

PARABLES OF

JESUS

12 - WEEK DEVOTION
THE KINGDOM PARABLES
MATTHEW 13

By Dr. Steven L. Jones & Claire Mummert

The Parables of Jesus

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Monday, June 1

Family History

READ: Matthew 1:1-17

THINK:

- Matthew starts his gospel out with the family tree of Jesus. It's sometimes boring to us but read over it. See if you spot people whose name and story you remember. All of the events of these people's lives were part of a larger story that was coming true in Jesus.
- Who are some of the people that you recognize? Was the story of their life good, bad, or a mix?
- What does it say about God's ability to use anybody and redeem any situation that so many people with questionable stories were used by Him to bring about the Incarnation?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He sent His Son.
 - Thank God that He can use anybody.
 - Thank God that He can redeem any situation.
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Tuesday, June 2

Change of Plans

READ: Matthew 1:18-2:12

THINK:

- How did God interrupt the lives of Joseph, Mary, Herod, and the Wise Men? How did each respond?
- How do you respond when God changes the plans you made for yourself?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He has a plan for your life.
- Ask God for grace to accept His plan when it differs from yours.



Wednesday, June 3
Fleeing from Evil Men

READ: Matthew 2:13-23

THINK:

- How did God protect and guide Joseph, Mary, and Jesus?
- What are your thoughts about how Herod acted toward the children of Bethlehem?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He leads and guides us.
- Thank God that the acts of evil men don't ruin God's plans.



Thursday, June 9
Father and Son

READ: Matthew 3:1-17

THINK:

- What does it mean to repent?
- What does it mean to make the way of the Lord straight?
- What does God the Father say to Jesus after His baptism? What does this show us about how to be a father?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He never leaves us in sin but calls us back.
- Ask God to show you the ways you need to change your mind and actions to follow Him better.



Friday, June 5

The Temptations of Jesus

READ: Matthew 4:1-25 & Hebrews 4:14-16

THINK:

- Why does it matter that Jesus was tempted?
- When was Jesus tempted? What was Jesus offered to tempt Him?
- What things are you tempted by? When are you most susceptible to temptation?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He knows what we are going through.
- Ask God to protect you from temptation.
- Ask God for mercy for when you fail and grace to help you endure temptation.

Monday, June 8

The Beatitudes

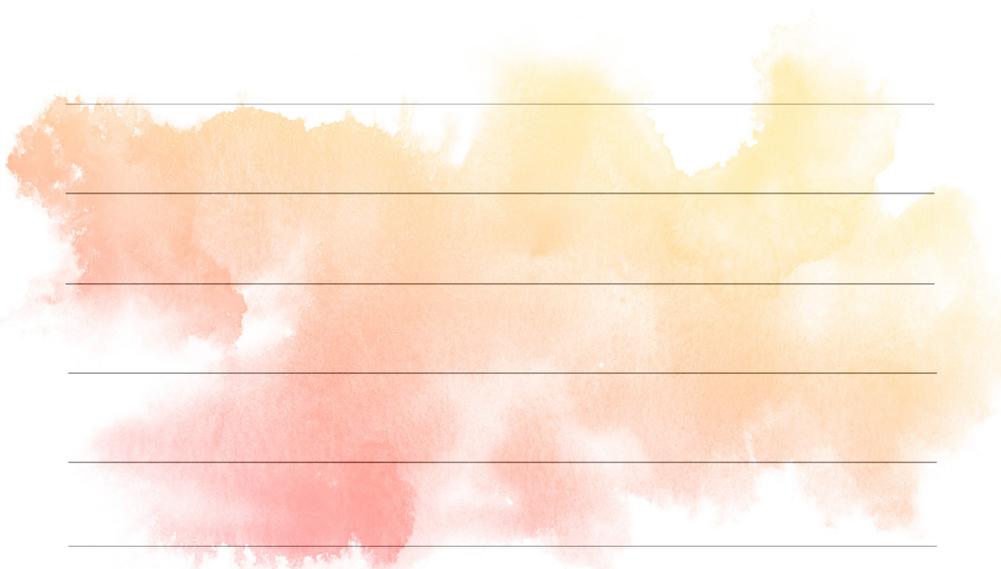
READ: Matthew 5:1-12

THINK:

- What does it mean to be blessed?
- Which of these beatitudes do you find the most comforting?
Which of these beatitudes do you find the most difficult?
- What does this passage tell us about the Kingdom of Heaven?

PRAY:

- Thank God for His many blessings.
- Ask God where you need to be humbled.



Tuesday, June 9
The Spirit of the Law

READ: Matthew 5:13-37

THINK:

- What does Jesus reference when He says, “You have heard it said...”?
- Is Jesus getting rid of The Law?
- How do we see Jesus teaching people the spirit of The Law or teaching the intention behind The Law?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He knows our hearts and can speak to the truth He sees there.
- Ask God to reveal where you turn to checking the box of the rule and where you need help to see the real spirit of it.
- Ask God to help you seek to see the world like Him.



