

Life Sundays Series #1

Respect Life

This series for observing consecutive Life Sundays is designed to call Christians to action. Each theme builds on the previous Sunday. In today's readings, Christ's love motivates us to *respect* life. David shows us that even in a family of friends and foes, loving respect for life should shine—even toward the elderly or disabled. Paul implores us to take care of our bodies (especially sexually, but ultimately in every way). Finally Jesus unwinds with unexpected visitors. In spite of the disciples' attitudes, Jesus shows us that even little children are worthy of respect and have a role in the Savior's kingdom.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful Lord, in love You gave up the life of Your only Son for the sin of all. May His sacrifice for all move our hearts to love You, and to show Your genuine love and respect for those He died to save; through Him who is our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THE WORD

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 9:1-13

In a debt of love David honored his oath to respect the family of Jonathan, his dear friend. The King sees personally to the family of Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son. David's willingness to provide for his physical needs is an encouragement for all of us to care for others.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 100

The Lord is the Creator of all. He has showered His love on all people as demonstrated in the sacrifice of His only Son. Christians respect all people when they share with them the truth of God's Word. It is through that Word that people come to faith. The result is as the Psalmist says, "All the earth may shout for joy to the Lord."

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Respect for life should be shown to all, including babies, elderly, and the disabled. Respect for all human life includes showing respect with one's own life. That is done with a lifestyle cleansed of any sexual immorality.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone. Alleluia. (1 Peter 2:16-17a)

Gospel: Mark 10:13-16

The gospel message is not limited to those who can mentally understand it. Jesus shows here a true love and genuine respect for infants, toddlers, and children—they also are changed by the miracle of faith and bask under the love and attention of their Savior.

HYMN OF THE DAY

[CW] 471—Renew Me, O Eternal Light

469—Take My Life and Let It Be

565—There Still Is Room

454—I Gave My Life for Thee

SUGGESTED SERMON TEXTS

Leviticus 19:32

Isaiah 5:11-17

Hebrews 9:27

Philippians 2:3-4

Galatians 6:10

Matthew 25:31-40