

Allelon Sunday School for June 10, 2007

Opening Prayer

Responsive Reading: Psalm 146

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³Do not put your trust in princes

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴When their breath departs, they return to the earth

on that very day their plans perish.

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob

whose hope is in the LORD their God,

⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them

who keeps faith forever,

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free.

⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

Stand as Leader Reads Luke 7:11-17

Move to Building Groups

After Building Groups time, Leader Reads

1 Kings 17:17-24

Closing Prayer

The Week's Preparation

Start each day's readings with the Psalms; then the gospel, then the Old Testament.

Monday

Psalms 56, 57; Matthew 15:21-28; Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

Tuesday

Psalms 61, 62; Matthew 15:29-39; Ecclesiastes 8:14-9:10

Wednesday

Psalm 72; Matthew 16:1-12; Ecclesiastes 9:11-18

Thursday

Psalm 71; Matthew 16:13-20; Ecclesiastes 11:1-8

Friday

Psalm 69:1-23; Matthew 16:21-28; Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14

Saturday

Psalms 75, 76; Matthew 17:1-13; Numbers 3:1-13

As you say each day's prayers, try to use phrases from the Scriptures in your prayers and to pray for the people who were in your Building Group this week.

Extra Innings

If you answer all of the questions on the other side of this sheet before 10:45, take a few minutes to talk about some of these questions.

1. Get the bulletin out and talk about the first three people or groups on this week's prayer request list. Who are they? Why do they need prayer right now?
2. Look at the elders and deacons scheduled to serve communion today. Who are they? How did some of the people in your group get to know these people?
3. What is the title of today's sermon? Since it's about the same text that you read as a group, look back at the text and try to guess what Ben is going to talk about in today's sermon.

Building Group Discussion

Get together with everyone in your Building Group. Close your Bibles. Starting with Jesus and his followers approaching the town of Nain, try to reconstruct the details of the story that the Talking Head read before you separated into groups. Jot down a basic outline below. When, as a group, you agree on the basic details, open back up to Luke 17 and see where your account was accurate and where you missed steps.

Story time!

Go through as many of these as you can before 10:30:

1. Someone younger than twenty, tell a story about someone who has done something good for you or someone you know, something that dealt with a very specific need that you had. Everyone else, be sure to ask questions about motivations, results, and other such things.
2. Someone older than twenty, tell a story about a funeral. Talk about how people remembered the person, who survived the passing who was closest to the departed, and what life was like for those closest to the departed after the funeral was over and the family went back home. Everyone else, ask questions about whatever seems important.
3. Someone other than those two, tell a story about a big event that you saw firsthand and later heard about from people who weren't there. Everyone else, ask questions about where the person got the information, where your group member was standing, and whatever else.
4. Someone else still, tell a story about a time when you had something important to say. Why was it important? Who needed to hear it? Everyone else, ask those questions that need asking.

The Crawl: Luke 7:11-17

Answer these as a group. If you don't understand, talk with your group until everyone has a grasp on it. When someone says something that makes you think of a question, ASK THE QUESTION OUT LOUD!

1. This incident happens directly after Jesus heals a boy who is close to death. Are you more impressed by Jesus's saving someone from death or raising someone who's already died? Why?
2. In verse 12, the text lets us know that the dead man's mother is a widow. In the ancient world, a widow with no sons had no means of securing any money. Everyone present has now seen a man rise from the dead. Does the event mean more for the widow? Why?
3. What motivates Jesus to raise this particular man according to verse 13? (Pay attention to every word!) Did you expect something different? If so, why? If not, why not?
4. What does the man do when he first comes back to life? What do you imagine him saying? (There's not a definite right answer to this; use your imagination.)
5. What happens to the people around in verse 16? What is their response to this emotion?
6. Beyond the urge to tell people about weird things that happen, why do the people spread word of this incident around the countryside?
7. What would it mean to a colony of a powerful empire (Rome) that someone who raises the dead has emerged from the countryside? What does such a thing mean in 2007?

Return to the sanctuary by 10:45, but only after you've really dug into those questions!