Wednesday, June 10

Love the Unlovable

READ: Matthew 5:38-6:4 and John 15:10-12

THINK:

- Why is it difficult to forgive those who have wronged us?
- How does Jesus offer us an example of how to forgive in even the most impossible circumstances?
- How is forgiveness related to a giving heart at the beginning of Matthew 6?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He is in charge of justice.
- Ask God to protect you from the desire to retaliate.
- Ask God to give you a heart full of compassion and a desire to give.



Thursday, June 11
The Lord's Prayer

READ: Matthew 6:5-15

THINK:

- Why are we tempted to make a production of our prayers?
- What does it mean for God's kingdom to come on Earth as it is in Heaven?
- What do you consider your daily bread?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He hears us when we speak to Him.
- Ask God to help you speak to Him from a genuine place.
- Ask God to help us want to talk to Him and to go to Him in good times or bad.

Friday, June 12

Seeking the Right Approval

READ: Matthew 6:16-34

THINK:

- Is the purpose of this section to keep fasting a secret? If not, why does Jesus mention keeping it a secret.
- Where is your treasure? Where do you put your time, attention, focus, money, etc.?
- Why will our anxieties lessen if we seek first the kingdom of God?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He has provided and will continue to provide.
 - Ask God to protect you from the need to get approval from others rather than Him.
 - Ask God to help you keep everything in its right priority in your life.
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Monday, June 15
Enter by the Narrow Gate

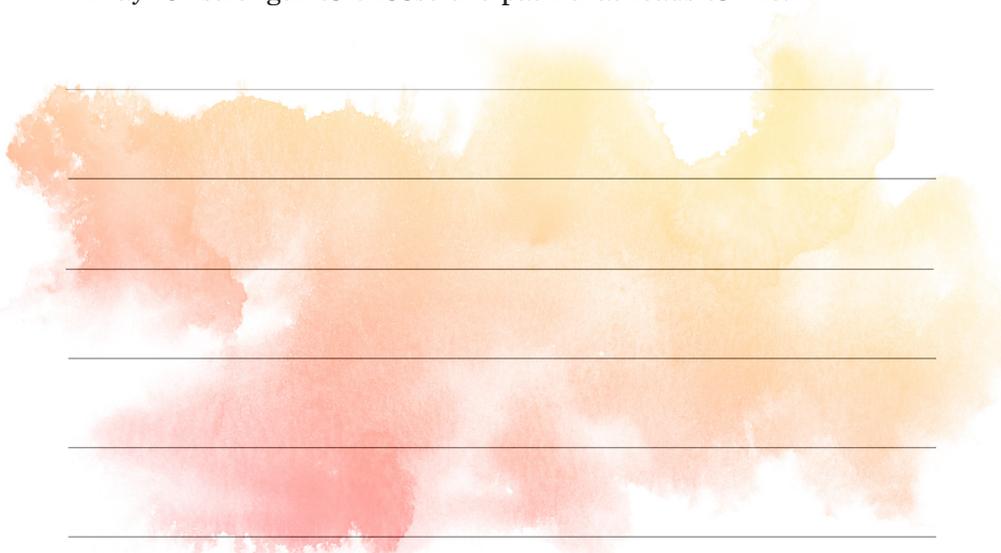
READ: MATTHEW 7:1-20

THINK:

- What does it mean not to judge?
- What does it mean not to cast your pearls before swine?
- What does it mean that God knows how to give good gifts to His children?
- How do we enter by the narrow gate? What is the broad path? How do we know which path we are on?

PRAY:

- Ask God for help in not judging.
- Thank God for being a good Father.
- Pray for strength to choose the path that leads to life.



Tuesday, June 16

Two Foundations

READ: MATTHEW 7:21-8:13

THINK:

- What does it mean to build our lives on the teachings of Jesus?
- What does He promise will be the result?
- What other foundations do we try to build our lives on?
- What is so great about the centurion's faith?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you what foundations you are building your life on.
- Ask for grace to hear the words of Jesus and act on them.



Wednesday, June 17
Save Us, Lord: We are Perishing...

READ: Matthew 8:14-34

THINK:

- What is Jesus teaching us about the nature of following Him?
- What does Jesus calming the sea show us?
- The people were more upset about dead pigs than the man freed from demon possession. How do we act similarly?

PRAY:

- Ask for strength to choose to follow Jesus even when it's hard.
- Thank God for the power He has to calm storms and free us from what enslaves us.
- Tell Him the areas of your life where you most need Him to demonstrate His power.

