

Our LifeLines verse for April 17 will be John 16:7!

LifeLines April 8, 2024

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

John 13:1

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world & go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

1 Peter 3:15, But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;

CONTEXT

It's Passover. Jesus' disciple John recorded, in hindsight, Jesus' probable state of mind & thoughts prior to the Last Supper.

EXPLANATION FOR TONIGHT'S VERSE (& Verses for the Next Several Weeks)

During the Lenten & Easter Seasons, I reflected a great deal on the indescribable inheritance that is ours because of God's love for us, Jesus' love for us, everything both of them endured, & the reason for Jesus' unwavering obedience to His Father. In the coming weeks, we'll study verses that directly address our immeasurable inheritance as believers. Tonight's study provides a springboard, a starting place, for that journey. I hope you approve.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS - For tonight's LifeLine's study, the NRSV (above) will suffice.

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

Now before the festival of the Passover... Passover was the *only* suitable time for Jesus' death. He was surely the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world. It was a re-enactment of the first Passover when the Jews prepared to flee Egypt. Each household chose a perfect, blemish-free lamb. It was brought inside to live with the family before its death. It was slain. Its blood was smeared on the door's frame so the angel of death would see it & *pass over* each home of the faithful, so they could escape death & seek freedom from slavery & oppression under Pharaoh's reign. Because of *our* faith in the Lamb who shed His blood for us, we receive freedom from the bondage of sin, salvation for our souls, & look forward to an eternity with our God & Savior. We escape both punishment for our sins & an eternity separated from God. Hallelujah!

Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world & go to the Father... Jesus knew His death was imminent. It was not a surprise to Him. Philippians 2:6-8 remind us that Jesus, “who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself & became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.” He came to earth with an assignment – be obedient to His Father & reconcile humankind to the Father. Jesus completed His assignment. It was time to return to the Father.

Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end... “His own” refers to His disciples. He wanted to leave them with a message that would stay with them forever. So many times He told parables, stories, healed, raised the dead, performed miracles, but there was something they still couldn’t grasp, & *wouldn’t* grasp until *after His resurrection*.

In Greek, *to the end* means to the full extent, to the limit, to the uttermost. Through His death, Jesus served them, & continues to serve all of us today, beyond the limits of human comprehension - to the full extent of divine love. This kind of love is at the heart of the gospel message & the whole reason Jesus came to earth, as stated in John 3:16.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (In the interest of time, we will NOT read verses preceded by “<.” They *are* related verses, so please read them at home for EXTRA CREDIT!)

Genesis 3:14, The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals & among all wild creatures...I will put enmity between you & the woman, & between your offspring & hers; He will strike your head, & you will strike His heel.”

Psalms 103:3-5a, Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love & mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live...

< Psalm 103:12, As far as the east is from the west, so far He removes our transgressions from us.

< Matthew 5:2-12, The Beatitudes.

< Matthew 5:17, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven & earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.”

Matthew 6:33, But strive first for the kingdom of God, & His righteousness, & all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 11:28, “Come to Me, all you that are weary & carrying heavy burdens, & I will give you rest.”

Matthew 27:51, At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, & the rocks were split.

Luke 9:51, When *the days drew near for Him to be taken up*, He set His face to go to Jerusalem.

John 1:29, The next day, he saw Jesus coming toward him & declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

< John 7:38, “And let the one who believes in Me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’”

John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal & kill & destroy. I came that they may have life, & have it abundantly.”

John 10:17-18, “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have power to lay it down, & I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from My Father.”

John 10:27-28, “My sheep hear My voice. I know them, & they follow Me. I give them eternal life, & they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of My hand.”

John 12:23, Jesus answered them, “*The hour has come* for the Son of Man to be glorified.”

John 12:27, “Now My soul is troubled. And what should I say – ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.”

John 14:3, “And if I go & prepare a place for you, I will come again & will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.”

John 14:6, Jesus said to him, “I am the way, & the truth, & the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

John 14:16, “And I will ask the Father, & He will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.”

John 16:7, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”

John 16:12, “When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own, but will speak whatever He hears, & He will declare to you the things that are to come.”

John 16:28, “I came from the Father & have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world & am going to the Father.”

John 17:1-2. “After Jesus had spoken these words, He looked up to heaven & said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son so that the Son may glorify You, since You have given Him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him.’”

John 17:3, “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, & Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

John 19:30, When Jesus had received the wine, He said, “It is finished.” Then He bowed His head & gave up His spirit.

Romans 3:22b-25a, For there is no distinction, since all have sinned & fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by His blood, effective through faith.

< Romans 4:17b, God...who gives life to the dead & calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Romans 5:1-2, Therefore, since we are justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; & we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

< Romans 5:6, For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:8-9, But God proves His love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by His blood, will we be saved through Him from the wrath of God.

< Romans 5:21, So that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ.

< Romans 6:6, We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, & we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

Romans 6:14, For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Romans 6:23, So the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:1, There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin & death.

< Romans 8:6, To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life & peace.

Romans 8:11, If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit that dwells in you.

Romans 8:17a, And if children (of God), then heirs, heirs of God & joint heirs with Christ.

< Romans 8:32, He who did not withhold His own Son, but gave Him up for all of us, will He not with Him also give us everything else?

< Romans 10:4, For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

< Romans 10:9, Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord & believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:13, For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

< 1 Corinthians 6:19-20a, Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, & that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 15:17, If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile & you are still in your sins.

< 2 Corinthians 1:4a, Who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22, But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ & has anointed us, by putting His seal on us & giving us His Spirit in our hearts as a first installment.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18a, So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:19 & 21, That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, & entrusting the message of reconciliation to us...For our sake, He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Galatians 2:20, And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me & gave Himself for me.

