

JESUS OF NAZARETH

GUEST PASTOR

9-06-20

All = bold sections – read together

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

Sung together = italics

NOTE: Please have a white candle ready to light.

Reflect:

Lee Camp: Jesus of Nazareth always comes asking disciples to follow him--not merely "accept him," not merely "believe in him," not merely "worship him," but to follow him: one either follows Christ, or one does not. There is no compartmentalization of the faith, no realm, no sphere, no business, no politic in which the lordship of Christ will be excluded. We either make him Lord of all lords, or we deny him as Lord of any. 12,739

Welcome

Good Morning!

May the love and joy of the Farther, the grace and peace of the Son and the courage and comfort of the Holy Spirit by ours in abundance!

Call to Worship: Psalm 14 TO THE CHOIRMASTER. OF DAVID.

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the LORD?

There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous. You would shame the plans of the poor, but the LORD is his refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

Christ Candle – Light the candle as a reminder that God is Light (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)!

We live in a dark world. A significant portion of that darkness resides in the persecution of Christians around the world for their faith in Jesus of Nazareth. In America, in general, this persecution is minimal. We are free to be disciples of Jesus as individuals, as families and as congregations. We are not singled out and threatened with death, violence or imprisonment simply because we identify as a Christian. We have it easy. That is not true for millions of Christians around the world where there are extreme consequences to being a disciple of Jesus from your family, others and the government. In many countries it is illegal to be a Christian and punishable by imprisonment or death. For the foreseeable future, we will look at some of these countries as ranked by Open Doors USA to keep us aware of our brothers and sisters in Christ who need our prayers and help and to remind us to be grateful for how good we have it here.



The sixth most difficult place in the world to practice Christianity is Eritrea. Eritrea is a northeast African country on the Red Sea coast of about 5.3 million people. There are about 2.5 million Christians there. "The authoritarian regime under President Afwerki is responsible for massive human rights violations, especially towards Christians. Christians who aren't members of state-approved churches are considered agents of the West and a threat to the state. Hundreds of Christians who are members of unregistered churches are in prison; some have been held captive for over a decade. Many are forced to work long hours in commercial flower fields, and some are held in shipping containers in scorching temperatures."

Prayer Points: Pray for endurance for brothers and sisters detained or imprisoned in horrific conditions, and ask God to give them perseverance in their faith. Pray for President Afwerki and the government leaders in Eritrea, that God would work in their hearts and reveal the truth of the gospel. Pray for unity among Christians in Eritrea, and ask God to help them see past denominationalism and count themselves as one Church family.

Jesus is the Light. We are a light. Shine His light!

Song: This Is My Father's World -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEBmj7JO_Os

*This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world,
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas -
His hand the wonders wrought.
This is my Father's world,
The birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white
Declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world,
He shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass, I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere
This is my Father's world,
Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong
seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world,
The battle is not done;
Jesus who died, shall be satisfied,
And earth and heav'n be one.*



Responsive Reading – “Three Years of Peter’s Discipleship”

Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.

I will follow you.

Who do you say that I am?

You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!

No one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father. Will you go away like the others?

Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life.

I must wash your feet.

Lord, you shall never wash my feet.

If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.

Lord, not just my feet – wash my hands and head too!

I must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things, be killed and raised on the third day.

No, Lord! This will never happen to you!

If anyone wants to come with me, you must deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.

I will follow you. I will lay down my life for you.

Tonight, all of you will run away because of me.

Even if everyone runs away because of you, I will never run away!

Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.

Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!

Weren’t you with Jesus the Galilean?

I don’t know what you mean.

Yes, you are with Jesus of Nazareth!

I don’t know the man.

I am sure you are one of his disciples.

I am not!

Peter, do you love me?

Yes Lord!

Then feed my sheep.

Prayer

Pray slowly the “Jesus Prayer.” Linger over words and let the Holy Spirit speak truth into your life. Respond in prayer with what you are feeling and thinking. Listen. Be still. Know that God is God and we are not.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.

Song: The Solid Rock -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhVwVHC6_n0



*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' Name
On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand
When darkness veils His lovely face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand
His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood
When all around my soul gives way
He then is all my Hope and Stay
On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand
When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh, may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne
On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand*

Offering

We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.

(You can give by sending your offering to the church, P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361 or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.)

Youth Celebration – Adults – read this thinking of the many young disciples of Jesus at our church:

Youth of CCRC, you are loved by God and this church. As you continue your worship at home this morning with your family, we pray that God will grow your faith in the love and knowledge of Jesus and that you will never stop seeking first the kingdom of God and doing his will each day.

Gospel Message: Armor of God: The Shoes of Preparation of the Gospel of Peace



These past two weeks, we are talking about putting on the armor of God. Particularly, we are focusing on just two of the pieces of armor. Last week it was the belt of truth. This week it is the shoes of preparation by the gospel of peace.

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

The third piece of armor Paul mentions in Ephesians 6 is the shoes of "the preparation of the gospel of peace." What purpose did shoes serve for a Roman soldier? What purpose do these spiritual shoes serve for us?

The brethren gathered around, desperately trying to convince Paul to abandon his plans to travel to Jerusalem. They had heard the prophecies about the fate that awaited him on this journey—Paul himself said that he did not know what to expect, "except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me" (Acts 20:23). Paul's brethren and fellow workers couldn't bear the thought of their friend willingly walking into this, and begged him to reconsider.

But God, through His Holy Spirit, had summoned Paul to Jerusalem (Acts 20:22)—and Paul was intent on answering that call. Knowing that the upcoming trip could very well mean the end of his life, he says to his would-be dissuaders, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 21:13).