Thursday, June 18
The Son of Man Has Authority

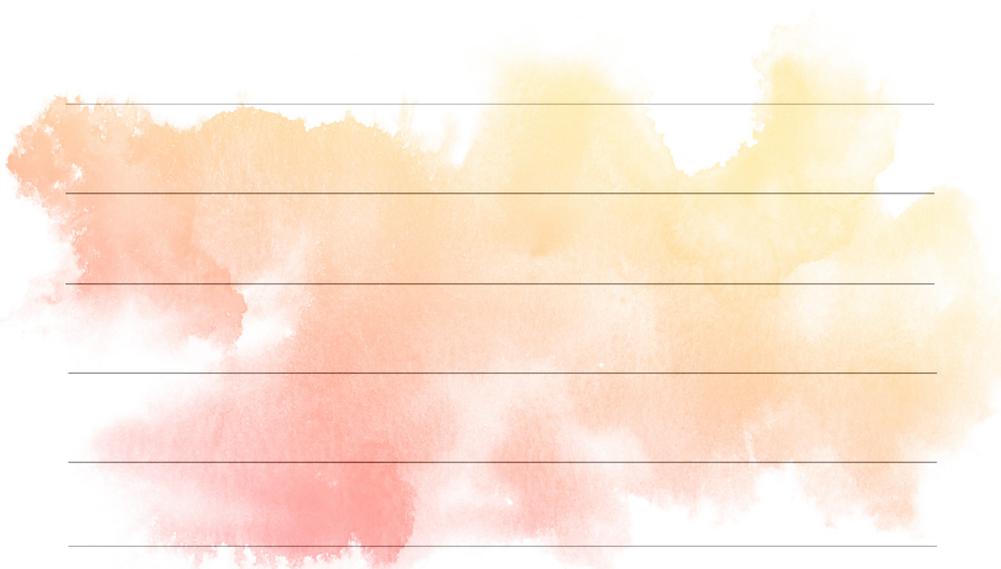
READ: Matthew 9:1-13

THINK:

- What does Jesus do first instead of healing the paralytic?
- What does Jesus use His healing to demonstrate?
- How does verse 13 apply to you?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you the areas of your life where you don't recognize His authority.
- Ask for help in showing compassion to others.



Friday, June 19

Take Courage

READ: Matthew 9:14-34

THINK:

- What does it mean to try to put new wine into old wineskins?
How do we try to do it with our lives?
- Which of these healings of Jesus stands out the most to you?
- How do the Pharisees respond to Jesus healing people?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you are trying to cram Him into your life.
- Thank God that He heals. Ask Him to work in some area of your life.
- Ask God to show you where your heart is hardened like the Pharisees. Ask for grace to soften it.

Monday, June 22
The Son of Man Has Authority

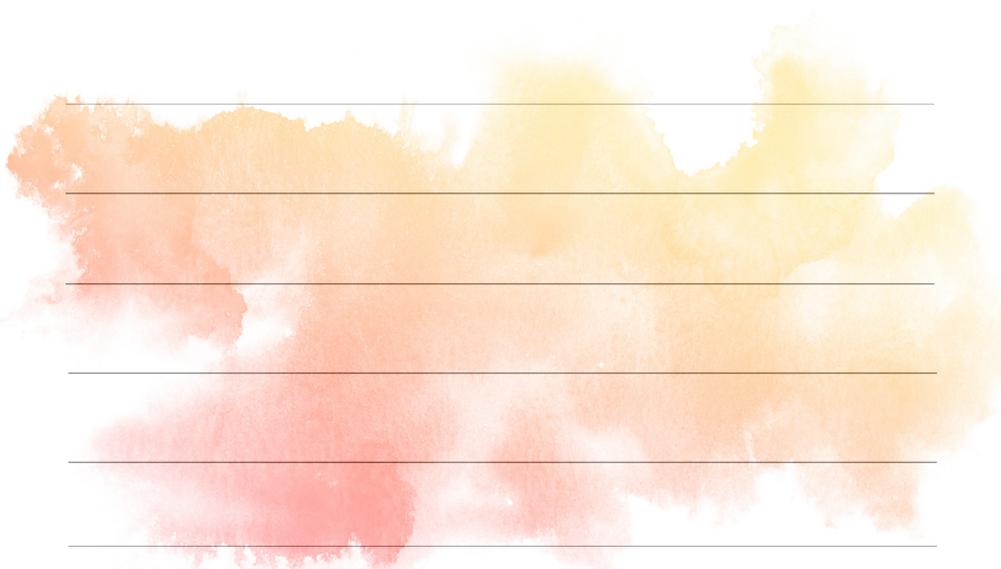
READ: Matthew 9:35-10:15

THINK:

- What are ways we can see the world and have compassion like Jesus?
- Do you see yourself as sent out?
- What are the places included for you when it says to “proclaim as you go”?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He has put you in this place on purpose.
- Ask God to show you the harvest He has placed around you.
- Ask God for compassion for the world.



Tuesday, June 23
Have No Fear

READ: Matthew 9:14-34

THINK:

- Why does it matter that it is not you who speaks, but the Spirit of God through you?
- Why do you fear the ridicule and pain of the world?
- What are the things that keep you from proclaiming the Gospel with boldness?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He went before you.
- Ask God to help you to have boldness.

