

Prayer Updates

HOSPITALIZATIONS & SURGERIES THIS PAST WEEK

Alex Tabag—at Stanford, Scleroderma
Don Coldwell—blood clot in his head
Linda Seigle—stroke recovery
Nancy Kronander—very close to being present with her Savior, each day with her family is precious
Robert Walters—back pain, great difficulty walking
Virginia Fair—still recovering from pneumonia

Recent hospitalizations & surgeries:

Franklin Marshall, Jane Evers, Kary Bisagno, Leslie Douglass

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.



ENCOUNTERS WITH
CHRIST
Jesus' Life in the Gospel of John

"Christ's Encounter with a Skeptic" John 18:28-9:16

Message by René Schlaepfer, April 8 & 9, 2006

Pilate had a chance to do what we'd all like to do: Have a private audience with Jesus and ask any question. But still Pilate couldn't make up his mind about Jesus. Why?

Five common barriers to belief:

1. _____

Pilate ...asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me? ...my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. John 18:33-37

How to overcome this barrier: _____

2. _____

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" Pilate asked. John 18:37,38

How to overcome this barrier:

Learn _____ reasons for belief

3. _____

Pilate said, "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above..." John 19:10,11

How to overcome this barrier: Recognize your _____ !

4. _____

"Here is your king," Pilate said... But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" ...Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. John 19:14-16

How to overcome this barrier: Live _____

5. _____

Tracing Pilate's indecisiveness:

- "...take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." John 18:31
- "I find no basis for a charge against this man." John 18:38
- "Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged..." John 19:1
- "Look...I find no basis for a charge against him..." John 19:4
- He brought Jesus out... "Here is your King! ...Shall I crucify your King?" John 19:4
- "You take him and crucify him..." John 19:6
- "Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified." John 19:16

How to overcome this barrier: Recognize that by _____ making a decision, I _____ making a decision

CDs, DVDs, and tapes of all messages are available at the tape counter in the lobby. If this is your first or second visit, pick up a free CD or tape! Services can also be downloaded at www.tlc.org or through iTunes podcasts.

Daily Meditations

This week's memory verse: "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." John 18:37

Monday

Which of the five barriers to belief mentioned this weekend are you sometimes subject to?

Read Matt. 27:11-26 & John 18:28-40. How did Pilate attempt to evade any responsibility in the condemnation of Jesus? What did Pilate want the Jewish leadership to do with Jesus?

What decisions have you been putting off for fear of the responsibility involved?

Ask God to help you decide biblically and wisely in areas of your life where you have been postponing a decision. Please pray for the Easter services-- and for God to help you invite others to church this week!

Tuesday

Read John 19:4-27. What do you learn about Jesus from these verses?

Many commentators believe Jesus quoted Psalm 22 when he hung on the cross-- a psalm that was written 1,000 years before He was even born. Read Psalm 22 and then answer the following questions:

What difference does it make to you to know that Christ's sufferings were described in this detail a thousand years before the event took place?

How do you suppose Jesus might have felt as he watched all these events unfold?

Thank God today for planning in ages past to provide a sacrifice for your sin. Ask Him to make this Good Friday and Easter a special time of remembrance and celebration for you and others.

Wednesday

Read John 19:1-3; 27-24. What did the guards do to Jesus?

How did the soldiers mock Jesus?

Why did Jesus put up with torture when He could have destroyed all His attackers?

How has Jesus demonstrated His mercy towards you when you've hurt Him? How has His mercy impacted your life?

Thank God today for His amazing grace. Thank Him for the painful price He paid to redeem your soul. Ask Him to help you reflect His mercy and love to those you encounter today. Please pray for the easter services as well-- that God would use them to His glory!

Thursday

We're planning to look at Jesus' forgiveness of Peter in our Easter services, so let's prepare for that message today by reading Matt. 26:69-75 & John 18:15-18, 25-27. Recall a time when you told a lie that caused you pain later. What were the consequences of that?

Describe Peter's attitude in these verses. How do you think he was feeling? How can you relate to Peter?

When are you most tempted to downplay your Christian faith?

Think of the day ahead. How can you consistently acknowledge Jesus in your words and actions?

Thank God today for His mercy and forgiveness. Pray for boldness and strength to stand firm in your faith no matter who is watching. Pray for the courage to invite someone to church this Easter!

Friday

Read John 19:25-42. Where have you seen Nicodemus before? For a refresher, look at John 3:1-17 and John 7:45-52. Nicodemus slowly came to faith in Christ. Yet he still was afraid of the opinions of his peers, and so went to the tomb at night. Does your fear of others' opinions and your love of Jesus sometimes conflict? How?

When did the meaning of Jesus' mission become real to you, as it did to Nicodemus?

Pray that the meaning of Christ's death would become real to the people attending Good Friday services tonight, and Easter services this weekend. Please pray for the speakers and musicians-- that God would fill them with His Spirit! Thanks.

Saturday

Please spend some time in prayer today thanking Jesus Christ for what He went through... for you! Pray for the services this weekend-- that God would bless them and reach people with His love through them. Thanks!