

**Welcome to 2025**

**Having celebrated our 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church last year, what might the next 140 years of ministry for First Melissa look like?**



**BRIDGE**

PAST TO FUTURE · PEOPLE TO JESUS

# BRIDGE

PAST TO FUTURE · PEOPLE TO JESUS

**Believe**

**Repent**

**Invite**

**Declare**

**Give**

**Engage**

# **First Melissa's passion is to make disciples of Jesus**

Every January, we choose a scripture to guide us through the year, hoping that God will use that passage to teach us and guide us and use us to help others meet Jesus as Savior.

# **Theme verse for 2018**

Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, “**I have seen the Lord,**” and that He had said these things to her.

John **20:18**

# **Theme Verse for 2019**

**“I am the Lord your God; walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and observe them.”**

**Ezekiel 20:19**



# Theme Verse for 2020

Moses said to the people, “**Do not be afraid;** for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.”

Exodus 20:20

# **Theme Verse for 2021**

So Jesus said to them again, “**Peace be with you**; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

John **20:21**

# **Theme Verse for 2022**

Do not say, “I will repay evil”; **wait for the Lord**, and He will save you.

Proverbs **20:22**

# **Theme Verse for 2023**

**You shall not make other gods  
besides Me; gods of silver or gods of  
gold, you shall not make for  
yourselves. Exodus 20:23**

# **Theme Verse for 2024**

**“But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24**

# Matthew 20

As Jesus was about to go up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and on the way He said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up.” Matthew 20:17-19

\* This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that Yeshua mentions His coming death

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him. Matthew 20:20

### Characters in this story

Jesus – Messiah, Savior

Mother of the sons of Zebedee – Salome (?)

Sons of Zebedee – James and John, two of the 12 disciples

Zebedee – a prominent fisherman in Capernaum

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request [αἰτέω *aiteo*] of Him. And He [Jesus] said to her, “**What do you wish?**”  
Matthew 20:20-21a

- Greek verb αἰτέω *aiteo* means “to ask or beg”
- If you could ask Jesus ANYTHING, what would you ask?

And He said to her, “What do you wish?” She said to Him, “Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left.” Matthew 20:21

- Salome asked Jesus to give her sons positions of prominence in the kingdom of Jesus
- Perhaps she had heard Jesus say, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Matthew 19:28

But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able." He said to them, "My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father."

Matthew 20:22-23

Jesus said to James and John, “My cup you shall drink” Matthew 20:23

- “Cup” in scripture often represents suffering and trials

What happened to these brothers later?

- James became the first apostle to be martyred (Acts 12:1-2) at the hands of Herod Agrippa I
- John was exiled to the remote Island of Patmos in his old age

And hearing this, the ten became  
indignant with the two brothers.

Matthew 20:24

Previously...

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, “Who then  
is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Matthew 18:1

# Theme Verses for 2025

But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as **the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**”

Matthew 20:25-28

# First Melissa's passion is to make disciples of Jesus

We have ministries and Bible Studies and activities for all ages, ways to **serve** and **be served** as we grow as His disciples.

# small group

LIFE IS BETTER  
IN A GROUP

[firstmelissa.com/adults](http://firstmelissa.com/adults)



FIRST MELISSA  
*Students*



**WE ARE HERE FOR YOU...**



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE STRUGGLING WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS? OUR **HOPE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** MEETS ON THE 4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH - COME FIND ENCOURAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY. JOIN US!



*OPEN MEETINGS Monday nights at 7 pm in the Theater in Building B.*

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-Centered, 12 Step Recovery Program for anyone struggling with hurt, hang-ups, and habits of any kind.

<https://firstmelissa.com/celebraterecovery>



# KINGDOM DAUGHTERS

A place where young women can connect,  
their hearts can find fellowship,  
and they can experience the love of Jesus.

**Kick-off Event**

**January 10 @ 7:00 pm**

*Please RSVP at [firstmelissa.com/KD](http://firstmelissa.com/KD)*



SALT Ministry invites you!



CHILI COOK-OFF

*Homemade Ice Cream*



January 18 @ 1:00 pm

[firstmelissa.com/chilicookoff](http://firstmelissa.com/chilicookoff)

**[NO  
REGRETS] MEN'S  
CONFERENCE**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2025**

**COLLOSSIANS 1:13-14**  
**RESCUED**

[firstmelissa.com/men](http://firstmelissa.com/men)



**JOBY  
MARTIN**



**MATT  
ERICKSON**



**CRAWFORD  
LORITTS**



**SEAN  
MCDOWELL**



**MARK  
BATTERSON**



**GREG  
STIER**



**DAN  
SEABORN**



**STEVE  
SONDERMAN**



**DUSTY  
DAVIS**

@FMSTUDENTS

# DNOW WKND

FEBRUARY 14-16  
LAKE LAVON CAMP



**CHAD POE**  
speaker

**ARIC HARDING**  
worship band

[firstmelissa.com/students](http://firstmelissa.com/students)



**DILLON CHASE**  
rapper

**BRYAN DRAKE**  
illusionist



# FORTIFY

**fortify** verb | \ 'for-tə-fī \

**To strengthen and secure:**

To make something more resistant to challenges, attacks, or harm (e.g., "They fortified the city walls").

**To support or improve a foundation:**

To enhance the strength, durability, or resolve of something. To provide resilience or endurance in a situation or structure (e.g., "The couple worked to fortify their marriage").



A Weekend for  
Strengthening and  
Securing Marriages

**FEBRUARY 14-15**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Michael Smalley**

The Smalley Institute

Date Night | Workshops

*[firstmelissa.com/fortify](http://firstmelissa.com/fortify)*



# TORAH

## TUESDAY

STUDY THE WEEKLY TORAH PORTION WITH  
PASTOR TREY GRAHAM | TUESDAYS AT 7:00 PM

# Wednesday Night Ministries Resume

Join us this Wednesday as we focus on missions and hear inspiring testimonies from those who served on the Romania mission trip.

**Dinner at 5:30 PM** (by reservation)  
**Preschool, KIDS, and Student Ministries**  
begin at 6:15 PM

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[firstmelissa.com/wednesdays](http://firstmelissa.com/wednesdays)

**Why  
Wonder?**

**40 Days Of Faith**

**Exodus 15:11**

**BEGINNING JANUARY 12**

**First Melissa's passion is to  
make disciples of Jesus**

We have been called to follow  
the example of Jesus

# John 13

Now before the Feast of the Passover, **Jesus knowing that His hour had come** that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. John 13:1

**When** do you think the love of Jesus stops?

**Where** do you think the love of Jesus stops?

During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, John 13:2-3

\*Can you believe that someone could walk and talk with Jesus personally and still not follow Him as Savior?

[Jesus] got up from supper [Passover Seder meal on Thursday night], and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. John 13:4-5

Walking in sandals on the filthy roads of Israel in the first century made it imperative that feet be washed before a communal meal, especially since people reclined at a low table and feet were very much in evidence. When Jesus rose from the table and began to wash the feet of the disciples, He was doing the work of the lowliest of servants. - Got Questions



# Traditional Steps of the Seder Meal

Birkat HaNer	Lighting of the Passover candles
Kiddush	Sanctifying blessing and first cup of wine
Urchatz	First hand washing
Karpas	Green vegetable dipped in salt water and blessing
Yachatz	Breaking the middle Matzah and hiding the Afikomen
Maggid	Telling the story of Passover and the second cup of wine
Rachtzah	Second hand washing and blessing
Matzah	Blessing for the bread and eating of Matzah
Maror	Eating of the bitter herbs
Korech	Eating of Maror and Matzah
Shulchan Orech	The festival meal
Tzafun	Eating the Afikomen
Barech	After meal blessing, the third cup of wine, looking for arrival of Elijah
Hallel	Songs of praise
Nirtzah	Fourth cup of wine and completion of the Seder

So He [Jesus] came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?” John 13:6

“The reluctance of Jesus’ disciples to volunteer for such a task is, to say the least, culturally understandable; their shock at His volunteering is not merely the result of being shame-faced, it is their response to finding their sense of the fitness of things shattered. But here Jesus reverses normal roles. His act of humility is as unnecessary as it is stunning, and is simultaneously a display of love (John 13:1), a symbol of saving cleansing (John 13:6–9), and a model of Christian conduct (John 13:12–17).” – D.A. Carson

Jesus answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter [after Jesus’ death and resurrection].” Peter said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” John 13:7-8

\*This does not mean, “Unless you are baptized you cannot be saved,” but, “Unless I wash your sins away by My atoning death you have no real relationship to Me.” – Bible Knowledge Commentary

\*but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.” Jesus said to him, “He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.” For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, “Not all of you are clean.” John 13:9-11

**Salvation** is a one-time act of justification by faith, but the lifelong process of **sanctification** is one of washing from the stain of sin we experience as we walk through the world. Peter and the disciples—all except Judas Iscariot, who never belonged to Christ—needed only this temporal cleansing. – Got Questions

# Jesus offers to make us spiritually clean

How can I be washed for **salvation**?

- He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21
- For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.  
Ephesians 2:8-9

# Jesus offers to make us spiritually clean

How can I be washed for **sanctification**?

- I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.  
Galatians 2:20
- Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” John 13:12-14

Your greatest test of servant leadership may be to wash the feet of those who may soon betray you. – Pastor Gene Wilkes

Jesus said, “For I gave you an **example** [ὑπόδειγμα *hypodeigma*, “pattern”] that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.” John 13:15-16

Are you a willing slave of Jesus?

Are you willing to follow the example of the master?

“This passage emphasizes inner humility, not a physical rite.”



Jesus said, “If you **know** these things,  
you are blessed if you **do** them.”

John 13:17

In the last few hours preceding the Cross, Jesus was still teaching and modeling for His disciples what true humility and grace and love look like.

# Will we follow His example?

- If you knew you were going to die in a few hours, would you be concerned with serving others?
- Would you wash the feet of someone you knew was about to betray you?
- Could we learn to love people “to the end?”
- How can followers of Jesus serve like Jesus?

Jesus said, “If you **know** these things,  
you are blessed if you **do** them.”

John 13:17

Do you want to be blessed by God?

1. Know what Jesus says (learn)
2. Do what Jesus says (obey)

# Theme Verses for 2025

## MATTHEW 20:25-28

But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

