

Lent
2024

COME & SEE WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE

Welcome to week 6 of the Lent 2024 devotionals. In keeping with our theme of come and see what the Lord has done, we will focus on scriptures from the New Testament. We will be examining instances in the life of Jesus where those encounters changed the lives of the people whom Jesus encountered. We will also look at how their encounters reflect in our lives today. This week, we will see what we can find in the Book of John for the devotionals. Our verses will capture Jesus' interactions with many and some of the lives he touched.

Lent is a time for reflection. And this time, we are given many opportunities to consider our lives and our lives in Christ. The people we encounter, the places we go, and how people see us live our lives can be part and parcel of our walk-in faith. Periodically, we should consider how our lives are going and whether we are on the right path. That right path is being laid out for us by the Lord.

Pam and I hope you are blessed by your time in reflection and study of His word during this season of Lent.

Leaning on Jesus
Forest & Pam Holmes

All scriptural references are from the English Standard Version of the Holy Bible.

Much of the technical and theological practices of biblical times used in these devotionals come from the Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary.

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He Warned Them

The story of John the Baptist is one we can all learn from. John was one of the many complex characters in the New Testament. He was humble at times. And he was assuredly confrontational when dealing with the religious leaders of his time. Remember how he greeted them in Matthew 3:5-8? Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.” John knew his actual place in God’s plan of salvation. He was to point to the one to come after him who was more significant.

That more significant figure was Jesus. We pick up this part of the story of John from John 1:29-31. The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” John’s role is to point those he encounters towards Jesus, the Lamb of God.

We see in the Matthew 3:5-8 text that John was abrupt and very in-your-face to the Pharisees and Sadducees. John was trying to confront them intentionally for their errors. John is asking them who warned them of the wrath to come. There were plenty of warnings in scripture for the Pharisees and Sadducees to see what was about to transpire. But they were blinded by their paradigm as to the form the Messiah would appear. Instead of the military leader they were looking for, It was Jesus. They were looking for someone to lead them out of captivity from the Romans and restore the kingdom of Israel. But Jesus was there to free them from something more important. He was there to free them from the separation from God the Father. Jesus was to be the sacrificial lamb to reconcile all humanity to God. He was to restore us from the broken relationship that started with Adam and Eve. But that is not what the Pharisees and Sadducees were looking for. Their focus was on earthly things, not eternal things like salvation.

John saw his purpose was to point to Jesus. And that is our purpose, too. We are here to share Jesus with our world. We do that in how we go about our lives. We can help others find Jesus we know and love. In doing so, we can help Jesus change many lives, just as He changed our lives. In our time of reflection during Lent, we should consider how we point others to Jesus.

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