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December 16 (Friday) **Servant Leadership** John 13:1-15

1. What is the significance of Jesus washing His disciples' feet?
2. What is the relationship between the sacrificial love demonstrated in the Passover and Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet?
3. As Christians today, what lessons can we learn from Jesus on how to treat one other?
4. What can I do to demonstrate this servant leadership of "not demanding to be served but to serve"?

*\*The theme of humility and love is clearly manifested here by the act of Jesus washing his followers' feet. Jesus, being the disciples' rabbi, leader and mentor, surprisingly performed the lowest and the most demeaning work that would only be done by a slave. This was a model established by Jesus in his farewell to the disciples. With this, Jesus reinforced the New Commandment of love that was discussed earlier during the Passover supper. This New Commandment demands the disciples to love one another, and is also the hallmark of the Christian community. By washing the disciples' feet, Jesus provided an example of how His followers should treat one another, and ensured that His disciples would continue to abide in Him even after He was arrested following this critical supper.*

My thought:

My prayer: *May God help me so that I can learn humility and become a servant leader following Jesus' example.*

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December 17 (Saturday) **Love and Service** Mark 14:1-9

1. What do I consider as my "perfume" to be presented to God?
2. Where is our priority when making life's many choices and decisions?
3. What do we value most, our relationship with the Lord or our actions to help others?
4. Let us reflect on our own values and see if there are any adjustments needed, particularly at times when it appears that we have reasons to issue criticisms?

*\*Jesus seized this opportunity as a 'teachable' moment to His disciples. He directly addressed the disciples' value system – what was more important, Jesus Himself or the financial value of the pure nard perfume? Note that the woman did not respond to the criticisms made towards her action. Only Jesus understood and was able to explain her thoughts and reasons in performing this action. Note further that Jesus said what the woman did for Him was a beautiful thing, and people throughout the world will remember what she had done.*

My thought:

My prayer: *May God help us and grant us wisdom so that we may use correct priorities to make choices and decisions in accordance with God's will.*

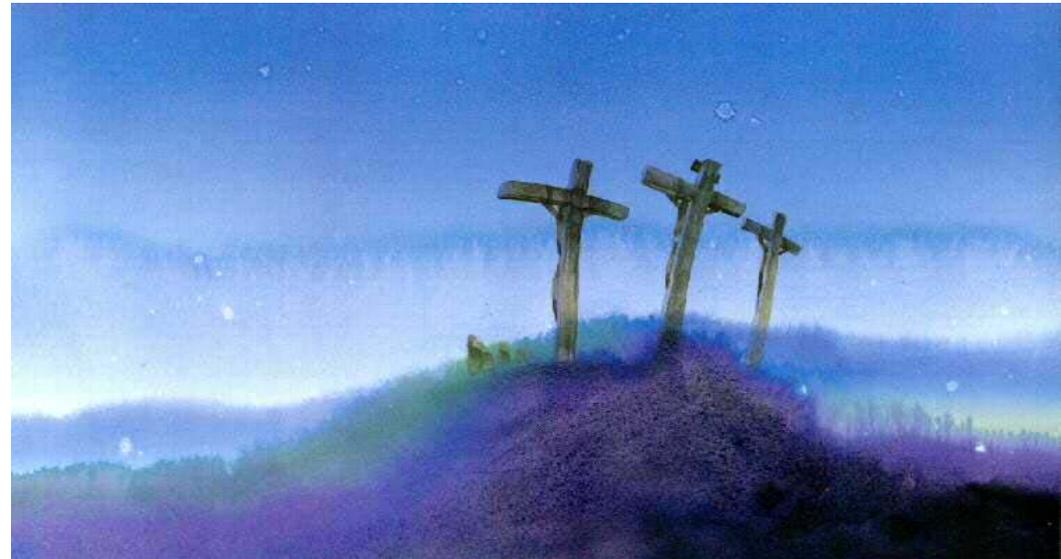
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December 18 (Sunday) **Reflection**

\*Material this week was prepared by Pastor Lionel Lam and Pastor Donald Yan. Thank you!

\*\*Source of the picture in cover page: <http://www.andong-ch.org>.

