

Readings from Matthew chapter 21—December 12th-18th, 2021

²⁸ “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ ²⁹ He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. ³⁰ Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said to Him, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.”

Sunday: What is the difference between these two sons in this parable? Please pray for the Christian education program at Westminster, Colo., RPC—that the children continue to enjoy their classes and the teachers are blessed as they serve; **pray** that all the children of the congregation, including the older college-aged ones, will love Jesus and His Word. **Pray** for Stranraer (Scotland) RPC’s growth.

Monday: Which is more important—to say you’re going to obey, or to obey? **Pray** for Jan Buchanan as she returns to North America after many years of missionary service in South Sudan and Senegal; **pray** for her adjustment, and for the team in South Sudan as they feel the loss of their teammate. **Pray** for growth and encouragement for the young people of the RPC of Scotland.

Tuesday: What examples can you think of, in your life or in the life of others, that illustrate the difference between the sons’ responses? Give thanks with Belle Center, Ohio, RPC for new members transferring in from other denominations; **pray** for the encouragement, blessing, and joy of new believers from out of the world. **Pray** for Stornoway (Scotland) RPC as its pulpit is now vacant. **Pray** for Oklahoma City (Okla.) RPC, that many folks would be attracted to this new work.

Wednesday: Why is it that the despised ones—horrible sinners like tax collectors and prostitutes—would enter the kingdom of God before the religious ones? Pray that God would develop the contacts made at North Hills (Pittsburgh, Pa.) RPC through their summer VBS program. **Pray** for Faughan RPC (Londonderry, Northern Ireland) and its outreach efforts.

Thursday: What was John the Baptist’s message? Read Mark 1:1-8. Pray that God would graciously bless, protect, and inhabit Southfield, Mich., RPC’s public worship services, unto the conversion of lost sinners, the edification of redeemed sinners, and the holiness and comfort of all attending. **Pray** for Selma (Ala.) RPC.

Friday: What is the relationship between repentance and righteousness? Pray for God to raise people to go on short-term trips for RP Missions. **Pray** for Birmingham (Ala.) RPC, for encouragement and growth. **Pray** for Southwest

Ohio RPC (Mason, O.), especially Dr. Dick Knodel and his wife Susan.

Saturday: How should we respond when we see horrible sinners come to faith? Give thanks to God for several members and adherents who travel many miles to worship with Quinter, Kan., RPC. **Pray** for the service at ARPC tomorrow.

Atlanta

Reformed

Presbyterian

Church

The Lord’s Day
December 12, 2021

Meeting every week at
574 Western Avenue
(corner of Western and Walnut Street)

Atlanta, Georgia
Worship at 3:30 PM

Pastor Frank J. Smith, Ph.D., D.D.

franksmith76@gmail.com

https://atlanta-rpc.org

(770)241-3946

Proclaiming the Kingship of Jesus Christ

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions

The Call to Worship Exodus 15:1

*The Invocation

*Psalm 19A “The Spacious Heav’ns Declare the Glory of Our God”

Scripture Reading Exodus 14:19-31

*Psalm 114 “When Israel Was Going Forth From Out of Egypt’s Land”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 105E “He Led His People Forth Enriched”

Scripture Text Psalm 136:1-15

The Sermon “Twenty-Six Reasons for Thanksgiving” (Part 3)

*Prayer

*Psalm 136A [stanzas 1-8] “O Thank the Lord, For Good Is He”

*Benediction

*Psalm 134B

“Bless the Lord, All Servants of the Lord”

** Congregation will please stand.*

We are so glad that you could join us today! Please be sure to return next week and bring a friend.

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions & Answers

“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”—Ephesians 1:22-23. “How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.”—Psalm 84:1-2.

Q₅₀. What is required in the second commandment? A. The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his word.

Q₅₁. What is forbidden in the second commandment? A. The second commandment forbiddeth the worshiping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his word.

Q. 94. What is baptism? A. Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord’s.

For your convenience, a tithe box is located at the back.

“Twenty-Six Reasons for Thanksgiving” (Part 3)

Psalm 136:10-15

The psalmist gives us abundant reason for thanksgiving.

I. Three-fold Summons to Give Thanks (vv. 1-3)

II. God’s Work as Creator (vv. 4-9)

A. Description in general terms

B. Description of the heavens and the heavenly bodies

III. Deliverance from Egypt (vv. 10-15)

- A. To Him that smote Egypt in their first-born
- B. And brought out Israel from among them
- C. With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm
- D. To Him who divided the Red Sea into parts
- E. And made Israel to pass through the midst of it
- F. But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea

Observations

- A. Destruction and salvation go together
- B. We are once again reminded of the fact that thanksgiving is toward the true God

Application—be sure you are in a position to give thanks to God