

## **December 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday 2015**

**Text: Luke 4:1**

**Topic: Holy Spirit**

Like the father the son, the Holy Spirit is a full and distinct person of the Godhead. As a divine person, the Holy Spirit is eternal, everywhere present, almighty, perfectly wise, and perfectly just, perfectly good. As the father is the creator, and the son is the savior and Redeemer, the Holy Spirit is the sanctifier who frees us to lead new lives (2cor. 3:17). The Holy Spirit teaches, encourages, comforts, pleads for us and tends us into all truth.

The Holy Spirit lived in Jesus and empowered him for ministry. After Jesus returned to heaven, he sent out the Spirit to make a permanent home in our hearts. The spirit is now present in the church and in individual Christians. He has numerous tasks, such as (a) inspiring the prophets and apostles to put God's Word into writing and confirming in the human heart that God actually speaks in the writing of the authors; (b) leading us to spiritual rebirth; (c) bringing Christ's presence to us; (d) keeping us in touch with God; (e) giving us the power to witness and to live the Christian life; (f) giving us gifts.

**Lesson:** The Holy Spirit lived in Jesus and empowered him for ministry. Do you ever ask God to fill you with his Spirit to give you the power to witness and to live the Christian life?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus send your spirit to make a permanent home in my heart. Amen

## **December 28<sup>th</sup> Monday 2015**

**Text: Luke 22:54-62**

**Topic: The Lord looks**

Following Peter into courtyard, it's more important to focus on Jesus' love than on Peter's failure. Failure feels so final, and a fall like Peter's can seem fatal. But falling down doesn't mean staying down.

At the high priest's house, Peter drew close to the fire in the courtyard and sat among the people there. Accusations and denials followed. Wanting to be close to Jesus, Peter had placed himself in a vulnerable position. After the third denial, as Jesus had foretold, a rooster crowed Peter had fallen hard!

But let us focus on the Lord's look. It's deliberate: "the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter" (22:60-61). But did his eyes condemn Peter? I don't think so. Jesus knew Peter's impetuous nature, just as he knows us, we want to do right but we mess up. We often deny Jesus by making promises and then breaking them without thinking. Jesus' eyes on Peter would have shown hurt, but also love and compassion.

The Lord's look was the look of God's redeeming, restoring love. Peter had fallen, but Jesus also looked and found him. He's still doing the same with us.

At another fireside later, Jesus met with Peter again and asked three times. Do you love me? (John 21:4-17). Then he restored Peter to a life of service. He still does that with us too!

**Lesson** The Lord's look was the look of God's redeeming, restoring love. But do we today look and restore the fallen ones to a life of service?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank you for your look of love for Peter and for restoring him later. Help us to know the extent of your love today. In your name I pray. Amen.

## **December 29<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 2015**

**Text: Luke 9:51-56**

**Topic: A Resolute Jesus!**

Maybe you have heard the pessimistic observation "Resolutions were meant to be broken". Did you make any resolutions last month, as the New Year began? If so, how have you done with those? Some people resolve to lose some weight, or to be more kind to a difficult person, or to be more faithful in Bible reading. But it's hard to keep resolutions. Most of us don't.

Today's reading tells us that Jesus "resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (9:51). For him, it was more than an improvement program. Jesus was fully aware that suffering and death on a cross awaited him. He knew he had done this in our place to pay for our sins (ransom). And he was determined to accomplish his mission. Later we read, "Jesus went... teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem" (Luke 13:22). He was resolute about doing his father's will, even if it means rejecting and death.

Jesus also faced rejection along the way. Because he was heading to Jerusalem, he wasn't welcomed in a Samaritan village. What a tragic rejection based on national identity! The disciples reacted as we might have done, but Jesus rebuked their desire for revenge. He came to redeem, not to destroy. Later he said, "The son of man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10) so he continued on to Jerusalem, to fulfill his purpose for our sake.

**Lesson:** In Christian life there are rejections because of your religion, clan, tribe, race and region. Will you revenge if you are chance to do so? Jesus rebuked his disciples' desire to revenge!

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank you for your willingness to go to Jerusalem, to pay the price to save us. Help us to follow wherever you lead us, no matter what the cost. In the spirit's power we pray. Amen.

## **December 30<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 2015**

**Text: Luke. 1:57-66**

**Topic: Favor by God**

For Elizabeth in her old age to have the blessing of the womb was the favor of God. God's favor is not limited by age and does not respect your personal condition. The birth of John opened the father's mouth. Loosed his tongue and began to speak (v.64) indicating when the fullness of God's favor is complete, all other impediments, doubts, fear, inability, discouragement, failure and all other oppositions will disappear from the beneficiary of such as happened to Zechariah.

Are you in any hard situation today? Do you desire the favor of God in your business and in any aspect of your life? Then seek God's divine favor now and you will be surprised that all other oppositions will be gone.

**Lesson:** God's favor can be gotten if you make the little disposition towards recognizing His existence, goodness and compassion.

**Prayer:** Lord, let it be my turn to be favored. Amen.

**December 31<sup>st</sup> Thursday 2015**

**Text: Luke 9:57-62**

**Topic: Resolute Followers**

Leaders know that it's easier to begin a ministry than to sustain one over a long period of time. The initial enthusiasm launches people with a great deal of excitement, but determination is needed to maintain and finish a project.

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus met a man who said spontaneously, "I will follow you wherever you go." But the man did not know where Jesus was heading and what would be involved. Speaking of himself as "the Son of Man," Jesus made it clear that following him would bring hardships that most people would want no part of.

Then Jesus said to another man, "Follow me." But the man scrambled for excuses, saying he first had to bury his father. In that day, that meant looking after his ailing father (and other family members) at least until the father died. If the father had already died, the man would already be in mourning and would not have been able to join the curious crowd around Jesus that day.

Then, in his response to another man, Jesus indicated that there can be no turning back in service to him.

**Lesson:** Jesus taught that following him calls for total commitment. He's our example. Knowing what lay ahead, he set out and stayed faithful to the end. Being fit for service involves more than good intentions.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, we are grateful that you call us to follow you. Help us to realize what's involved and to be determined to finish, faithful to the end, no matter what's involved. In your name I pray. Amen.