



January 9-9, 2016
Bible Text:
Luke 14:25-35

SUMMARY OF SERMON: Many people were traveling with Jesus but not all were ready and willing to be true disciples. Jesus speaks strong words here to let people know that their commitment to Him is not only to be total – but also to be preeminent. That means even above those closest to them such as loved ones. So He encourages them (and us) to give careful and continual thought as to how we elevate Christ in our daily lives to love Him, obey Him, grow in Him, and serve Him.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The scripture readings this week are about keeping God, through Christ, first in our lives.]

*Monday, Jan. 4 – **Philippians 1:12-26*** [Paul writes these words from a prison cell; imprisoned because of his faith in Christ. Yet there is no self-pity. Christ is first (v.21) whether he lives or dies. Are we facing some “imprisonment”; i.e. hardship? Let’s trust the Lord and keep Him first.]

*Tuesday, Jan. 5 - **Philippians 3:4b-11*** [Later in this same letter Paul is inspired to write some of the finest expressions of the value of placing Christ first over all. By comparison, everything else is rubbish. Only one who has truly been blessed by the unlimited love and grace in Christ could know why this is so.]

*Wednesday, Jan. 6 – **Exodus 20:1-17*** [The Ten Commandments are really about keeping the Lord first in our lives. It begins with the clarity of the first commandment. But all the rest reflect that when the Lord is first, He governs how we live our lives here on earth.]

*Thursday, Jan. 7 – **Colossians 3:1-11*** [We are to identify with Christ, who is our life, and because of His life in us we are to willfully turn away from sinful behavior. Paul concludes this section with the mind-boggling phrase, “*Christ is all.*” No wonder He has first place in our lives.]

*Friday, Jan. 8 – **I John 5:13-21*** [John concludes his letter with some remarks about living for Jesus and turning from sin. It is in the last two verses that we see the call to elevate Christ, the Truth, above all and to turn from any idols in our lives that would undermine Christ’s lordship.]

*Saturday, Jan. 9 – **Isaiah 44:6-23*** [God speaks through Isaiah that He alone is God and to be worshipped. In contrast, the idols that draw people into false worship are nothing more than extensions of people’s sinful hearts in rebellion against God.]



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SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYER FOR THE “LORD’S WATCH”

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

The “**Lord’s Watch**” is a growing commitment of South King County churches to pray together for revival, reconciliation, reformation, and reaching the lost. Participating churches choose a particular day each month to pray. Following is a loose outline to provide cohesiveness for each of us in praying the Lord’s Watch.

I. Rejoice/Adoration

[Use an appropriate scripture: e.g. Psalm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23]

II. Repentance/Confession

[Psalm 139:23-24, Isaiah 59:1-2]

III. Revival in the Church

[e.g. Psalm 85:6-9]

FTPC, Tukwila area churches, South King County, Seattle region

IV. Reconciliation

[e.g. II Corinthians 5:16-21]

Pray for unity between churches, and between Christians at work, in neighborhoods, schools, families, etc.

V. Reformation in Society

Pray for the infusion of God’s righteousness and justice to address the issues of crime, drugs, immorality, poverty, materialism, loss of sanctity of life, etc.

VI. Reaching the Lost

Pray for an awakening among those without Christ, including all ages, and all ethnic groups. Pray for a desire to seek Him who is “the way, the truth, and the life.” [John 14:6]

VII. Reflect

[Psalm 111:2] Think of the mighty works of God and of His promises to you, our congregation, the churches of South King County, and to our society. Let’s all freshly yield ourselves to seek God’s kingdom and His righteousness.

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