# Journeying with Jesus



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5th Week

December 12 - 18, 2016

## 5th Week: The Leading of Lord Jesus

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Dec 12 (Monday) **The Power & Source of Jesus' Ministry** Luke 4:1-14

1. Why was Jesus, as the son of the upmost Highest God, tempted for 40 days suffering through hunger? Do you know why did God allow temptations to come into our lives? v.1-2, Heb 2:18, 4:15, Jm 1:12
2. Is it a sin to take care of the needs of our body? May people consider their own needs, before following God's wills? Which one allows people to truly live, our flesh or our spirituality? V3-4, Dt 8:3, I Co 10:13, I Jn 2:16 -17
3. It looks like that the secular success, wealth, and power seem to be more attractive than the invisible God, can you stand firm in the midst of these worldly attractions? How did the Lord Jesus prevail over temptation? V5-8, Dt 6:13, John 18:36, Jm 4:7, I Jn 2:16-17
4. Are you willing to serve the Lord in the workplace, family, or society without taking shortcuts?
5. How do you face the temptation of pride in our lives? How do you see God's way of doing things, His timing and His sovereignty? V9-12, Ps 91:11-12, Dt 6:16, Jn 5:30b, I Jn 2:16-17

My thought: *What are the areas that I am the weakest in, which are most likely to be tempted? How can I ask the Lord for help?*

My prayer:

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Dec 13 (Tue) **Retreating is the Secret to Re-gain Strength** Isa. 30:1-15

1. From whom do you think of seeking help first, when you are faced with crises and difficulties, others or God? Why?
2. 'Rahab' a sea monster (meaning – great waves swelling) represents Egypt. 'Do -Nothing' was meant to mock that Egypt was helping in vain and that there was no real result. Do you agree that we really cannot live our lives alone, without someone's help?
3. The Jews went astray on their paths. They only liked to listen to auspicious and soft words. How is your spiritual life? Do you refuse to listen to or selectively read the truths from the Bible and not obeying?
4. Nowadays, in this information age, "busyness" has become an envious word, causing most people to look down on repenting and resting. Please meditate on your own and see if you have been too busy to receive God's grace, and to renew your strength. (V.15)

My thought:

My prayer:

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Dec 14 (Wed) **God's Words are the Authority of Life & Ministry** Ps. 119:1-11

1. What kind of people are blessed? Why do people who obey the law are blessed? V 1-3, Jm 1:25
2. Try to find out the eight different names of "God's Word" from these 11 verses. Why did the psalmist thirst so much for God's Word? Why do we sometimes rarely read the Bible or find it boring or uninteresting?
3. How many times have the words related to "walk" appeared in v.1-8? What attitude does the psalmist use to obey God? (v 4-11) Do we spend more time studying the Bible, or reciting the Bible verses, than actually obeying God's Word? Micah 6:8
4. What is the function of God's Word that the psalmist thinks of? (V.9-11). In verses 12-16 of the same paragraph, he expresses that these uses give him endless joy, do you agree that God's Word is the authority of our life and ministry?

*\* Psalm 119 is the longest psalm in the Bible, consisting of 22 sections, with 8 verses in each section. Each verse in the same section starts with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet. All 22 letters of the alphabet were used in order. There is a total of 176 verses, and is called an 'alphabet psalm'. Except for 5 verses, every verse mentions the Word of God, referred to with 8 different names. Along with psalms 1 and 19, these 3 psalms are also called the 'psalms of laws'. The original text of the word 'precepts' used in this chapter means "testimony" - a testament to God's standard and attributes.*

My thought / My prayer:

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Dec 15 (Thu) **Serving as a Team of Christian Workers** II Timothy 2:1-22

1. Why did Paul want Timothy to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus? Try to reflect on verses 7-13 on Paul's words and also remember the meaning of the gospel related to Jesus. Rm 5:1-5, 8:37
2. What 3 examples did Paul use to remind Timothy of suffering for the gospel in v 3-6? In V 15, he directly reminded Timothy to be a workman who does not need to be ashamed. What quality does each of these examples show for a workman as being strong? What do they have in common?
3. Are Christians being called to suffer? What belief motivated Paul so that he could endure his suffering? How did he use Jesus' characters, actions and promises to encourage Timothy?
4. Paul taught Timothy of passing the gospel baton from one generation to the next. Try to find an example of 4 generations in V.2. Also, from V.10, find out the purposes of a Christian worker who joyfully shares the gospel to the next generation and yet endures his suffering?
5. Can we be Christians, and yet not be Christian workers? V16-19 are the traps of avoiding work and V20-22 show the qualities that we should pursue. How should a Christian worker behave when dealing with other Christian workers in a team, so that he is made holy, useful to the Master?

My thought / My prayer: