



# grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

**March 15-21, 2021**

**Sermon by Lead Pastor Pete Moon**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Sermon Title: "We Would See Jesus"**

Notes from sermon on 3/14:

To pray for this week:

### **Family Focus Question**

Jesus said that he would be glorified by his death. How?

### **Questions for Small Groups**

1. Who are the "Greeks" today that still desire to see Jesus?
2. Describe the ways that self-denial helps people to see Jesus.
3. Did Jesus really mean that we are supposed to "hate" our life?  
What did he mean by that phrase?

### **Monday, March 15: Read John 12:20-21**

It's easy to get disheartened by the statistics of how many people nowadays identify as "none and done" in terms of religious affiliation. It's tempting to assume we are on an inevitable religious decline where people just aren't interested in Jesus anymore and have found fulfillment in secular and humanist organizations, charities, and philosophies. This week's scriptures should give us pause before jumping to this conclusion, and renewed hope and vigor in sharing Jesus with a world that not only needs him, but is desperate to see him.

Today's scripture begins with a very telling statement: "Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks." Already we know that these gentiles were somehow drawn to the holy worship and practices of the Jewish people. But look at what they said next: "We wish to see Jesus." There are still so many "Greeks" today who wish to see Jesus. Some know to ask for him by name; others don't. Who might these people be, and are we easily identifiable as someone who can show someone Jesus? How would we do it, if asked?

**Tuesday, March 16: Read John 12:22-33**

How we might wish that yesterday's reading could have continued in a different way, with Jesus simply welcoming everyone who wished to see him, sitting down with them to share great news, and everyone living happily ever after together. Instead, today's scripture, which begins immediately after the Greeks came to Philip asking to see Jesus, takes an unexpected turn. Jesus starts talking about not only the necessity of his death, but the necessity of his follower's "deaths".

Today's scripture brings us to a harsh reality we may be trying to avoid as we approach the final Sunday before Palm/Passion Sunday. Something inevitable is coming – the pain and suffering of the cross. We want to skip to Easter morning (and many of us do). Jesus's words remind us, however, that something has to die before something is reborn. What are we as a church...as Reveille...ready to sacrifice and allow to die in order to bring more people to Jesus?

**Wednesday, March 17: Read Hebrews 5:5-10**

Today's scripture reminds us that Jesus did not save people by building himself up, glorifying himself, and taking his rightly place as high priest. Instead, he saved people through sacrificing himself. Christ gave up everything for people who didn't even know they needed saving and certainly did not appreciate it yet. As we marvel in what Christ has already done for us, let us also as a church hear the call to follow Christ to the cross and sacrifice for the sake of saving others. What might we as a church be holding onto that in fact is preventing us from more effectively bringing people to Jesus?

**Thursday, March 18: Read Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The prophet Jeremiah had a vision of a day when we no longer have to teach one another to "know the Lord" for "they will all know God." What would this look like? In a world and community where so many people have no belief system at all and are suffering from isolation, self-doubt, and guilt, how much of a difference would it make if they knew the love and grace of God? As we begin to emerge from a year of the greatest isolation we have known in our lifetimes, what silver linings of opportunity are out there to draw people to Jesus and the community they are so craving?

**Friday, March 19: Read Psalm 51:1-12**

As we begin to emerge from what many of us might describe as one of the longest winters in memory, it's time for some spring cleaning. We need to start with ourselves. We cannot approach the cross and Easter morning without recognizing our need for forgiveness and redemption. As we continue our journey in Lent, let us pray aloud this psalm of repentance, calling God to wash us, purge us, and create clean hearts within us so we can be restored and rejoice. Amen!

**Saturday, March 20: Scripture Memorization: Psalm 51:10**

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." (NRSV)*

**Sunday, March 21: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of Common Confession:** *Gracious Lord, there are so many around us who "would see Jesus". We confess that we prevent them from seeing you. All too often life has been about me. In the complexities of my life, I only have time to think about me and my pain. Help me to see that you and your love are enough and that you can supply all my needs. Help me to lose my life so my life can be saved. Even more, help me to lose my life so that others may see Jesus, for it is in his name we pray. AMEN.*