Wednesday, June 29
The Cost of Discipleship

READ: MATTHEW 10:34-42 AND LUKE 14:26-27

THINK:

- Does Jesus really want you to hate your family or fight with them?
- What are the things you see yourself putting in place of God?
- What does it mean to lose your life for the sake of Christ?

PRAY:

- Thank God for bringing true life.
- Ask God to help you to pursue Him over the world.
- Ask God to help you seek only His reward.



Thursday, June 25

The Harvest

READ: Matthew 11:1-19

THINK:

- John the Baptist had doubts and He took His doubts to Jesus. What did Jesus give him when he had doubts?
- Have you ever had doubts?
- What are the truths/promises you can go to when you have doubts?

PRAY:

- Thank God for being able to handle our doubts.
- Ask God to remind you of His promises in those times.

Friday, June 26

Rest

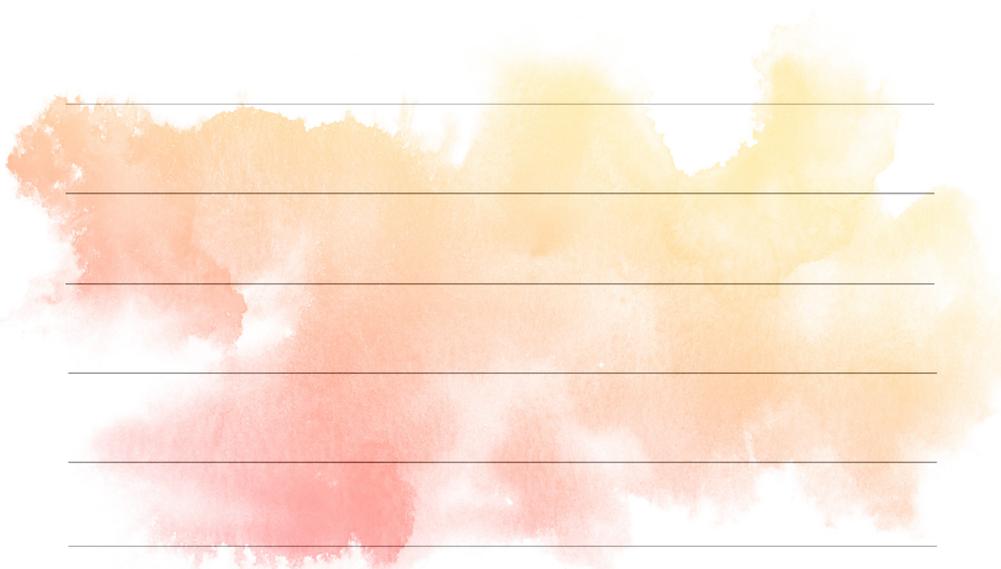
READ: Matthew 11:20-12:14 and Mark 2:27-28

THINK:

- What does it mean for the yoke of Jesus to be easy?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord of the Sabbath?
- How does doing the good that Jesus did relate to the intention of Sabbath rest?

PRAY:

- Thank God that in Jesus we have true rest.
- Ask God to show you how to find physical rest, but more importantly, how to find spiritual rest.



Monday, June 29

That Which Fills the Heart

READ: Matthew 12:15-37

THINK:

- What does verse 15 mean? Who is trying to destroy Jesus? Why?
- What does verse 28 mean? How do we sometimes refuse to acknowledge the work of God in our lives?
- How do words reveal what is in our heart?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you the ways you refuse to let Him work in your life.
- Ask God to show you how your words reveal what is in your heart.
- Ask for His helping in changing your heart

Tuesday, June 30
The Sign of Jonah

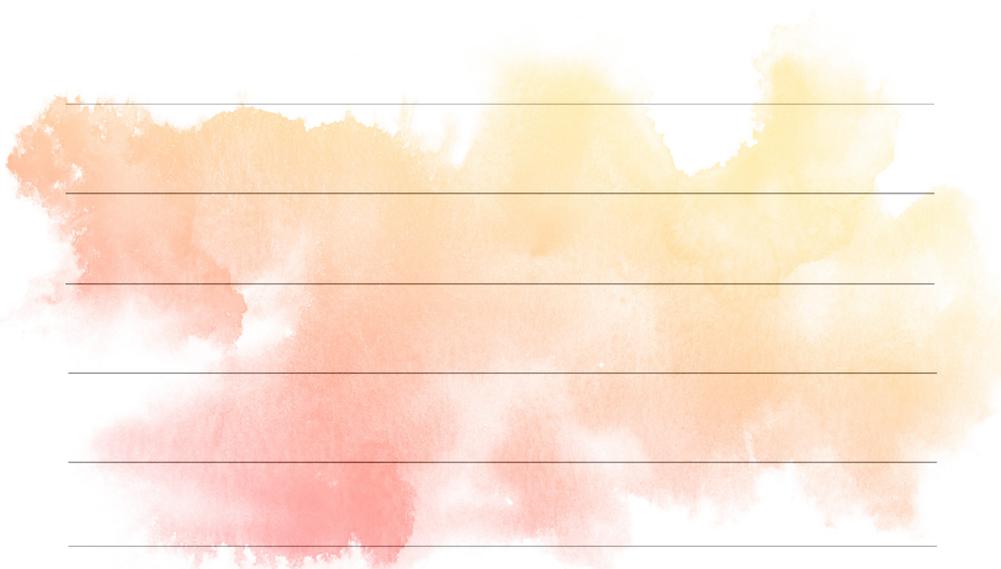
READ: Matthew 12:38-13:9

THINK:

- Why do we ask for signs? Why does Jesus refuse to give them? What is the sign of Jonah?
- What do you think verses 43-45 mean?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you are reluctant to respond to His words.
- Ask Him not just to cast out the bad in your life, but also to fill your life with His goodness.



Wednesday, July 1

Four Soils/Souls

READ: Matthew 13:10-23

THINK:

- Why does Jesus teach in parables?
- What does each soil represent? Which soil most resembles you?
- How can we make ourselves fruitful soil?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you the things in your life that compete with His Word and make it unfruitful.



Thursday, July 2

Wheat, Weeds, Mustard Seed, and Leaven

READ: Matthew 13:24-43

THINK:

- What does the parable of the wheat and the weeds teach us about the kingdom of heaven?
- What does the parable of the mustard seed teach us about the kingdom of Heaven?
- How does the parable of the leaven teach us about the kingdom of heaven?

PRAY:

- Thank God that His kingdom offers refuge.
- Thank God that His kingdom can transform us.
- Ask for patience as we wait for Him to do His work in us.



Friday, July 3
From Joy Over It

READ: Matthew 13:44-58

THINK:

- What does the parable of the hidden treasure teach us about the kingdom of heaven?
- What does the parable of the costly pearl teach us about the kingdom of heaven?
- What does the parable of the dragnet teach us about the kingdom of Heaven?

PRAY:

- Thank God that His kingdom is a hidden treasure.
- Pray for the strength to cast aside everything else that competes with His kingdom.
- Pray that He would fill your life with joy.



Monday, July 6

He Had Compassion

READ: Matthew 14:1-21

THINK:

- Jesus was sad and wanted to be alone, but the crowds followed Him. What was His response?
- What does it look to have compassion even when you are exhausted or beaten down? Is this easy or hard?
- Jesus not only had compassion for the people, but He acted on that feeling. How can you show compassion to people around you?

PRAY:

- Thank God for His compassion toward you.
 - Ask God to give you opportunities to show compassion to those around you.
 - Ask God to help you see those around you who are in need.
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Tuesday, July 7

Little Faith

READ: Matthew 14:22-15:9

THINK:

- What made Peter sink under the water?
- Peter got distracted by the wind and the waves instead of focusing on Jesus. What are the wind and waves in your life that take your eyes off Jesus?
- Jesus commanded Peter to come even though it seemed like an impossible task. What is Jesus asking you to do in faith?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He never leaves our side even when it's difficult.
- Ask God to help you to focus on Him and not get distracted.
- Ask God for faith to step out of your comfort zone when He asks that of you.

Wednesday, July 8

The Truth of the Heart

READ: 15:10-28

THINK:

- What are the things in your heart that are evidenced by your words and actions?
- The woman whose daughter was sick had faith. Her heart was true and that showed in her actions toward Jesus. What do you do in times of hardship?
- How can you surrender and let God change your heart rather than trying harder to fix your behavior?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He wants to transform our heart and that He loves us even when we make mistakes.
- Ask God to show you the places you need to surrender.

Thursday, July 9

Show Us A Sign

READ: 15:29-16:4

THINK:

- Jesus' disciples are still not sure of Jesus' power even though He has performed this miracle before. What are the ways that we doubt Jesus even when He has provided in the past?
- Jesus did lots of incredible signs and wonders, but the Pharisees still want Him to prove Himself. What are the ways we ask Jesus to prove Himself to us?
- It is hard to have faith, especially when times are hard or doubt creeps in. How can you encourage others around you with truth in the same way you remind yourself of truth?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He is patient with us even when we struggle with the same things over and over.
 - Ask God to remind you of the times He has been faithful.
 - Ask God to bring Scripture to your mind that speaks of His promises.
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Friday, July 10

Peter's Confession

READ: Matthew 16:5-23

THINK:

- Peter shows great faith and boldness when he confesses that Jesus is the Christ. Do you feel bold enough to confess this same truth to those closest to you? Why or why not?
- In the next breath, Peter is condemned because he defies what Jesus says about His death. Why did Peter want to keep Jesus from His fate?
- Boldness can be used for good but can also lead to rash decisions. How can you rest in God, asking Him to show you when to speak up and when to wait?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He is the source of truth.
 - Ask God to show you opportunities to speak out and to give you wisdom.
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Monday, July 13
Take Up Your Cross

READ: Matthew 16:24-27

THINK:

- What does it mean to deny yourself?
- What does it mean to take up your cross?
- Why are these requirements for following Jesus?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you do not deny yourself.
- Ask Him to show you all the things you are seeking instead of Jesus.
- Ask for strength to follow Jesus single-mindedly.

