

connect the dots

Hypocritical Hearts Week 1 of 2

A police officer pulled a driver aside and asked for his license and registration. "What's wrong, officer," the driver asked. "I didn't go through any red lights, and I certainly wasn't speeding."

"No, you weren't," said the officer, "but I saw you waving your fist as you swerved around the lady driving in the left lane, and I further observed your flushed and angry face as you shouted at the driver of the Hummer who cut you off, and how you pounded your steering wheel when the traffic came to a stop near the bridge."

"Is that a crime, officer?"

"No, but when I saw the 'Jesus loves you and so do I' bumper sticker on the car, I figured this car had to be stolen." [Adapted from Homiletics Magazine (May 2004)]

This week's daily Bible reading will cover the events of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and some of the events that followed that week. Pay special attention to those genuine followers of Christ and those who are hypocritical "followers" and the way Jesus deals with each.

DAY ONE – Matthew 21

DAY TWO – Matthew 22

DAY THREE – Matthew 23

DAY FOUR – Matthew 26:1-46

DAY FIVE – Matthew 26:47-27:10

Memory Verse:

"In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned..." (Titus 2:7-8a)



northeast daily reading

March 27-28, 2010

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Proverbs

The Feet – A Healthy Life Course Week 6 of 6

I got lost as a goose. My wife enjoyed that immensely. So we plugged that lady back in, and you know what she said? "I told you so, you little idiot." She said, "You think I'm going to help you now? You rejected me. You just find your way home by yourself." No—she didn't say that. She said, "Recalculating route. When safe to do so, execute a U-turn."

Now see, that's grace. As soon as you're ready to listen, as soon as you're ready to surrender, God will say, "Here is the way home. Execute a U-turn." That's repentance. "I'll bring you home." That is grace. That's Jesus. He is the only one with authoritative wisdom about how to live. He is the only one who brings about the possibility of forgiveness for your sin and mine. He is the only one to give any kind of realistic hope of conquering death, of life beyond the grave.

Why would you not give your full devotion to Jesus? He does not present himself as a good, spiritual teacher to be admired from a distance. He presents himself as Master, as Lord, as the one to be followed and served and obeyed and worshiped. There is no other way. He is it.

*(John Ortberg, in his sermon "Choices,"
www.preachingtoday.com)*

In the daily reading this week, look for proverbs that encourage true discipleship.

- DAY ONE – Proverbs 26
- DAY TWO – Proverbs 27
- DAY THREE – Proverbs 28
- DAY FOUR – Proverbs 29
- DAY FIVE – Proverbs 30 & 31

Memory Verse:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)



Proverbs

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