

**A TIME W/ OUR  
HEAVENLY FATHER!**  
**(A Daily Devotion on the  
Gospels)**

**By Pastor Valentino P. Natcher**

**FILIPINO BIBLE CHURCH  
3340 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99502  
Tel. 243-9407 / E-Mail: [mail@filipinobible.org](mailto:mail@filipinobible.org)**

# **THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

**Jesus is the Messiah,  
Our Savior!**

**WHY JESUS WAS BORN!**

Matthew 1 records the genealogy of Jesus in the flesh. Matthew traces Jesus' origin from Abraham and David, and then tells us the reason why He was born – to “save His people from their sin” (v. 21).

***1) Jesus' genealogy traces his origin to Abraham. Matthew teaches us the faithfulness of the Lord for Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ promised to Abraham by the Lord.***

Writing to mainly Jewish hearers, Matthew traces Jesus' origin through Abraham and David. This was significant because the Lord promised Abraham that his “seed” will greatly increase in number (Gen. 12:1-3) and He promised David that one of his sons will establish God's kingdom forever (2 Sam. 7:12, 13). Indeed, Matthew is pointing out to us the faithfulness of the Lord and His promise to Abraham and Israel of a Messiah.

***2) Jesus' genealogy teaches us the AMAZING GRACE and FAITHFULNESS of the Lord our God by providing us, His people with a Savior.***

Observe that Matthew mentioned several women in Jesus' genealogy whose majority were not Hebrews and of questionable character. They were: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Uriah's wife or Bathsheba, and Mary. This teaches us the amazing grace and love of the Lord for sinners like us. This tells us also that God's plan from the very beginning was to include other nations in His plan of salvation. The Lord divinely and sovereignly orchestrated our salvation and even used angels to accomplish His will. Indeed, Jesus was sent by the Father in order to ***“save His people from their sins”*** (v. 21).

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord our God is a FAITHFUL & TRUE GOD. He is dependable and powerful and will accomplish His will and purposes in this world and in our life.***

***2) The Lord our God is a GRACIOUS & LOVING GOD! His will is to save a world of sinners; not just the Jews but all those who will place their trust in His Jesus as their Savior!***

## **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are our FAITHFUL & SOVEREIGN GOD! You promised to give us a Savior and You gave us Jesus. You are GRACIOUS & MERCIFUL. You are not a respecter of person. You had mercy on sinners like me and called us by Your Gospel. Thank You for Jesus who is my Savior. All these I pray in His Name. AMEN!”***

**WISE MEN VISIT BABY JESUS!**

Matthew 2 tells us of the visit of the Magi or Wise Men to Baby Jesus in Jerusalem. They came with a definite purpose and that is to “worship the newly born King of the Jews.” And in spite of the apathy and reluctance of the Jews to their mission, they proceeded to look for the Child and found Him. Upon seeing Him, they presented Him with gifts and worship Him.

***1) The Magi or Wise Men came from the east and looked for the Baby Jesus!***

Bible Scholars says that these “magi” were actually royal advisers to the king and were expert in the field of astrology, science, and other fields. Most probably these Wise Men came from Babylon at that time where after the exile many influential Jews stayed and lived (like Daniel and his friends). Perhaps, influenced by Jews like Daniel, they became worshipers of the Lord and learned of the prophecy about the coming Messiah. Prompted by the Star of Bethlehem, they travelled long and hard to find the newly born King of the Jews (v. 2).

***2) The Magi or Wise Men gave precious gifts and worshiped the Baby Jesus!***

While the religious leaders and authorities of Jerusalem were oblivious of Jesus’ birth and fulfilment of the Scriptures about the Messiah (Micah 5:2), these Wise Men were determined to locate the Baby Jesus. Herod, in pretense, encouraged them to seek for the Child and inform them later of His where about. Finally, after locating the Baby Jesus, they presented Him with precious gifts and worshiped Him.

**3) *The Magi or Wise Men were warned by the Lord not to disclose where the Baby Jesus was.***

Warned in a dream by the Lord, they changed their route going back to where they came to protect the Child King from Herod's evil plot. Upon learning of the Wise Men's action, Herod was furious and ordered the massacre of children who were 2 years old and under in and around Jerusalem. Meanwhile, the Lord also warned Joseph and Mary, in a dream, to flee to Egypt and hid the Child. Then, later they returned to Israel and settled in Nazareth.

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *SEEK THE SAVIOR & TAKE NO REST UNTIL WE FIND HIM & WORSHIP HIM. Like the Wise Men, let us seek the Lord Jesus until we find Him and fully give Him the honor and worship that He rightly deserved.***

**2) *KNOW GOD'S WORD & TAKE HEED TO WHAT IT SAYS. A truly wise person is not just a hearer of God's Word but a DOER! The Wise Men upon learning God's Word, obey God's leading.***

**4) *FEAR THE LORD & YOU WILL FEAR NO ONE OR NOTHING ELSE! Like the Wise Men who did not love their live but risked them for the sake of Jesus' safety, we are to live fearlessly for our Lord Jesus.***

**PRAYER:**

***"Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are our WISE & LOVING GOD! Indeed, mold me to be the WISE BELIEVER that You desire me to be. Make me wise and give me spiritual insights in order to make Christ-exalting decisions and choices in my life. Lord, make me to fear You and obey Your Word faithfully. All these I pray in Jesus' Name. AMEN!"***

**THE BAPTISM OF JOHN & JESUS**

Matthew 3 records the baptism done by John the Baptist and his baptism of Jesus. Upon seeing Jesus, John knew He was the Messiah and told him that he was not worthy to baptize Jesus. But our Lord Jesus insisted that they had to do it “for righteousness’s sake.”