Tuesday, July 19
He Was Transfigured Before Them

READ: Matthew 16:28-17:23

THINK:

- What happened at the “transfiguration?”
- Why do you think this happened?
- What did Jesus want His disciples to learn?

PRAY:

- Thank God for sending His Son.
- Ask for forgiveness for the times you forget who He really is.
- Ask for grace to see God more clearly.



Wednesday, July 15

Greatest in the Kingdom

READ: Matthew 17:24-18:14 and James 4:7-10

THINK:

- Why are we always trying to figure out who is the greatest?
- What does it mean to humble yourself as a child?
- How do we cause others to stumble?
- What do verses 12-14 mean?

PRAY:

- Ask God to help you to be humble.
- Ask God to show you how you might cause others to stumble.

Thursday, July 16

Seventy Times Seven

READ: Matthew 18:15-35

THINK:

- What does this passage teach us about how to resolve conflict?
- Why is it hard to forgive others?
- What does the parable teach us about why we find it hard to forgive others?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you areas of unforgiveness in your heart.
- Ask God to show you the depth of His love and forgiveness for you.
- Ask Him for the strength to show similar love and forgiveness to others.

Friday, July 17

God's Ideal

READ: Matthew 19:1-30

THINK:

- What does this passage tell us is God's ideal for marriage?
- How does society distort this ideal?
- Why does Jesus tell the rich young ruler to sell everything?
- What would He tell you to give up that is hindering you from following Him?

PRAY:

- Ask God to bless and protect your home and family.
- Ask God to show you the things that are getting in the way of you following Jesus.
- Ask for strength in letting it go.

Monday, July 20
Laborers in the Vineyard

READ: Matthew 20:1-16

THINK:

- What is the difference between the agreements the landowner makes with the first and last workers he hires?
- Have you ever felt like the first workers?
- What's the point of the parable?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you act like the first workers.
- Ask God to show you how you are more like the last workers.
- Praise God for His generosity.



Tuesday, July 21
The Greatest Shall Be Your Servant

READ: Matthew 20:17-34

THINK:

- How do we seek to exalt ourselves like the disciples?
- Why do you try to do this?
- What does it mean to be the servant of others?
- In verse 32, what does Jesus ask the blind man? How would you respond?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you are motivated by a desire to exalt yourself.
- Ask for grace to be humble and serve others.

Wednesday, July 22

The Triumphal Entry

READ: MATTHEW 21:1-17

THINK:

- These same people who celebrated Jesus turned on Him a week later. Why do you think they did that?
- Why was Jesus mad about what was going on in the temple?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you sometimes get excited about Him then turn cold.



Thursday, July 23

By What Authority

READ: Matthew 21:18-27 and Revelation 3:1-6

THINK:

- Jesus curses a fig tree for looking alive but not producing any fruit. How are we sometimes like that?
- What is the challenging part about verse 22? How can we learn to pray in faith?
- How do we sometimes challenge the authority of Jesus? How can we learn to live in obedience to Him?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you are a barren fig tree.
- Ask God to produce fruit in your life.
- Ask God for courage to pray boldly in faith.

Friday, July 29
A Man Had Two Sons

READ: MATTHEW 21:28-46 AND JAMES 1:22-25

THINK:

- What is Jesus trying to tell the Pharisees about how He sees the sinners of the world?
- What does the parable of the landowner mean?
- What does it mean that Jesus is “the stone which the builder rejected?”

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you have become just a hearer of the world instead of a doer.
- Praise God that He uses rejected stones to build His Kingdom.

Monday, July 27

A Wedding Feast

READ: Matthew 22:1-14

THINK:

- What does it mean that no one wanted to come to the king's feast?
- What does it mean that everyone was invited?
- What does it mean that a man without wedding clothes was cast out?

PRAY:

- Thank God for His invitation to His kingdom.
- Ask God for forgiveness for the times you have refused His invitation.

Tuesday, July 28
Whose Likeness Is On It

READ: MATTHEW 22:15-33

THINK:

- What does verse 21 mean? What has God's image on it?
- How do we give to "Caesar" the things that belong to God?
- The Sadducees try to make Jesus look stupid in verses 23-33. He tells them they are arrogant but mistaken. How are we sometimes like this?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you don't give God what is His.
- Ask God to show you how you are mistaken.



Wednesday, July 29

What Is the Greatest Commandment?

READ: Matthew 22:34-46

THINK:

- What is the greatest commandment?
- What does it mean to love God with your whole heart, soul, and mind?
- What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? Why do you love yourself?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you don't love Him completely.
- Ask God for opportunities to show love to your neighbor.

