death.**

Prayer

Dearest Jesus, speak to us through your holy word. Bless us with your Holy Spirit. Open our ears to listen and our hearts to believe. Empower us to trust you in and through all things. Open our lips to speak to you in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Open our mouths to speak call others to hear your voice in your word. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Benediction

Psalm 68:19

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation."

Bible Knowledge Quiz

- 1) What were the names of the high priests who condemned Jesus?
- 2) What prevented the high priests from continuing in office forever?
- 3) What did Jesus offer as high priest that took away sin fully and forever?

Answers to last week's quiz

Great grandmother. (Ruth 4:17-18)

"Speak for your servant hears." (1 Samuel 3:10)

Mending their nets. (Mark 1:19)