

Monday, March 30

The Rewards of Promoting Justice

My Bible Reading:

Jesus said, “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12)

Think for a moment how you want to be treated. You no doubt want people to treat you with respect, be courteous and kind to you, acknowledge it when you do well, be fair with you and give you the opportunity and freedom to be all you can be. If you want to be treated that way, Jesus said to treat others in that same way. If you want to be treated justly, then act and promote the idea of others being treated justly.

Truth is, there are rewards in promoting justice for all. Every day some student somewhere is being unfairly teased and picked on. When you see it happening and take a stand for that person, you become a promoter of justice. Your reward is one of honor, a clear conscience, and the satisfaction of being a protector of the innocent. On a larger scale, there is perhaps no better feeling than being part of a humanitarian effort to care for those less fortunate. “[God] gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.... He cares for the orphans and widows, but he frustrates the plans of the wicked” (Psalm 146:7–9). God too loves it when you bring a sense of justice to the lives of others.



My Prayer: *You are the God of justice, a defender of the weak. Help me show fairness and kindness to someone today who may be feeling unfairly treated. Allow me to be a source of comfort and encouragement to that person. Amen.*

Questions, Comments, Thoughts: _____

Tuesday, March 31
Thought Life & Choices

My Bible Reading:

Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

(Philippians 4:8)

Have you ever heard the old saying, “We are what we eat”? The idea is that you become a by-product of what you put in your body. There may be a certain truth to that physically, but it is certainly true spiritually. The things people fill their minds and hearts with will determine the kind of choices they make. What people feed on is what they become.

Truth is, focus on what is true and honorable and your choices will be true and honorable. Keep your thought life focused on what is right and pure and your choices will reflect what is right and pure. Think on those things that are lovely, admirable, excellent, and worthy of praise and your life will be an example of the same. The principle works: spiritually feed on the goodness of God and you will choose godly things. “Let all that I am praise the LORD.... May all my thoughts be pleasing to him” (Psalm 104:1, 34).



My Prayer: *Help me keep my thoughts and heart focused on You and Your Word. Let me keep my mind filled with what is pure and honorable today so my choices will be right and true. Amen.*

Questions, Comments, Thoughts: _____

Wednesday, April 1

No April Fools

My Bible Reading:

Though he [Jesus] was God ... he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. **(Philippians 2:6–7)**

Your “friend” comes running up to you in the hallway and says, “I just saw the list—you’re on it for homecoming queen!” Or, your “buddy” pulls you aside and says, “I just overheard Renee (the most popular girl in school) say she hoped you’d ask her out!” After a moment of perhaps feeling shocked and flattered your “friend” says, “April fools!” A lot of jokes are pulled off on unsuspecting people on April 1st. Something happened some “two thousand years ago that might seem like a joke because of how amazing it was—but it was no joke. The Almighty God of the universe was actually born into the human family!

Truth is, God gave up His supernatural privilege as Master Creator of everything and took on the form of a human being for you. It is called the miraculous incarnation—God becoming human. It was His masterful plan to reverse your death sentence of sin and give you eternal life with Him.

My Prayer: *You cared enough about me to come to earth as a human to allow me to escape eternal death and enjoy life with You forever. While I don’t feel worthy of Your love and mercy, I will not be so foolish as to reject Your offer of eternal life. Thank You for coming to earth to rescue and redeem me. Amen.*

Questions, Comments, Thoughts: _____

Thursday, April 2
A God-Man

My Bible Reading:

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything. **(Colossians 1:15–16)**

Practically every religion of the world recognizes Jesus as a great teacher and role model. He taught people to be kind and considerate and to treat others with respect. Jesus wasn't just a prophet of God and a great teacher, He was God.

God didn't create Jesus. He "existed before anything was created" and in fact, He was the one who created everything in the beginning. As a human you enjoy the same essence of "humanness as your human parents. And Jesus enjoys the same essence of character and nature as God's Son. "The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God" (Hebrews 1:3).

Truth is, Jesus is as human-like as we are and as God-like as His Father. He is both fully God and fully human all at once, which gives Him a unique ability. As the infinite God of the universe He has the ability to communicate with humans. You may never be able to know God fully in His infinite existence as Almighty God, but you can know Him truly as the God-man Jesus. Now that's amazing!



My Prayer: *Because You are uniquely God and man You can allow me to know You. Thank You that You want me to know You and that You made it possible for me to have a relationship with You. Help me get to know You better. Amen.*

Questions, Comments, Thoughts: _____

Friday, April 3
Just like You

My Bible Reading:

And while they [Mary and Joseph] were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger. **(Luke 2:6–7)**

Your birthday was a very important day, but you don't remember anything about it. Nothing made sense to you in those first few hours and days. You left a warm dark "room" where you were enveloped by your mother to enter a brightly lit room where your limbs flailed wildly. Eventually you opened your eyes, felt a warm touch, and "began the journey of living independently from your mother.

It's hard to imagine that God went through that same human process of being born a baby, but He did. Mary rocked Jesus to sleep, fed Him, changed His diapers, etc. He encountered the human experience from birth to adulthood just like you.

Truth is, Jesus as a human is as real as you are. As God, Jesus was the one who formed the human body, and like you, had to learn to walk. He spoke the universe into existence, and like you, had to learn to speak. Just like you, He was helpless as a baby and grew to become a teenager and then into a grown-up.



My Prayer: *Knowing that You were once as helpless and in need of constant care as I was helps me realize You can relate to me. It helps me know that You understand what I go through. Thank You that You are a relatable God. Amen.*

Questions, Comments, Thoughts: _____

Saturday, April 4
Just like God

My Bible Reading:

Everything was created through him [Jesus] and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. **(Colossians 1:16–17)**

Sure, God was born as a human baby and grew from childhood. But Jesus' humanness doesn't make Him any less mighty and Godlike. He literally "holds all creation together." As God "he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command" (Hebrews 1:3). He is still the all-powerful One whom we live in awe of and worship.

Truth is, God's humanness as Jesus doesn't make Him weak and Jesus' all-powerful nature as God doesn't make Him any less approachable. He is the baby Jesus who knows what it is like to be human and He is the all-powerful God who holds your life in His hand. Yet He wants you to "come boldly to the throne of [your] gracious God. There [you] will receive his mercy, and [you] will find grace to help [you] when [you] need it most" (Hebrews 4:16).



My Prayer: *I am able to relate to You, Jesus, because You became human. And I am in awe of You as my Almighty God of the universe. Help me learn to come boldly to You for what I need without ever taking You for granted. Help me share this wonderful truth with someone today. Amen.*

Questions, Comments, Thoughts: _____

Sunday, April 5
He Brought a Light to My World

My Bible Reading:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." (John 8:12)

Were you ever afraid of the dark? There is something about darkness that's scary. You can't see where you're going when it's dark. Someone or something might be out there to do you harm. Darkness is just creepy.

When sin entered the human race the God of light had to separate Himself from it because a holy God "cannot allow sin in any form" (Habakkuk 1:13 NLT). It was like the whole world went dark and every person who came into existence after that was born into the darkness of sin. No humanly created light could ever dispel the darkness of sin.

Truth is, Jesus is the true and holy light that can dispel the darkness of sin. "His life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it" (John 1:4-5). No matter how much sinful darkness you have experienced, Jesus' light can destroy and eliminate every bit of it. Scripture says, "For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true" (Ephesians 5:8-9).



My Prayer: Thank You that You came into this world as my shining light to expel my darkness. Help me live today as a person of light who produces what is good and right and true. Amen.

Questions, Comments, Thoughts: _____