Thursday, July 30

Whoever Exalts Himself Will Be Humbled

READ: MATTHEW 23:1-22

THINK:

- What is the problem that Jesus has with the Pharisees?
- How do those problems manifest themselves today?
- What do verses 11-12 mean?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you sometimes act like a Pharisee.
- Ask God to show you how you sometimes try to exalt yourself.
- Ask for grace to choose humility.



Friday, July 31

Woe to You, Hypocrites

READ: Matthew 23:23-36

THINK:

- What are the weightier provisions of the law? How do we neglect them by focusing on the wrong thing?
- What does it mean that Jesus calls them whitewashed tombs? How does that apply to us today?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you focus on what doesn't matter and miss the important stuff.
- Ask God to show you how you put up a good façade but are different on the inside.

Monday, August 3

When Will These Things Be

READ: MATTHEW 23:37-24:14

THINK:

- Look closely at verse 3. What are the three questions Jesus is answering?
- How do we sometimes misread this passage? Put yourself in the disciples' shoes. What hope and truth would they have taken from Jesus's words?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He has a plan.
- Ask God for humility to trust Him and not to think we have everything figured out.



Tuesday, August 9
The Son of Man Coming

READ: Matthew 24:15-31

THINK:

- What hope do you derive from this passage?
- What is hard for you to understand in this passage?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He is victorious in the end.
- Ask God for strength to focus on faithfully serving Him.

Wednesday, August 5

You Must Be Ready

READ: MATTHEW 24:32-51

THINK:

- We sometimes try to figure out all the details of Christ's return. He specifically says not to but instead to focus on being faithful. What does verse 45-46 mean?
- How can we learn to live this way?

PRAY:

- Thank God that Jesus is going to return one day.
- Pray for faithfulness that you will be found an obedient servant when He returns.



Thursday, August 6

Parable of the Ten Virgins

READ: Matthew 25:1-12

THINK:

- In the context of the return of Jesus, what is the meaning of this parable?
- What does it mean to be prudent and foolish?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you the ways you behave foolishly.
- Ask God for wisdom to be prudent.



Friday, August 7

Parable of the Talents

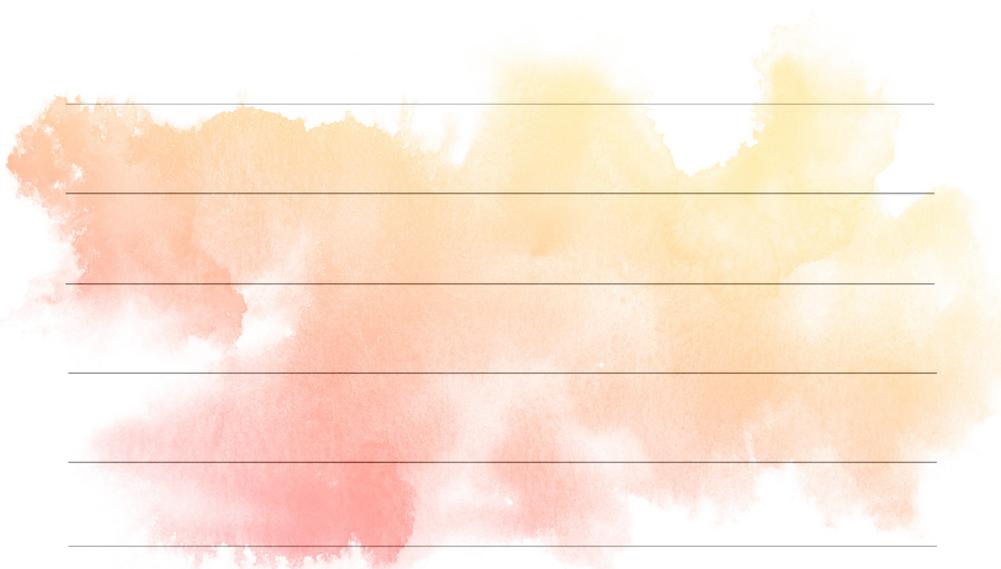
READ: MATTHEW 25:14-30

THINK:

- Why does the third servant get in trouble?
- How can we learn to invest the talents God has given us to bear fruit?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you might be burying your talents and not using them.
- Ask God to bless your talents so that you can bear fruit for Him.



Monday, August 10

The Least of These

READ: Matthew 25:31-46

THINK:

- What is the reason the king either welcomes or dismisses people in his kingdom?
- Who are “the least of these” in our society?
- What reasons do we give for not serving them?

PRAY:

- Ask God to help you see that you are serving Jesus no matter where you go.
- Ask God to help you not to overlook “the least of these.”

Tuesday, August 11
Extravagant Worship

READ: MATTHEW 26:1-16

THINK:

- What seems wasteful about this?
- Why do the disciples blame her?
- Why does Jesus praise her?
- How does this relate to our worship of Jesus?

PRAY:

- Ask God to show you how you are like the disciples.
- Ask God for help in worshipping Him in a costly, sacrificially, joyful way.



