



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message.
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June 3-9, 2024

JOINT WORSHIP WITH REVEILLE UMC, LOVE CENTER OF UNITY, & KOINONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon Title: "At the Table with Jesus"

by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon, Bishop Larry Branch, and Pastor James Scruggs

**Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals,
make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.**

Questions for Small Groups and Individuals:

1. In the story of Zaccheus, Jesus famously declared "salvation has come to this house". What does that salvation look like? Is it different from that which we often envision?
2. Zaccheus struggled to see Jesus. He was also surprised that Jesus saw him. Describe a time when someone actually "saw" you, noticed you. How did you feel? How does it feel to know that Jesus "sees" you in that same deep and loving way?
3. Pastor Scruggs will be preaching on the meal Jesus had with sinners and tax collectors in Matthew 9. At the end, he said, "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners." What did Jesus mean by this? What does this say to us about who Jesus is looking for in our churches?
4. In the passage from Matthew 9, Jesus also quoted from the Old Testament (book of Hosea) saying, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." If this is what Jesus wants, how do we obey his call today?

Monday, June 3: Read Luke 19:1-10 (Rev. Dr. Peter Moon preaching scripture)

This week we prepare for a very special Sunday in which Reveille will be hosting one joint worship service at 10:30 am with our partner churches, Love Center of Unity and Koinonia Community Church. Each of the pastors will preach a short sermon on one of three passages, all centered around the theme of meeting Jesus at the table. Pete's sermon is focused on today's passage describing the wealthy and short tax collector, Zaccheus, who has trouble seeing Jesus. The question is, was it Zaccheus's short stature, or his love of money and wealth that truly stood in the way of him seeing Christ? On Sunday, Pete will point out that, relatively speaking, we are the "Zaccheus" in our community, with an advantage of resources that can serve as a spiritual disadvantage. Yet as with Zaccheus, Jesus still looks at us and desires to stay with us. Are we recognizing the invitation and accepting this grace?

➤ **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss with your small group or family if you believe abundant resources put one at a spiritual disadvantage. How could we "climb a tree" above our wealth to see who Jesus is?*

Tuesday, June 4: Read John 12:1-12 (Bishop Larry Branch preaching scripture)

After raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus came back to Bethany and dined with Mary, Martha, Lazarus, and the disciples. Unlike yesterday's reading, Jesus is the invited guest of honor, and today's scripture describes the famous moment when Mary pours expensive perfume on Jesus's feet, only to be rebuked by Judas for the apparent waste of resources (and suggests the ulterior motive of Judas). Yet this becomes a moment of extravagant beauty, just before a week of pain and death. What would your reaction have been? Be honest.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Describe a time when you either offered or received something of extravagant beauty. Is there ever a place in church for such a thing?*

Wednesday, June 5: Read Matthew 9:9-13 (Pastor James Scruggs preaching scripture)

Many of us remember a time...possibly in middle school...when we were not invited to sit at the "cool" table at lunch. Unfortunately, this phenomenon often extends into places of work and even nursing homes, where an invitation to dine requires a certain standard of status or behavior. Jesus's tables could not look more different. Jesus saw meals as times to invite the lonely, include the ostracized, and welcome the sinner. "I desire mercy, not sacrifice," Jesus quoted from Hosea 6:6. "For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." What message does Jesus have for us as individuals and as a congregation?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Invite someone new and different to dine with you sometime this week.*

Thursday, June 6: Read Ephesians 4:1-13

Our final three readings this week center on the theme of unity, which is certainly a central theme of our Joint Partner Service this Sunday. This scripture from Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus exhorts us to be unified with one another. We do so not just because it's nice, but because we are called to be equipped "for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Our goal is to reach unity and maturity in our faith. Have we ever considered our lack of unity as a faith as an impediment to not only our effectiveness, but our maturity?

- **Relationship and Study Opportunity:** *Discuss what "mature" faith looks like. Look up this term and examples of it.*

Friday, June 7: Read John 17:20-23

For years, Reveille has included Love Center of Unity and Koinonia Community Church in our communal prayers. Are we including them in our private ones? Are we, like Jesus, praying for all believers so we can become one? Even in the midst of our differences, are we praying for unity, even as we may differ in theology, dogma, politics, traditions, and practices?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss if you believe it's possible to have both unity and differences. What would this look like to the outside world? How could they be better able to see Jesus?*

Saturday, June 8: Read Psalm 133

When we gather together with our partner congregations on Sunday, we can imagine God exclaiming, "How good and precious it is when God's people live together in unity!" Every time we gather together, cross boundaries and borders, and look for the ways we can love together, we build the kingdom and invite others to join us at the table. Let us all find ways to come together more deeply and more often.

- **Relationship and Study Opportunity:** *Look up Bible verses that speak to unity and propose one way we could promote more unity with one another, our partnerships, and our entire community.*

Sunday, June 9: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Ephesians 4:2-3

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (NIV)