

Lift High the Cross

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, brethren, follow where our Savior trod,
our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquer'ing ranks combine.
3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw men unto thee.
4. Thy kingdom come, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace.
5. For thy blest cross which doth for us atone
creation's praises rise before thy throne.

Taking Gathered Worship Home



Family and Individual Devotions Meditations in Acts

Week of January 28, 2007

The Essence of the Church

Daily Devotionals

After healing the beggar Peter and John spoke to the astonished onlookers. As with the crowd in **Acts 2** this opportunity was again quickly used by Peter to exhort the crowd to repent of their sins and turn to God. This spirit empowered witness led to the arrest of Peter and John. As they stood before the authorities, Peter gave glory to God,

professing that it was “by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth” that the beggar was healed. The Sadducees were amazed at the courage and knowledge of Peter and John. Even when instructed not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus, Peter and John boldly proclaimed they could not help speaking about what they had seen and heard.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Please pray that we as a community of faith will learn His ways and walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Throughout the week we encourage you to use the hymn, “Lift High the Cross” found on the back page as your song, your prayer, and your reminder this week about what the church is all about.

Sunday, 1/28

Read : We have already seen two instances where the empowered Peter was quick to witness. Read **John 4:35**. In what ways do you say “four more months and then the harvest”? How does this attitude conflict with Jesus’ teaching about the harvest?

Pray that **John 4:35** will dramatically alter your witnessing timetable and open your eyes to the opportunities around you.

Monday, 1/29

Read: The courage of Peter and John was noticed by the authorities in **Acts 4:13**. They boldly proclaimed the truth even when under arrest. Such boldness comes when you possess an assurance of the validity of those things about which you speak, and when you sense the authority to speak. Read **Hebrews 11:1**. How should your faith affect the surety and certainness you have in God through Jesus Christ? Look at **II Corinthians 5:20**. Does the scriptural proclamation that you are Christ’s ambassador provide you with any authority?

Pray that you will continually focus on the power you have through the Holy Spirit, and boldly use that power at every opportunity.

Tuesday, 1/30

Read: Witnessing with courage and boldness when

opportunities arise. This is the right thing to do. But we must remember there is a right way to do the right thing. Last week we looked at **Colossians 4:6**. Study that verse again.

Pray: For the wisdom to speak with grace as you minister to others. That through your speech you would show your love of mercy.

Wednesday, 1/31

Read: It’s human nature to be more comfortable with things we understand. Study **Ephesians 2:1-3**. These verses clearly help us understand who we all once were. Does this provide you with comfort?

Pray: That your understanding of **Ephesians 2:1-3** will make you more comfortable as you witness, and season your speech with salt as you testify about the forgiveness to be found in Christ.

Thursday, 2/1

Read: Ephesians 4:32 provides solid instruction on how we are to be kind, tenderhearted and forgiving towards others who are new creations in Christ. Does your attitude towards others in the church meet these requirements?

Pray That the forgiveness you have in Christ will provide you with the desire to show mercy to others in the Church.

Friday, 2/2

Read: John 13:34-35. How does love relate to our ability to be kind, tenderhearted and forgiving towards each other? Does verse 35 give you any insight into how our display of love towards each other might be a witness?

Pray: That you would possess a sincere love towards others in the church. That the way we treat each other within the church would be a witness to others.

Saturday, 2/3

Read: Reflect on **Philippians 2:1-4**. The first two verses are an appeal to unity in Christ. The second two verses teach us to be caring about the needs of others. What would be the result if all within the church displayed the characteristics in these four verses?

Pray: That you would humbly consider the needs of each person at Christ the Redeemer, and you would strive to be like minded with other Christians.