< Galatians 3:13, Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”

< Galatians 3:24, Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.

< Ephesians 1:3, Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

< Ephesians 1:5, He destined us for adoption as His children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Ephesians 1:7-8a, In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace that He lavished on us.

Ephesians 1:9-10, ...he has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Him, things in heaven & things on earth.

Ephesians 1:11, In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of Him who accomplishes all things according to His counsel & will,

Ephesians 1:13, In Him you also, when you had heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, & had believed in Him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:18-20, So that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance among the saints, & what is the immeasurable greatness of His power for us who believe, according to the working of His great power. God put this power to work in Christ when He raised Him from the dead & seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 2:4-5, But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved –

Ephesians 2:8, For by grace you have been saved through faith, & this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 3:11-12, This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that He has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness & confidence through faith in Him.

< Ephesians 3:16-17, I pray that, according to the riches of His glory, He may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit, & that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted & grounded in love.

Ephesians 3:20, Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,

< Ephesians 6:11, Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

< Philippians 1:21, For to me, living is Christ & dying is gain.

< Philippians 2:5, Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7, And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts & your minds in Christ Jesus.

< Philippians 4:9, Keep on doing the things that you have learned & received & heard & seen in me, & the God of peace will be with you.

< Philippians 4:13, I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Colossians 1:20, And through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.

Colossians 1:25b-27, To make the Word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages & generations but has now been revealed to His saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

< Colossians 3:15-16a, And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Colossians 3:24, Since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ.

< 2 Timothy 2:13, If we are faithless, He remains faithful – for He cannot deny Himself.

Titus 2:11, For the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to everyone.

Titus 3:7, So that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

< Hebrews 4:16, Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy & find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 7:25, Consequently He is able for all time to save those who approach God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 9:15, For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

Hebrews 9:22, Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, & without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 12:2, Looking to Jesus the pioneer & perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, & has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

< James 4:7-8a, Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, & he will flee from you. Draw near to God, & He will draw near to you.

< James 4:10, Humble yourselves before the Lord, & He will exalt you.

1 Peter 1:3-5, Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, & into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled & unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:9, For you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls,

< 1 Peter 1:16, For it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

1 Peter 2:24-25, He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd & guardian of your souls.

1 John 1:7, But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, & the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1b-2, But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, & He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, & not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 3:8, Everyone who commits sin is a child of the devil; for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

Revelation 21:3-5a, And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be His peoples, & God Himself will be with them; He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning & crying & pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the One who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

SUMMARY

We have a good bit in common with the disciples. They saw Jesus in action & *didn't* “get it.” We’ve read & re-read scriptures & Bible stories & *should* get it because we have the benefit of the New Testament. We still sometimes read as though that *veil* is covering our eyes & our understanding. *It's time to understand*, fully, God’s design, purpose & pleasure.

We have the benefit of knowing the rest of the story. The disciples *did not*. What love Jesus felt for His followers & feels for us even when we don’t grasp the magnitude of His life, death, resurrection & all He made possible for us. He loved them to the end because He knew the confusion & feeling of abandonment they would endure the days after His crucifixion. They didn’t know they would see Him on Resurrection Morning. They didn’t yet know the gift of the inheritance awaiting all believers. When the crucifixion

happened, the disciples thought it was the end. Even though Jesus told them He would rise in three days & later the Advocate would come, *they didn't understand*.

Many of us are like that – confused & with unanswered questions, but we shouldn't be! Believers have the benefit of knowing we are not alone, but do we fully grasp the reality of all that is ours *in Christ Jesus*? As believers, we *should* know, & we should be *eagerly sharing* this gospel of good news!

The difference for us is - we know we have the Holy Spirit in us. We have been sealed by Him until the Day of Redemption. We have a place/a home in the kingdom of heaven for eternity. We have access to eternity now (John 17:3)! All this is ours because of God's grace, Jesus' sin-free life, death & resurrection, & our faith. This is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to all He's done for us.

CONCLUSION

When we read individual verses, chapters or even whole books of the Bible, our mind may wander. We may struggle to comprehend continuity in the Bible. We may fail to appreciate the purpose of tying all of it together - from Genesis to Revelation, or as I recently heard Pastor Allen Jackson say, in jest, "From Generations to Revolutions, & then there's Maps"!

The entire Bible is a love story. It recounts the ups & downs, frustration, commitment, devotion, determination & unending lengths *God has been willing to go to for us*, His beloved children. He's been determined to redeem us ever since we disappointed Him in the Garden. What a family throughout the generations since Adam!

Thank goodness for God's great love for His creation & His everlasting commitment to us! Thank goodness for Jesus, who was obedient to death & who intervened with the help of the Holy Spirit, to reconcile all of creation to the Creator. In *My Utmost for His Highest*, 4/5, Oswald Chambers says, "His agony was the basis for the simplicity of our salvation...Because of what the Son of Man went through, every human being has been provided with a way of access into the very Presence of God." In the coming weeks, we'll invest time appreciating the lengths God pursued on our behalf, as well as the benefits & inheritance that are being given to all who believe in His Son.

Ponder His great love for you.

Let John 13:1 be a *LifeLine* for you.

*So that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,
you may perceive what is the hope to which He has called you,
what are the riches of His glorious inheritance among the saints.*

Ephesians 1:18, NRSV

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!

1. Write something you want to remember about this LifeLine:

2. Write one thing you feel compelled to share with someone? Whom will it be?

3. How & when will you share with that person?
