



Apr 12 Mount Calvary: Crucifixion
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Pastor's Introduction

As residents of East Tennessee, we know what it is like to hike to the summit of one of the Smoky Mountain peaks. It involves hard work and diligence to reach the pinnacle of the mountain. The reward at the top is always sweet: the views and the experience are unforgettable. You can peer below and see where you came from and how you got to where you are. The time in the valley makes the moments on the mountaintop that much sweeter.

Spiritual high points in a person's life are often called "mountaintop experiences." These are moments or seasons in your life when you feel especially close to God. You see His hand clearly at work in your life, and you hear and heed His voice. These mountaintop experiences are unforgettable moments in your life. They often serve as signposts as you look back over your life. Just like hiking in the mountains, your times in the spiritual valley make the mountaintop that much sweeter.

Throughout the Bible, we find God meeting His people on the mountain. Many significant moments in biblical history occurred on the mountain. In the Old Testament, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai. Moses viewed the Promised Land from the top of Mt. Pisgah. God brought fire on Mt. Carmel for the prophet Elijah. He then spoke to Elijah with a still, small voice on Mt. Horeb. God tested Abraham's faith on Mt. Moriah when He provided the lamb in place of Isaac. The same is true in the New Testament. Over the next few months, we will be in a sermon series called "On the Mountain" where we will examine these significant moments in the life and ministry of Jesus. As we study different passages from the Gospels, we will see the work of God on the mountain. I pray that God will use it as a mountaintop experience in your life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "G".

Ed. TG



Participant Guide for Apr 12, 2020

Mount Calvary: Crucifixion

Luke 23:32-34

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

Apply

1. What has the #BeyondtheBuilding series meant to you? How has being the Church beyond the building looked different for you during these last few weeks?
2. Read Mark 10:35-40: What did James and John request of Jesus? Who took up the position of Jesus' left and right on Golgotha? When James and John made their request of Jesus, do you think that's what they had in mind? How does this shape how you approach Jesus with your requests?
3. How does Jesus present his message of forgiveness, even from the cross? How does this align with other stories of Jesus offering forgiveness of sins throughout the Gospels?
4. In verse 35, Luke recounts the leaders mocking Jesus as "the Messiah, the Chosen One." What do they mean by "Chosen One?" What is ironic about their statement? How were they ultimately right about Jesus being the "Chosen One?"
5. It was customary for the criminal's charge to be displayed at his execution. According to verse 38, what was Jesus' charge? What were the political and religious implications of this specific charge against Jesus? In what way was the charge actually correct?
6. How do the criminal's statement and Jesus' reply in verses 40-43 summarize the gospel? How could you use these verses to present the Gospel in a concise, easy to understand way?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ How are you taking this story beyond the building to Knoxville and the nations? Make a sharing goal for yourself.

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Participant Guide for Apr 19, 2020

Mount of Olives: Prayer in the Garden

Luke 22:39-46

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

They were on the verge of facing the most significant trial, test, and temptation of their lives.

Jesus knew temptation was looming over all of their heads. Peter, James, and John were allowing the flesh to dominate the spirit. They were tired and depressed, and so they slept rather than prayed. On the surface, Jesus appeared to be the only one unprepared. He was stressed out to the point of working up a sweat as he cried out to the Father about the suffering he would endure. While being tempted in his humanity to consider another path, he yielded to the Father. “Not my will...” He wanted the disciples to give up hope and faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior by tempting them to deny knowing him and run for their lives. Jesus was aware of the intense battle that they all would shortly face. Jesus was the only one prepared for the next day, the only one who passed his test; the disciples were unprepared and failed. The very next day, they scattered in fear as Jesus bore and triumphed over the sin of all mankind.

Apply

If we want to overcome the trials and temptations that hit us, we must learn from our Lord how to pray as He prayed. Jesus prayed continually as a way of life, but this night was intensely ratcheted up in fervency. He poured out His soul honestly to the Father, even to the extent of asking that somehow, if possible, God's eternal plan be altered! He quickly restrained Himself and brought Himself into submission before the Father's perfect will. Jesus' prayer beforehand strengthened Him to endure the coming trials and temptations victoriously. Most often, we don't pray until after the trial hits. Of course, we should pray then; but we would be much stronger if we had been praying ahead of time.

