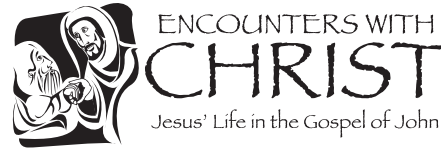


Prayer Updates



“Christ’s encounter with the religious establishment”

Message by René Schlaepfer January 7–8, 2006

HOSPITALIZED

Bonnie Black – multiple sclerosis complications
Laura Larue – kidney transplant complications
Jim Emmons – hospice care
Daniel Vienna – heart surgery

THANKS & PRAISE

“To our wonderful church family:

Thank you so much for your prayers and support during this time. We were so blessed by our pastors, deaconesses, Sunshine Ministry, Inheritors Class, friends and so many others — especially during this busy season when we celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. We were overwhelmed with the flowers, food, cards and your presence with us . We love you.”

Sincerely, Rosemary Baker & family

“Praise God for healing our son, Adam! Thank you to everyone who prayed for him during his illness, and for the visits, cards, phone calls, and meals. It was a tremendous comfort to all of us!” Roy & Cheryl Trowbridge & family

HOME WITH THE LORD

Please remember Tracy Granlund and Laurie Welty in the loss of their grandfather, Maynard Granlund, a godly man who served the Lord in many different ways all the days of his life. A memorial will be held at Felton Bible Church on Saturday, January 14 at 2pm.

Sometimes religious people create barriers between others and God, rather than helping people into a relationship with God! Today we'll see Christ's encounter with this problem.

Common barriers churches can build between people and God:

- _____ barriers
- _____ barriers
- _____ barriers
- _____ barriers
- _____ barriers

What did Jesus do when He encountered barriers to God?

“When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, ‘Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!’ His disciples remembered that it is written: ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’” John 2:13-17

Three questions to ask about this encounter with Christ:

1. What was Jesus so upset about?

- The religious people put up unnecessary _____ to God
- The religious people were _____

“And as he taught them, Jesus said, ‘Is it not written: My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of robbers.’” Mark 11:17

2. How can I be contributing to the same problem?

- Am I _____ from the simple message?
- Am I _____ the simple message?
- Am I _____ for the simple message?

“But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” 2 Cor. 11:3

3. What can I learn from this encounter?

- Jesus is a _____
- Am I a _____ or a _____?

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matt. 11:28

Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible readings related to this weekend's message

This week's memory verse:

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" John 1:29

During our series "Encounters with Christ", based in the Gospel of John, our daily meditations will explore that book of the Bible.

Monday

Read John 2:12-25. Do Jesus' actions surprise you? Delight you? Alarm you? How do they make you feel?

If Jesus came into your life to clean up ways you were raising distractions or barriers to God for others, what would He clean up?

What about this weekend's message meant the most to you?

What did you learn or relearn about Jesus?

Ask God to help you keep your relationship with Him pure and uncomplicated, especially as you explain it to others.

Tuesday

Let's go back into the Gospel of John and read what leads up to the scene we studied this past weekend. Read John 1:1-34. What facts about "The Word" can you find in these verses?

How is this different from the way Jesus is perceived by some in American culture?

Why did the Word become flesh and live among us?

What strikes you most about Jesus in this passage? Why?

How should this affect your life today?

Thank God that He came so we could encounter Him! Ask Him to help you communicate the simple truth of His mission to others.

Wednesday

Read John 1:35-51. Here is an encounter between Jesus and His first five disciples. What do these encounters teach you about Jesus?

Consider who these men became: What do these encounters teach you about Jesus' ability to use ordinary people to accomplish great things?

What does Jesus' analysis of Nathanael tell you about something Jesus prizes in a person?

What were your own motives for following Jesus originally? How much did you know about Him? How does your experience compare to that of the original disciples?

Thank God that He has given each of us the opportunity to be a disciple of Jesus! Spend some time with Christ today and ask Him to disciple you.

Thursday

Read John 2:1-11. Jesus is not yet known as a miracle worker, so why do you suppose His mother approaches him for a miracle?

What insights do you gain about Jesus' relationship with His mother in these verses?

What insights do you gain about Jesus in these verses?

Are you surprised Jesus "revealed His glory" with this particular miracle? Why or why not?

Tell Jesus where you need to see the water turned to wine in your own life: your family, your school or work life, your spiritual life, or some other area.

Friday

Today, read the verses for next weekend's message: John 3:1-21. These are some of the most important verses in the Gospels! What questions do you have about these verses you'd like to have answered?

What is significant about Nicodemus coming to see Jesus, especially in light of what Jesus said about the religious establishment in the previous episode?

How would you define, without using religious terminology, what Jesus means by "born again"?

How is this similar to and different from the way the term is used today?

Ask God if you have been "born again" — and if you are not sure, ask Him to give you that new birth through His Spirit into a relationship with Him!