



# Weekly Devotions & Notes

April 5-11, 2020

## **Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020**

### **“The Wonderful World of Sea Monkeys”:**

#### **Monday, April 6 Read John 12:1-11**

Verse 6 makes it easy to dismiss Judas’ complaints about Mary’s recklessness as selfish greed. Yet concern for the poor and wasting resources are legitimate concerns for the church. But we, like Judas, often mask our own selfish goals and desires with a patina of religious concern (note in the Matthew 26 version *all* the disciples are outraged at the profligate expenditure!). To what extent are you reckless and overflowing in your discipleship and to what extent do you hold back for yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Tuesday, April 7 Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

“But we proclaim Christ crucified, “ Paul thunders. Ultimately it is not Jesus’ miracles or philosophy that matters but his obedience, death and atoning sacrifice. Without that we can never receive the forgiveness and the Spirit that makes new life, abundant and eternal, even possible. Many admire Jesus’ teachings but disciples kneel before His death. How is Christ’s crucifixion the starting point for your faith journey? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Wednesday, April 8 Read Hebrews 12:1-3**

In a time of struggle it is vital that we realize that we are neither alone nor unique in having to deal with challenges. The “great cloud of witnesses” serves as a reminder and a declaration that God

#### **Sermon notes for**

#### **“The Wonderful World of Sea Monkeys**

***Scripture: Matthew 26:14-22***

- 1. Holy Week is a time to seriously ask what is of *real* value in our lives**
- 2. Holy Week calls us to faithfully celebrate the bittersweet gift of God’s grace in the midst of our brokenness**
  - A. By humbly confessing our tendency to bargain away our relationship with God**
  - B. By sacrificing entertainment and familiarity for worship and praise.**

has always been with His People and will continue to do so. Prayerfully consider how you personally are being called to run the race we now face with perseverance. As we reflect on the cross this week, how can that help us keep perspective? \_\_\_\_\_

**Maundy Thursday, April 9 Read John 13:1-17;31-35**

Peter's problem here is not with serving. It is an unwillingness to humble himself, be vulnerable and be served. Why is it so important that we learn to accept our weakness? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is humility essential to accepting the gift of salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

How is being vulnerable a very real part of learning to love as Jesus loves? \_\_\_\_\_

**Good Friday, April 10 Read John 18:1-19:42**

Read the story of Christ's Passion on this Good Friday with some imagination. Imagine yourself in the position of Peter, of Pilate, a person in the crowd, a frightened disciple, a priest or Pharisee, of one of the women at the cross and of Nicodemus. What would be your feelings and why? Is there a character with whom you relate more? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Pray over Jesus' final words: "It is finished!" What does this mean for your life today? \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, April 11 Read 1 Peter 4:1-8**

Christianity doesn't come with a promise that life will be easier for the believer. Rather it is the exact opposite for we follow the Savior who gave completely of Himself. As we wait for Easter, it's good to remember that "time is short (v.7)" and we are called to have our old, earthly lives put to death so that we may be reborn in a more Christ-like form. What in your life needs to stay in the tombs? \_\_\_\_\_

Share this with God and listen for His answer.