1. How do we prepare for these unannounced tests so that we pass the test and not fail as the disciples failed?
2. How can we be ready so that we endure, triumph, and not get wiped out by life's trials?
3. What did you learn about how Jesus viewed prayer? What can we learn from this passage about prayer and temptation?
4. How can you begin to pray for God to protect you from temptation?
5. Take some time to think about the attitude of the disciples. Do you think they understood the gravity of the situation?
6. Since we know the end of the story, how can we learn from the behavior of the disciples as it relates to focusing on prayer?
7. Do you have a time carved out in your day where you daily surrender your will to the Father?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ What is your biggest hindrance to prayer? How can you overcome it?



Participant Guide for Apr 26, 2020

Mount of Commission: Great Commission

Matt 28:16-20

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

¹⁶ The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them.

We really don't know which mountain the text is speaking of. Most likely either the Mt. of the Beatitudes or Mt. Tabor as they are both near Tiberias where they had last spoken. In this case, where is not important or God would have recorded the exact location. It is the WHAT that happened next that is paramount in this text.

We call it the Great Commission!

While this is not the very last thing we hear Jesus say in the New Testament, it was a climactic moment with which Matthew decided to close his Gospel account.

Apply

1. "All authority has been given to me..." Many times, we omit verse 18 when we quote the Great Commission. Why is that a huge mistake?
2. "make disciples..." is the only imperative (command) in the Great Commission passage. Everything else supports or explains that command. Why is it important to make that distinction?
3. "Baptizing them..." signifies the completion via a declaration/witness of their conversion, which implies evangelism has taken place. The church has been guilty of separating evangelism and discipleship. The great commission clearly implies they are two parts of one process. Talk about the differences between evangelism and discipleship and the importance of seeing them as one process, or two sides of the same coin. What is the danger of seeing them as separate things?
4. "Teaching them to obey..." (NIV) Obedience is key. We cannot claim to be baptized, born again disciples of Jesus if we have no intent or desire to obey what he says. How does the Baptist concept of fire insurance and our loose interpretation of "once saved, always saved" cheapen this requirement of the Great Commission?
5. "I am with you always..." We do not accomplish this commission in our own strength. We started this passage in the authority of Jesus, and we end it with the truth of His continued presence. Why was this necessary for him to say to his disciples at this juncture? How does this give us confidence?
6. "To the end of the age." There is an urgency to His commission in that this age is coming to an end, and our time is shorter each day. How should this make us prioritize the Great Commission in our lives?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ We have all been challenged to pray for our "ONE." Who's your one? Make it a point to reach out with the Gospel to your ONE this week. The end of the age may be tomorrow; don't wait for "someday." Someday might be eternally too late. Scripture says, "Don't receive the grace of God in vain."

For he says:

**At an acceptable time I listened to you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.**

See, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! 2 Corinthians 6:1-2
Challenge your whole family to tell how they will walk out the Great Commission in their lives this week.



Participant Guide for May 3, 2020

Mount of Ascension: Return to Heaven

Acts 1:9-11

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

Apply

1. Have you ever witnessed something that left you astonished or amazed? What was your immediate reaction? What did it take to get your mind back in the right place?
2. What was the immediate reaction of the disciples after Jesus' ascension? What impact do you think Jesus' ascension had on the disciples? Do you think this confirmed their existing beliefs on Jesus, or created a new faith after seeing Him return to the Father (as he had been talking about all along)?
3. Read John 16:5-7: Why was it necessary that Jesus return to the Father? How does this align with the blessing that Jesus poured out on the disciples right before he ascended?
4. Read Ephesians 1:20-22: How did Jesus' ascension play into the Father's plan?
5. What was the significance of the angels confirming that Jesus would return? How did this impact the next steps of the early church?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Do you live in awe that Jesus conquered death, is alive, and ascended to the right hand of the Father? How could you use this particular truth to help share the gospel with those who need it?

