

## Digging Deeper During the Week!

When we witness some will be disturbed, while others will come to faith in Jesus and experience the times of refreshing! *Being like Jesus means that we tell others of the love, leadership and forgiveness of God, no matter how they respond!*

**Monday Jesus Disturbs His Hometown!**  
10-Mar Matthew 13.53-58

As we share the things that God has revealed to us since coming to faith with our family and friends, some will be confused and disturbed.

- As Jesus returns to his hometown and speaks in worship, people were confused because they knew him as a carpenter. Now, as he shares about faith, what responses does he receive from the audience? Why do you think people are so surprised when we share?
- As people talked among themselves, they grew offended at him. Imagine! Why do you suppose people would be offended at anyone for sharing about the love of God and his desire for a relationship with them?

**Tuesday Jesus Disturbs the Traditionalists!**  
11-Mar Matthew 15.1-14

As we walk God's trail through this life, he shows us how to journey in alignment with his heart and his word. That may cause some disturbance!

- Jesus offends the religious conservatives of his day when he responds to their question with one of his own. What does this teach us about how we are to respond to people who are 'off-track'?
- Jesus makes a pronouncement about people who choose not to follow God's word, but claim to be his (14). What implications does this have for you spiritually?

**Wednesday Jesus Disturbs Faithless Israel!**  
12-Mar Romans 9.30-33

Paul tells us that faith is essential to being right with God – this causes many to 'stumble' and fall short of God's gift of eternal life.

- Gentiles (non-Jews) were coming to Jesus in record numbers, while Jews were not. Paul tells us that the problem was in **how** one tried to come to God. What was the difference between how the Gentiles and the Jews sought to be accepted by God? What was the end result of this difference in method?

*"I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead."* **Philippians 3:13 (NLT)**

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- As you contemplate your witness for Christ, what changes in your approach would this passage cause? What words would you use to express those thoughts? Could you write them out right now?

**Thursday Jesus Disturbs Disobedient Israel!**  
13-Mar 1 Peter 2.1-11

The leadership of Jesus focuses on the transformative power of God in our daily lives. God has always sought life-change.

- If you were to summarize the characteristics of the false prophets (1-3), what would they be? What is the end result of a life lived this way? How does this lifestyle reveal they are void of transformation?
- God wants to reward transformed living ... despite the hostile culture all around us (7-9). How does this passage encourage you to live your new life in Christ with obedience?

**Friday Jesus Disturbs Jewish Followers!**  
14-Mar John 6.41-71

Following Jesus means walking by faith, even when you don't clearly understand or are confused by what he says.

- Jesus uses pictures to explain his importance. People take him literally – and it seems he is trying to provoke them to think. What do you sense is happening here between Jesus and the crowds?
- Many people stop following Jesus as a result of this strong discussion. Peter affirms their desire to remain with Jesus. What does that tell you about your faith and Jesus' leadership?

**Saturday Jesus Commends the Undisturbed!**  
15-Mar Matthew 11.1-6

There are days when we doubt our faith and we doubt Jesus is truly who he says he is. Even John the Baptizer had doubts.

- John the Baptizer, alone and in prison for his witness for Jesus, begins to doubt if the pain he is experiencing is worth it. These doubts are so strong he sends men to ask. What is Jesus response?
- Since Jesus focuses John on the transformations of men and women caused by his power, what can we learn from this? When we are filled with doubts, how do we get our faith back 'on-track'? What has God done that you have experienced? Have you focused on those gifts of God instead of the rejection you are experiencing?