

An Apostle's Life – April 2019

This year in my pastor's page each month I will be telling you about the life of one of the Apostles of Jesus. I will be doing this in the first person, as if I were that Apostle talking to you about my life as an Apostle of Jesus. Not all of this information can be found in the Bible but it is what Bible scholars would say is what the Apostles life could have been like. My hope is that you will learn more about this Apostle and learn how you too can be a disciple of Jesus as they were.

My name is John, the son of Zebedee. I am the youngest son of Zebedee. My father ran fishing boats in the Sea of Galilee and was also a member of the Sanhedrin, the ruling congress of the Jewish people of my time. From the time that I was born I knew that I was privileged, my family was well off and my father was well respected. I learned the trade of fishing, but my mind and spirit was always looking for something more. My mother Salome encouraged me to explore and learn and that is what I was doing when I went to listen to words of John the Baptist. I learned about the Messiah and when John the Baptist pointed Him out to us we followed Him, that is Andrew and me. Oh, I never used my name in my Gospel writing because the name of John should be related to John the Baptist and not to me.

I thought that I was privileged, but I soon learned that the greatest privilege I had was to come to know the love of Jesus Christ for me and for the rest of the world. Oh, I was loved by Jesus and He taught me a lot about how to love others as He loved me. It's not easy and the whole time that I was living on the earth I found myself failing to love others the way that Jesus loved me. In those times I would remember Jesus' Words and strive to follow what Jesus had taught all of us about the Love of God for us.

Yes, I would say that it was a privilege to be loved by Jesus and to know and love Jesus when He was fulfilling all the promises of God for us. I was given so many opportunities to learn from Jesus from the day that Andrew and I sat and talked with Him, all the way until the day that we met Him on the mount of Olive and He ascended up to sit at the right hand of God in heaven. Oh, there were times when I fell back into my-self privileged attitude and it usually got me in trouble. Maybe that is why Jesus often called James and me, the sons of Thunder. I was with Jesus when He did each of His miracles. I was with Jesus when He was transfigured into all His glory on the mount of Transfiguration. I was standing in the gallery of the Sanhedrin, when Jesus was condemned by the Jewish council. I followed Jesus up the mountain and watched him hang from the cross of Calvary for all our sins and obeyed His words to me and made sure that His mother, Mary, was well taken care of the rest of her life.

There were times when it's hard to see the privilege of be a disciple of Jesus. Like when my brother's head was chopped off and when I was boiled in the oil by the Roman rulers in Ephesus for being a leader of the Christian faith. It sure looked like there was not much privilege of being a disciple of Jesus when I was just trying to survive on the island of Patmos as a prisoner of Nero. But each time that I started to question the privilege of knowing the love of God in my life I remembered Jesus' words and His touch and that would strengthen me again in the love and assurance that only God can give to us. I knew that whatever happens in my life I would be privileged to know and love Jesus Christ. I shared that privilege wherever I could all the way up to my last word before going to my heavenly home. I hope to see all of you up here some day after you have shared the privilege of God's love with others in your life.

My hope is that you will grow in the love of Jesus Christ during this month as you journey with Him to the Cross of Calvary and then to His resurrection, on Easter. Share the privilege of having the love of God in your life so that others can come to know the true light of the world with you. Amen.

Pastor Pete Scheele

April 2019 Scripture Readings

This year we are reading through the Bible by reading in Biblical order, a book from the Old Testament and then reading a book from the New Testament along with a Psalm for each day. So far this year we have read Genesis – Numbers in the Old Testament and Matthew – Mark in the New Testament. This month we will start with John and then read Deuteronomy and part of the book of Acts along with Psalms 87 – 116.

John is the fourth Gospel and is written much later than the other three. In a way John rights His Gospel to show that Jesus truly is the light of the world and has come into this world to bring us the light of God's love. John also, in his gospel, often fills in some of the misunderstandings that have started about Jesus and gives more information about other things that Jesus did in His ministry that was not talked about in the other Gospels.

Deuteronomy is the final book of Moses and is mostly about the speech that Moses gave to the people of Israel as they were preparing to enter the Promised Land. After reminding the Israelites of all that God has done for them he gives his farewell speech, because he will not get to go into the Promised Land, God will take him to a mountain where he will be about to see the Promised Land before he dies and God buries him.

Acts or the Acts of the Apostles, is written by Luke about the beginning of the Christian Church and all the trials and triumphs that they go through with God's help and guidance. The Church on earth begins with Jesus' Ascension and the Holy Spirit coming down to be in the lives of all Christians on Pentecost.

After reading each days reading see what kind of answers you come up with to the questions found in the bulletin each week.

Date	Reading	Date	Reading
April 1 – John 1 - 2, Psalm 87		April 16 – Deuteronomy 15 - 16, Psalm 102	
April 2 – John 3 - 4, Psalm 88		April 17 – Deuteronomy 17 - 18, Psalm 103	
April 3 – John 5 - 6, Psalm 89		April 18 – Deuteronomy 19 - 20, Psalm 104	
April 4 – John 7 - 8, Psalm 90		April 19 – Deuteronomy 21 - 22, Psalm 105	
April 5 – John 9 - 10, Psalm 91		April 20 – Deuteronomy 23 - 24, Psalm 106	
April 6 – John 11 - 12, Psalm 92		April 21 – Deuteronomy 25 - 26, Psalm 107	
April 7 – John 13 - 15, Psalm 93		April 22 – Deuteronomy 27 - 28, Psalm 108	
April 8 – John 16 - 17, Psalm 94		April 23 – Deuteronomy 29 – 30, Psalm 109	
April 9 – John 18 - 19, Psalm 95		April 24 – Deuteronomy 31 - 32, Psalm 110	
April 10 – Deuteronomy 1 - 3, Psalm 965		April 25 – Deuteronomy 33 - 34, Psalm 111	
April 11 – Deuteronomy 4 - 6, Psalm 97		April 26 – Acts 1 - 2, Psalm 112	
April 12 – Deuteronomy 7 - 8, Psalm 98		April 27 – Acts 3 - 4, Psalm 113	
April 13 – Deuteronomy 9 - 10, Psalm 99		April 28 – Acts 5 - 6, Psalm 114	
April 14 – Deuteronomy 11 - 12, Psalm 100		April 29 – Acts 7 - 9, Psalm 115	
April 15 – Deuteronomy 13 - 14, Psalm 101		April 30 – Acts 10 - 11, Psalm 116	