Paul did not just write about the armor of God; he also wore it. At this time in his life he was able to call upon the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace. He found protection and strength in the knowledge of what God's gospel meant for him and for the others he shared that good news with. His footing was sure and unshakable, and he was prepared to carry the gospel wherever God sent him.

Shod With the Gospel of Peace

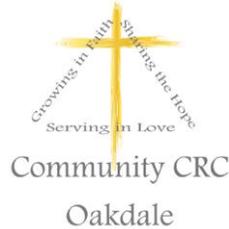
Shoes, like the belt, may initially seem superfluous in a discussion about spiritual armor. They're great to have, sure, but aren't they more of a convenience than a necessity? Are they really that important? In this lesson, we'll learn why our spiritual shoes matter and why we need to make sure we're equipped with them before we get onto the battlefield.

What purpose do shoes serve?

Imagine a fully armed soldier. He has his sword, his shield, his helmet, his breastplate and his belt...but his feet are completely bare. The picture probably seems strange, and it should! Just by thinking about it, we can tell something is missing.

But the problem goes beyond just looking odd. A shoeless soldier could run into real trouble in the heat of battle. Unless he is fighting on Astroturf, he is going to encounter some debris. It may be nothing more than twigs and pebbles, but to a bare foot that can cause serious pain—and one of the last things you want to deal with in the middle of a fight is worrying about where you step.

In short, shoes allow us to step freely and without fear while we turn our full attention to the battle at hand.



What is the gospel of peace? Are there different gospels in the Bible?

Matthew 4:23 - And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Mark 1:1 - The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Mark 1:14 - Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God...

Acts 20:24 - But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

The gospel of the Kingdom, the gospel of Jesus Christ, the gospel of the Kingdom of God, the gospel of the grace of God, the gospel of peace—these are some of descriptions attached to the word *gospel* throughout the New Testament. Do all these different qualifiers mean that there are multiple gospels set forth in the Bible?

No. The Greek word translated *gospel*—*euaggelion*—simply means "good news." This raises a question: The good news of what? The first description used in the Gospels also summarizes all the others: The gospel of the Kingdom. The good news of the Kingdom of God includes the good news about Jesus Christ the King, His grace (unmerited pardon) and His plan of salvation for all mankind. This plan gives us peace now, and will bring peace to the whole world! This is the message God's people are eager to share with others. Our loving Father is preparing us all for a future beyond imagination and description.

What does the gospel of peace have to do with shoes?

Romans 10:14-15 - How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

God's Church is sent to announce the good news of God's Kingdom, which will spread His way of peace around the whole world. Having our shoes on, we are ready to move, to spread these glad tidings to others. In the apostle Paul's day, he walked countless miles in delivering the good news. Today, transportation and communication have changed, but we must also be constantly ready to do our part to spread the good news.

Romans 3:17 - And the way of peace they have not known.

In spite of all human attempts at peace, it's clear from the daily news reports that this world does not know the road to peace.

1 John 2:6 - He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Following Christ's steps is the way to real peace.

How do these spiritual shoes help us stand firm?



John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

The sandals of the Roman soldier "often were fitted with nails, or armed with spikes, to make the hold firm in the ground" (*Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible*). God's good news and our mission—our marching orders—to preach it serve as our firm foundation. When we truly allow ourselves to take comfort in the good news promised by God, there is nothing from outside ourselves that can trouble our hearts or give us reason to be afraid. Christ has overcome the world (John 16:33), and so we have nothing to fear from it.

Luke 10:19-20 - Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

Just as shoes allow us to walk on otherwise painful terrain without fear, so the preparation of the gospel of peace allows us to traverse the otherwise painful trials and tribulations of life without fear, knowing that what awaits is greater than anything we could possibly suffer in this world (Romans 8:18).

Why is it called a gospel of peace?

Isaiah 2:2-4 - Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

The Bible makes it clear that, when God's Kingdom is established and the entire world begins to live God's way faithfully, the resulting peace will be universal. There will be no more war or fear, only the worldwide peace that comes from God's way of life.

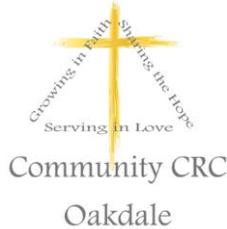
Apply Now

God has given His Church a tremendously large job: to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the entire world! Take some time today to consider a person or group who needs to hear this good news. Pray that the message will reach the person or group in the most effective way.

Communion Meditation

Professing: (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before



all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Proclaiming: 1 Corinthians 11:23b-25 (Paraphrased)

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it saying, "this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, "this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins."

Remember, believe the body and blood of Jesus was given and shed for the forgiveness of sins.

Pray for those you might have a hard time forgiving. See them as image bearers of God whom He forgives just like he forgives us.

Song: I Surrender All -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtuRB4VhN_A

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give.

I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.

I surrender all, I surrender all. All to Thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

*All to Jesus I surrender, humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken, take me Jesus, take me now.*

I surrender all, I surrender all.

All to Thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

*All to Jesus I surrender, make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
May thy Holy Spirit fill me, may I know Thy pow'r divine.*

I surrender all, I surrender all. All to Thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

*All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power, let Thy blessing fall on me.*

I surrender all, I surrender all. All to Thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

Sending as Disciples of Jesus: Matthew 28:18-20 (Paraphrased)

May our sending take on a deeper meaning and appreciation. May we have a growing faith in our Sender, a deeper love for those we are sent to and stronger hope in Jesus' promise of final restoration.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. Therefore, as we are sent into the world by him, let us make disciples of all, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded us. And let us remember and treasure that Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen!