**Devotional Jesus is Greater than Angels March 8, 2020**

**Monday**

Read Matthew 16:24-27

Let’s start with the question that is guiding our week: Is Jesus greater than the tips, tricks, secrets, clickbait, and shortcuts of life? This doesn’t mean you can’t ever get sucked in by clickbait because it’s sinful or something, but what are all those little shortcuts that you look for fulfillment? Are you conditioning yourself to believe just about anything because you can be duped into clicking on (or reading or watching or listening to) just about anything? When do you turn to people or content that promise quick fixes to life’s persistent struggles? Where do you go to find solace?

In fairness, those are a lot of questions. But I bet one stuck. Explore the questions that stick with you. Examine your week as you go through it. A rich life lived with Jesus looks like “Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me” not “Five Secrets to Get Jesus to Love You More.” When are you most tempted to search after the secrets? How can you make Jesus greater this week?

**Tuesday**

Read Hebrews 1:1-14 and see below

Time to workout your fingers flipping through the pages of your Bible (or typing references into your phone). Here are the pertinent references that scripture makes to sons. How is Jesus different than the other sons?

1. angels (Genesis 6:2, 4; Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7; Psalm 29:1, 8)

2. the nation of Israel (Hosea 11:1)

3. the Israeli king (2 Samuel 7:14; Psalm 89:27)

4. the Messiah (Psalm 2:7)

1. at His baptism (Matthew 3:17; Luke 3:22)

2. at the Transfiguration (Mattew 17:5; Mark 9:7)

3. at the Resurrection (Acts 13:33; Romans 1:4)

**Wednesday**

Read Hebrews 1:1-14

The preacher of Hebrews wants you to know that Jesus is the greatest. He hits his hearers with a lot of scripture references in a short amount of space! It is impressive and yet this sort of Bible mastery often seems out of our grasp. However, I doubt he worked so hard to study the scriptures so that people would be impressed with how much of the Bible he knew. He wanted to be closer to Jesus and to serve Jesus. When you study scripture, worship, participate in Sunday School, minister through the church and in the community, etc., it should be in an effort to be closer to Jesus and to serve Jesus. How could your perspective and habits with studying scripture change so that you were getting closer to Jesus? (If you could use a new way to study scripture, I would highly suggest you join our prayer gatherings on March 17!)

**Thursday**

Read Philippians 2:5-8

As we find ourselves in the Lenten season, this is a solid passage to remind ourselves of this great Jesus’ great sacrifice on behalf of us and the world.

“People who want a real relationship with God must stoop from sorrow and be penitent during their time spent on earth. Those who are pure and who love God in absolute loyalty are much oppressed and suffer much holy sorrow. With their ever-available loving hearts, they bow before God and bend down under all this pain and are lower than all the other creatures on earth. Pride is rare among them.” – Mechthild of Maddeburg

**Friday**

As we prepare for our worship together this Sunday, please read and reflect upon Deuteronomy 21:22-23 and Hebrews 3:1-19 and pray for our dear brother in Christ, Brent Showalter, who will be preaching this Sunday.