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Participant Guide for May 10, 2020

Temple Mount: Dedication of Jesus

Luke 2:21-32

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

Apply

1. As is true today, traditions played a major role in how a newborn child was introduced into the culture (v.22 – 24). What were some of the reasons for Jesus' presentation/dedication at the temple in Jerusalem? What was the purpose and significance of the temple sacrifice? (See Leviticus 12:8)
2. What are some of the parallels to Jesus' dedication that we, as believers, should live and serve by today? How should our lives reflect the importance of this dedication and/or sacrifice?
3. The character of Simeon is described as one who was righteous and devout (v.25). Luke notes that Simeon longed to see Israel's "consolation." Why is the word consolation significant? How is that perspective different from what other Israelites felt about the coming Messiah?
4. Simeon's reaction is an example of pure joy (v.28). The arrival of Jesus was significant to Simeon because of God's promise to him. Upon seeing and holding Jesus, Simeon praised God, thankfully and prophetically. Zachariah had a similar declaration (ref. Luke 1:67-79) but, Simeon's response is different. How and why?
5. Read verses 30-32: How does Simeon validate who Jesus is with his song? Is Simeon referring only to the Jews, or is someone else mentioned in his declaration of the Messiah's arrival? What are some of God's promises to us that we hear in Simeon's song of thanks?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Simeon's response is one of declaration, thankfulness, and peace. But how does his song of praise and assurance place responsibility on us as Christ-followers?



Participant Guide for May 17, 2020

Wilderness Mountain: Temptation of Jesus

Matt 4:1-11

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

Apply

1. What are some of our simple daily temptations? How might these temptations seem innocent, but perhaps pointing to a more significant problem?
2. How does Jesus use Scripture to rebuke Satan's attempts?
3. How does Satan use Scripture to tempt Jesus?
4. What does Jesus' example of rejecting the satisfaction of physical needs teach us?
5. What does Jesus teach us in denying the temptation of pride?
6. What can Jesus' denial of possessions teach us?
7. How did Jesus prepare for his trial against Satan? Do we face similar trials? How are our trials similar and dissimilar?
8. Read James 1:13-15: What does James say is the danger of not addressing your temptations? What methods can we use to reject these temptations?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ How might we obey God's word and deny temptations this week?

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Participant Guide for May 24, 2020

Mount of Samaria: Woman at the Well

John 4:1-26

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Jesus uses several metaphors to speak to the woman at the well. She finds several confusing at first. Does Jesus' use of imagery ever cause you confusion?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

Apply

1. Jesus seems to make it a point to travel through Samaria even though most Jews wouldn't go there. Are there places in our city you avoid? Are those places we should actively be going to make new relationships?
2. The woman seems shocked at Jesus' request for water. Not that he would be thirsty but that he would speak to her. The text mentions explicitly that Jews and Samaritans did not get along. Is there anyone in your daily life who would be shocked if you spoke to them?
3. Think about your answer to the last question. Jesus breaks numerous social taboos to share his identity with this woman. What types of social norms do we need to break to be better at sharing the Gospel?
4. Jesus was very direct with the woman about her sin, but he offered her redemption instead of condemnation. Have you ever had to confront someone about their sin? How can we do this in a way that looks like Jesus?
5. When the woman realized that Jesus was knowledgeable, she asked him questions about religious preferences. Jesus explained to her that she missed the point, that it was about who she worshipped and not where. What type of religious and cultural preferences get in our way when we should be worshipping Jesus?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Jesus' disciples seemed offended that he had spoken to this woman even though she believed and shared. Is there a place you're holding back from sharing because it might not be popular? How can you breakthrough and share in those places this week?



Participant Guide for May 31, 2020

Mount Precipice: Jesus in Nazareth

Luke 4:16-30

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

Apply

1. The title of this study is Mount Precipice. What is a “precipice?”
2. Luke 4:14 informs us that “Jesus’ fame had spread...” What contributed to His fame?
Mark 1:21-26 Mark 1:29-31 Mark 1:32-34
How would these actions make Jesus famous?
3. Read Luke 4:18-19 and Isaiah 61:1-2: What was the “good news” that Jesus referenced in these verses? Did you grasp that Jesus was to be a preacher, healer, deliverer, and comforter? What were the implications of these verses to the people? How have these ministries of Jesus personally impacted your life?
4. Read verse 22: After reading the scripture from Isaiah, Jesus stated, “Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled.” What did the people say about Jesus?
5. Read verses 23-28: How did the attitude of the people change and why? Why would feeding the widow during a famine and healing a person from Syria of leprosy be offensive to them? Do we resent God bestowing his favor on others, or do we rejoice?
6. What are the implications of God helping the widow and healing the leper?
7. Returning to the “precipice” (a place of danger), why might the events of this passage be a “danger” to someone?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ What are you doing in response to the truths communicated today? If you are not a follower of Jesus Christ, you are standing on the precipice with a decision to accept or reject Jesus for your eternal salvation. As a follower of Jesus, you are commissioned to speak openly about Jesus and the salvation He offers to every person.