



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - July 3, 2011

Sermon

by Ted Good

Things I want to remember about this sermon...

Monday 7/4/11
Matthew 11:16-19

Sometimes you just can't seem to win. "You're darned if you do and darned if you don't." This was a dilemma that Jesus knew well. The Pharisees were always trying to get him. They put words in his mouth, tried to trick him, and constantly kept after him. Have you ever experienced anything like this in your life? Jesus remained faithful and steadfast. This is much easier to do when you know you are right. The truth will always set you free, just as it did with Jesus.

Tuesday 7/5/11
Matthew 11:25-27

This sentence of scripture is a direct slam on the Pharisees with their highfalutin pretense. They truly believed they were better than everyone else. After all, they were God's chosen leaders to enforce the Torah and all the laws of God. Do this... don't do that... and gotcha! Do we still have people like this in our modern day? What about in our churches? Jesus found ways to put them in their place and he didn't do it softly. Does Jesus need to put me in my place today? Am I like a bad Pharisee in any way?

Wednesday 7/6/11
Matthew 11:28

Burdens get us down. We all carry them. Worries, fears, and troubles weigh on our minds constantly. They can sometimes seem to get the better of us. But Jesus says, "Come to me... and I will give you rest." Do you have a worry or fear troubling you today? Then come to Jesus and find rest in him. Sometimes it is the only thing we can do to find relief. Come to Jesus today.



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

Unload my burdens on the Lord to make them more manageable...

Live more like Jesus this week...

Thursday 7/7/11
Matthew 11:30

Jesus says, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." How in the world could he say this? He faced tremendous trouble in his life. The religious leaders would not leave him alone, the crowds kept pressing in on him, and those who were sick all wanted to be healed. Then he was beaten and hanged on a cross. It's hard to think that Jesus had any kind of ease in his life. So how could he say this? Well, Jesus knew he was in God's care where even the seemingly impossible is definitely possible!

Friday 7/8/11
Psalm 45

Psalm 45 was written on the occasion of a wedding, perhaps even King Solomon's wedding. It is believed to also be a prophecy about Christ and his bride. It was written by a temple assistant named, "Korah." If you are married, do you remember your wedding? Has anything ever been written about you and your life for the public to see and read? What will people remember about you, your family, and your faith? Is it all good?

Saturday 7/9/11
Mark 9:42

Here are some more harsh words from the mouth of Jesus. "Don't be a stumbling block to others." This is good advice but sometime difficult to follow. We often get in the way of our children or others by our good and well-meaning intentions. We all witness those who try to live out the lives of others for them. Jesus wants us to be careful how we live our own lives. Good intentions don't get us very far if we are not willing to act them out. Is there anything in your life you need to correct? What can you do today to live a life that is pleasing to God?