



PV Household Worship

June 4-9, 2018

❖ **Daily Memory Verse: Matthew 10:32**

Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.

❖ **Song:** All Praise To Him <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZgYF89fzSQ>

Monday, June 4, "He is not safe, but He is good."

Read Matthew 10:16-20

Have you ever read the Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis? The second book in the series is called *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Almost halfway through the story, we find out that a character named Aslan is The Lion who represents Christ. A little girl in the story named Lucy asks about Aslan, "Is he a man?" "Aslan a man!" said Mr. Beaver sternly. "Certainly not. I tell you he is the King of the woods and the son of the great Emperor-beyond-the-Sea. Don't you know who is the King of Beasts? Aslan is a lion — The Lion, The Great Lion." Then, of course, Lucy asks if this lion is safe — to which Beaver answers with his famous line, "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good." There's nothing "safe" about following Jesus! When we truly stand for Him it is risky! In Matthew 10:16 Jesus says, "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." Yes, we may encounter threats, hardships, and even pain as we follow after Jesus. But He assures us of His constant presence. No matter where He directs or calls, you can rest assured of His words, "I am sending you!" Later on in Matthew 28:20 Jesus affirms His constant presence when He says, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Following Jesus is not always safe, but it is always good!

- What does it mean to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves?
- Why would Jesus send His sheep out into difficult places to proclaim His kingdom?
- Memory Verse Matthew 10:32
- Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for sending me as Your ambassador to proclaim the gospel.

Tuesday, June 5, "The people around us need Jesus."

Read Matthew 10:16-20

I recently read about an interesting encounter with a group of honey bees that were swarming around the opening to their hive enclosure. At first, they were thought to be hostile, but upon closer inspection it was realized that the bees had moved outside the hive because they became too hot due to the sweltering weather. They weren't hostile, but simply chilling out in the daytime breeze. At times, we'll feel the heat of the world's hostility to God and the good news of His gospel. Some people simply don't want to hear about it. Jesus spoke of the responses the disciples would receive as they told others about Him. He said, "Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves". When we tell others the gospel, we can expect some trouble. Some will even face white-hot persecution (Matthew 10:17-20). Jesus said, "Slaves are not greater than their master. . . . And since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons, the members of my household will be called by even worse names!" But here's the good news: Not everyone will oppose us or reject our message. The Porter family will share Jesus in Singapore and some will believe the gospel. We should expect some hostility, but Jesus says there will be people who will believe the gospel as well. So it's our time to spread the good news! The people around us need Jesus. For the sake of those who will believe in Him, may God help us carry out our mission today!

- Read Matthew 10:16-18. Why do you think people get hostile when the gospel is proclaimed?
- Do you know of anyone who has been dragged before government leaders and judges for sharing the gospel? Share about it.
- Memory Verse Matthew 10:32
- Prayer - Jesus, thank You that You are always with me even when I am being harassed for Your names sake.

Wednesday, June 6, "Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will speak through you."

Read Matthew 10:16-20

Matthew 10:18-20 says, *"You will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."* What a wonderful thing it is to sense the presence and power of the Spirit in your life, giving you the words you need, exactly when you need them. I read an amazing account recently of a Romanian student who was given the opportunity to share the gospel in English with two Chinese people. He was very nervous because his heart language was Romanian, their heart language Mandarin, and neither spoke English well. After he had invited them to receive Jesus in his best English, to his joy they understood and said yes! He encouraged them to pray in Chinese, assuring them God could understand their heart language. With tears in his eyes, he witnessed the couple talking with their Creator for the first time. Most of the time, we really don't know how to engage in a gospel conversation without feeling awkward or inadequate. The awesome thing is that Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will speak through you. The Spirit bears witness to the truth of scripture and reveals to the hearts of people who Jesus is. He gives wisdom, truth, and boldness when you need it most!

- Have you ever experienced a time when the Holy Spirit gave you truth, wisdom, or courage far beyond your human ability? Share about it.
- Have you ever been taken before some kind of authority because of your Christian witness?
- Memory Verse Matthew 10:32
- Prayer - Lord, thank You for Your Holy Spirit that fills me and gives me Your words to speak.

Thursday, June 7, "Have you ever been persecuted?" Read Matthew 10:21-25

Have you ever been persecuted? Has anyone ever laughed at you for following Jesus? Recently, in a Middle Eastern country, a teenage girl was beaten by her own family for refusing to renounce her faith in Jesus. In Muslim Africa, a young boy was nailed to a board because he attended a church service. Around the world believers are treated harshly because they hold church services in their homes. Following Jesus isn't always easy. In the days of the early church, persecution was widespread. Peter and John were imprisoned for speaking publicly about Jesus (Acts 3-4). Stephen was martyred for his faith (Acts 7). Paul, a former persecutor of Christians, was whipped, beaten, stoned, and imprisoned. Most of us do not face life-threatening persecution today. But we shouldn't be surprised if it comes our way. After all, Jesus told us that just as He was persecuted, we too would face persecution if we follow Him. He said, *"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his*

household." We can have confidence that we don't have to face persecution on our own. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised to send us the Holy Spirit who now comforts and counsels us. Persecution may come soon. Hebrews 13:5 says, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we can confidently say, The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"*

- What did Jesus mean by, *"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master?"*
- Who is Beelzebul? Look it up in a study Bible and share with one another. Why did they accuse Jesus of being associated with Beelzebul?
- Memory Verse Matthew 10:32
- Prayer - Father, thank You that no matter what I am going through, You are there.

Friday, June 8, "Fear God and come to Him on His terms." Read Matthew 10:25-33

Matthew 10:28, 29 says, *"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father."* There is a myth that is common that people who die always go to a better place. These are called *"funeral comforts"* that assure and reassure people that their loved ones—no matter how they lived or what they believed—have gone to heaven. People want to believe that a loving God would not send anyone to hell. So, what does the Bible actually say? Did you hear it in today's verses? It might not be a popular teaching, but according to Matthew 10:28, there is a real place called hell. Those who refuse to receive God's free and precious gift will be eternally separated from God in this place. Sin separates us from a holy God. On our best days, we all fall short of God's glory and holiness. God does not grade on a curve. The Bible clearly states that Jesus is God's gift and the only way to heaven (John 14:6). Trusting Him as our Lord and Savior is the only assurance we have that we will go to a better place when we die. Don't fear people and what they think! Fear God and come to Him on His terms....Through His Son Jesus.

- Who is the one who is able to kill both the body and soul in hell?
- Why do you think we fear what people think about us? Why does Jesus bring up the sparrows in verse 29?
- Memory Verse Matthew 10:32
- Prayer - Lord thank You for Your Son who forgives our sin and gives us eternal life, and no one can ever take that away!

Saturday, June 9, Read James 5:9-12

Review memory verse.

Prayer: Father, make us ready to hear your Word. Reveal your truth to our hearts. Give us grace to listen and obey. Bind the enemy of our souls and fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Give us joy as we meet with your people for doctrine, prayer, and worship.