

## Monday - Week Forty-three

### John - Lesson Twenty-one: A Triumphant Entry (12:12-19)

1. John does not give us all the details about Palm Sunday. His account is the shortest of the four Gospels. Why didn't John have to include all the details?
2. Explain: The people who had come to celebrate the Passover were now ending it.
3. Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey! The donkey was a lowly method of transportation. The Romans later found out that Jesus had ridden into Jerusalem on a donkey so they called Christians "asinarii" or ass-drivers. Are we Christians still "asinarii"? (In other words, are we still following our Savior's lowly example or have we sold out to the "glories" of the world?) Explain your answer.
4. Zechariah 9:9 talks about Jesus' humility. Jesus conquered the world (and the devil) by suffering and dying. How can we also conquer through suffering?
5. Verse 16 tells us that at first the disciples did not understand all this. What must have been going through the disciples' minds as they watched these events?
11. Verse 17 teaches us a lesson about witnessing. The crowd "spread the word" of what Jesus had done. These people talked about Jesus. What a lesson for our witnessing efforts! Instead of talking about our church or making Christianity a series of propositions to be taught how much better (and simpler) would it be to talk about what Jesus did/does for us. How can that impact your witnessing?

**Read:** Psalm 40; Proverbs 1.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem He showed the world what true glory is: doing Your will. In Jesus' name I pray; Amen.

## Tuesday - Week Forty-three

### John - Lesson Twenty-two: Greeks, Pharisees and Jesus (12:20-50)

1. Sometime during Holy Week a group of Greeks approached Philip to learn more about Jesus. These Greeks apparently had become proselytes - people who had adopted the Jewish faith. Why is it fitting that these Greeks came to see Jesus at this time in His life?
2. Would you agree or disagree (and why): every person you meet is silently saying "sir (or ma'am), we would like to see Jesus".
4. Philip didn't know what to do about these Greeks. After all, Jesus had once told them to go to the Jews (Matthew 10:5). He went to talk to Andrew about it. Andrew took the problem to Jesus. What do you like about Philip's action?
5. Serving Jesus means to follow Him. As we follow Him we often "take up our cross" - we suffer. Verse 26 makes this suffering easier to bear. God honors us. What does that mean - and what does it mean in your life?
6. How was the cross God's judgment on the World (v 30)?
7. Jesus tried to win the Jews but many did not believe in Him. John tells us that this was to fulfill the word of Isaiah. Isaiah prophesied that the Jews would reject the Messiah. Isn't unbelief caused by unbelievers and not God? Explain verse 38.
15. Isaiah saw Jesus' glory when he wrote about Him in Isaiah 53. What "glory" is John talking about (also see John 12:23).

**Read:** Psalm 41; Proverbs 2.

**Prayer:** Dear Father, make me quick to show Jesus to the people in my life. Amen.

# Wednesday - Week Forty-three

## Catechism Review

### Read Questions 329-333

1. Explain: Prayer is the hardest and easiest thing in the world to do.  
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\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Question 330 says that God hears only the prayers of believers. Doesn't God know and hear everything? Why doesn't He hear the prayers of unbelievers?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Do your prayers strike a good balance between requests and thanksgiving?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. We can pray with ..... (What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?)
  - A. With our own words \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - B. With the words of the Lord's Prayer \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - C. With the words of a prayer book \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Read:** Psalm 42; Proverbs 3.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, in the next weeks of our Catechism study we will look at what You say about prayer. Use this time to reinvigorate my prayer life. Make me quick to take "everything to the Lord in prayer". Remind me to grab hold of Your promises as I pray. Remind me to pray for spiritual blessings as well as earthly blessings. I pray all these things in the name of the One who taught us how to pray. In His name; Amen.

## Thursday - Week Forty-three

### John - Lesson Twenty-three: Foot Washing (13:1-38)

1. Jesus knew that His hour had come; He was about to leave this world to go to His Father. He looked past His suffering and death straight into heaven! Why do we tend to focus more on our short term "problems" than our long term destination?
2. Jesus loved "His own," His own disciples. Imagine, this was the last time Jesus would be able to sit and talk with His disciples. He wanted to teach them about true love. Why did He use an object lesson to teach them?
3. Washing people's feet was a job for slaves. This job was usually too low even for a student of a master. Peter reacted to Jesus by saying, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Peter objected because he knew that the roles should have been reversed. Peter was saying, "Lord, you are too good." How does Peter put us to shame?
4. Read verse 8. What word is shocking? Someone once wrote, "The first requisite in a disciple or follower is absolute trust in the wisdom of The Master." Apply that to our Christian life.
5. Isn't Jesus being a bit harsh with Peter in verse 8? After all, how could not having his feet washed put Peter out of Jesus' fellowship?
6. Verse 14 literally says, "you have a debt to wash each other's feet." We have this debt because Jesus is greater than we are. If He served us, certainly we can serve each other. Pride kills Christian service because pride sets one person above someone else. How can we remember that we are all (equal) brothers and sisters of Christ?
7. Judas' betrayal would shock the disciples. Why would Jesus' prediction make it easier for the disciples later on?

**Read:** Psalm 43; Proverbs 4.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, help me to show humble love to others. Amen.

## Friday - Week Forty-three

### John - Lesson Twenty-four: Comfort and Promises (14:1-31)

1. Martin Luther wrote about this section of John: "Indeed, here we find the best and most comforting sermon preached by Christ while on this earth" (LW vol.24, p 7). Comment on this thought from Luther: "In His concern for them He forgets His own anguish and anxiety, which must have filled His heart at this time..." (LW vol.24, p 7).
2. Jesus literally said, "Stop letting your hearts be troubled..." Why was the disciples' grief even greater than that of someone watching a friend slowly die in a hospital?
3. Jesus told them to trust in God (The Father) and to trust in Him. In other words, Jesus is equal to The Father. Why would that be difficult for the disciples to believe in the coming days?

Physical reality (what we see happening in the world) and spiritual reality (that God is keeping His promises and ruling this world) rarely seem to go together. God's kingdom is often hidden. We only see the spiritual world by faith. Sometimes things go well for us - it almost looks like everything is fine. Luther comments on times like this: "The Christian should always think: "If peace and tranquility reign today, it will be different tomorrow. The devil can shoot a dart into my heart, or some other affliction can befall me. Therefore, I must see to it that when sorrows appear, I am prepared to weather the storm and draw comfort from God's Word." (LW vol.24, pg 12) Is he right, or overly pessimistic?

4. How is Jesus the... A. Way    B. Truth    C. Life
5. Does Jesus' love for us depend on our love for Him? (v 21) Explain.

**Read:** Psalm 44; Proverbs 5.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Keep my eyes focused on Him at all times. Cause me to depend on Him for my very life. I ask this in His name; Amen.