Wednesday, August 12

The Meal Jesus Gave Us

READ: Matthew 26:17-35 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

THINK:

- Imagine being there that first night. How would you react hearing Jesus telling them all the things that were about to happen both to Him and to them?
- What do the bread and cup represent in the Lord's Supper?
- How do we sometimes deemphasize the importance of the Lord Supper in our worship?

PRAY:

- Thank God for sending Jesus to begin a new covenant with us.
 - Thank God for Jesus dying on the cross.
 - Thank God for Jesus rising again.
 - Thank God for Jesus coming again one day.
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Thursday, August 13

The Garden of Gethsemane

READ: MATTHEW 26:36-56

THINK:

- What was the state of Jesus's soul when He went to the garden?
- What does Jesus ask God the Father to do?
- What does Jesus finally decide?
- What does this episode show us about Jesus, God, and even us?

PRAY:

- Thank God for the fact that Jesus was willing to go to the cross for us.
- Ask for grace to help you endure the hard things that are a part of God's will.

Friday, August 19

Jesus Tried and Denied

READ: Matthew 26:57-75 and John 21:15-17

THINK:

- What is your response to the false trial and ill treatment that Jesus received?
- What is your response to Peter's Denial of Jesus?
- What difference does it make that Jesus knew Peter would deny Him? Read John 21:15-17. How does Jesus restore Peter?
- How do we deny Jesus in our lives?

PRAY:

- Thank God for all that Jesus endured on our behalf.
- Ask forgiveness for the times you have denied Jesus.
- Thank God that even when we fail Him, He is always faithful to us and restores us.

Monday, August 17

Two Kinds of Sorrow

READ: MATTHEW 27:1-10 AND 2 CORINTHIANS 7:5-12

THINK:

- What does Paul say in 2 Corinthians about the difference between Godly sorrow and sorrow of the world?
- What is the difference between how Peter and Judas respond to their denials of Jesus?
- How can we learn to be like Peter instead of Judas?

PRAY:

- Thank God that He offers forgiveness and gives opportunity to repent.
- Pray that you would be sorrowful for your sin, but like Peter, a Godly sorrow that leads to life.

Tuesday, August 18
Jesus Before Pilate

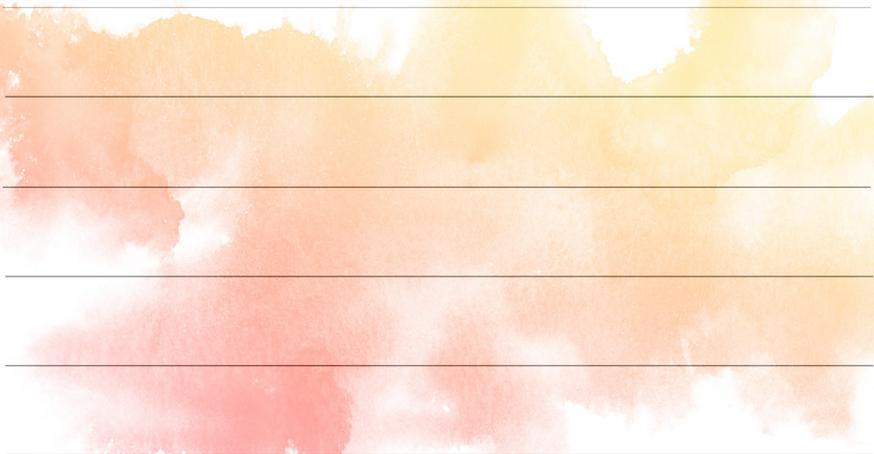
READ: Matthew 27:11-31

THINK:

- Why do you think the Jews wanted Barabbas to be released instead of Jesus?
- Why do you think Pilate was unwilling to free Jesus even though he knew that He was innocent?
- How do we sometimes act like Pilate, knowing the right thing to do but unable to do it?

PRAY:

- Ask God for wisdom to know the right thing to do.
- Pray for strength to do the right thing even when it is hard.



Wednesday, August 19

Jesus on the Cross

READ: MATTHEW 27:32-61 AND PSALM 22

THINK:

- Jesus quotes the first line of Psalm 22 from the cross. Read Psalm 22 and ask yourself why this would be a Psalm on Jesus's mind at this point.

PRAY:

- Thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.
- Ask God to help you fully understand what Jesus went through on the cross.



Thursday, August 20

Jesus is Risen

READ:
Matthew 27:62-28:15 and
Romans 8:11 and Revelation 1:17-18

THINK:

- What is the difference between the response of the woman and the priests?
- What keeps some people from believing in the resurrection even though presented with evidence?

PRAY:

- Praise God for raising Jesus from the dead.
- Ask God for strength to live each day in the power of the resurrection.

Friday, August 21

The Great Commission

READ: MATTHEW 28:16-20

THINK:

- Jesus says that the resurrection gave Him authority. Based on that authority, He gives us a commission. What are the three parts of that commission?
- What is the final promise that Jesus gives His followers?

PRAY:

- Thank God for including you in His Kingdom.
- Ask God to show you how He wants you to live out the great commission.