***1) John’s baptism teaches us the value of the spirit rather than the form in religious rituals.***

John made it clear that he was not the Messiah or the Christ but the One who “prepares the way for the Lord...” (v. 3). His baptism is symbolic. It should prepare them to the coming of the Messiah even Jesus who will baptize them with the Holy Spirit and fire (vv. 11-12). His baptism was for repentance; that is, for the people to humble their hearts and repent of their sins and “produce fruit in keeping with repentance” (v. 8). It should prepare them to receive Jesus as their Savior and King.

***2) Jesus’ baptism teaches us total obedience and submission to the Father’s will!***

On the other hand, our Lord Jesus teaches us the need and value of total obedience and submission to the Lord’s will. Even though our Lord was much greater than John the Baptist, yet He let John baptized him “for righteousness’ sake,” that is, in obedience to the Father’s will and plan (v. 15). Observe also how the heaven opened and rejoiced on Jesus’ baptism. Particularly, the Father was pleased and affirmed Jesus as His Son, the Messiah whom He sent in order to save His people. But not only that the Father was pleased with Him; the Holy Spirit came to dwell in Him. He was anointed and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and thus, He began His earthly ministry!

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord our God DESIRES our HEART! More than our rituals or 'doing things' for Him, He wants our HEART to be fully devoted and yielded to Him!**

**2) The Lord our God DELIGHTS in TOTAL OBEDIENCE & SUBMISSION! He wants our TOTAL DEVOTION & LOVE because He as our FATHER wants to bless us with AFFIRMATION & POWER!**

## **PRAYER:**

***"Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are our FAITHFUL & LOVING FATHER! You desire not performance but our HEART to be totally YOURS! Lord, indeed, teach us to TOTALLY OBEY & SUBMIT to Your will and commands. For in this You are pleased and through this You anoint and empower us. In Jesus' Name. AMEN!"***



**ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE & DISCIPLESHIP**

In this chapter, Matthew records the temptation of the Lord Jesus by the devil and how He overcame them by using the scriptures or God's Word. Matthew also narrates the calling of the first disciples giving us insights as to the mission that our Lord Jesus will give to all who will follow and serve Him.

***1) The temptation of Jesus teaches us that we have an enemy who will do everything to stop us from being an effective and fruitful disciple of Jesus!***

The temptation of our Lord Jesus reminds us that we have an enemy whose main goal is to stop us from becoming the person that God intended us to be – a person conformed to the likeness of our Lord Jesus! Like Jesus, Satan will tempt us to deny or disobey our God and forsake His calling and purpose for our life. But like our Lord Jesus, we have the Word of God with us to help us overcome Satan's every temptation.

***2) Jesus' calling of the first disciples shows us that the Lord wanted "disciples" and use them to accomplish His plan of salvation. He wants not just a fan's club but totally committed disciples!***

Jesus made it clear from the very beginning that He called us to be His "followers" and to be "fishers of men." He called us to be His messengers of His Good News. Not just to receive and enjoy the news that we are forgiven of our sins because we trusted in Jesus as our Savior but to be His ambassadors in telling others of the Gospel/Good News! Like Jesus who taught in the synagogues, preached the Good News, and healed the sick, the disciples would also do the same ministries in the days ahead.

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) BEWARE! As Christ's followers and disciples, we have an enemy who wants to see us fail in our walk with Christ. Resist him and overcome him through God's Word! Put on the full armor of the Lord for complete victory (See Eph. 6).**

**2) BE 'FISHERS OF MEN'! Let us fulfill the Lord's purpose and calling for our life as His disciples. Let us equip ourselves to be effective in winning people to Christ and making them His disciples.**

## **PRAYER:**

**"Our heavenly Father, indeed, thank You for REMINDING us that we have an enemy in this world whose desire is to destroy our relationship with You and the Lord Jesus Christ. Teach me Your Word and how to resist the evil one. Equip me and empower me to be the "fisher of men" that You called me to be. All these I pray for the honor and glory of Your Name and the Lord Jesus. AMEN!"**

**SERMON ON THE MOUNT: KEY TO BLESSEDNESS**

In Matthew 5-7, Matthew records what has come to be known as the “Sermon on the Mount.” Addressed particularly to His disciples, Jesus delineates the character qualities and behavior of those who will follow His steps and obey His call.

***1) In the “Beatitudes” (vv. 3-12), Jesus teaches us the key to blessedness and happiness – Seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness!***

Our Lord opened His ‘sermon’ on the Mount by pointing His disciples to the blessedness of seeking His kingdom and His righteousness. Jesus encouraged and exhorted them to pursue this kind of life that pleases the Father now and will ensure them of eternal rewards in the future. Observe that these qualities were deemed not as ‘grand’ and ‘desirable’ by the proud heart but they were surely pleasing to our Father in heaven and the Lord Jesus Christ.

***2) Our Lord Jesus points His disciples to Himself as the KEY to fulfilling the Law. By this, Jesus emphasizes the importance of obeying the spirit rather than the letter of the Law.***

Jesus redefines the Law as understood by the Jews at that time. Notice what our Lord Jesus told His disciples in v. 20: *“Unless you surpass the righteousness of the Pharisees and teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”* These religious leaders were obeying the law as far as performance is concern but their hearts were far away from God. They do it not out of love for God but out of duty or obligation. In other words, the Lord looks at the heart more than the performance of the Law. More importantly, Jesus taught us that He came to fulfill the

Law (v. 17) and to empower us to be able to obey the Law in the spirit too. In this chapter, Jesus exhorted and gave His disciples a new perspective on the commandments of the Lord. He was challenging them to live a deeper and extraordinary life through Him!

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord our God looks at our heart! He desires that we love Him with all our being; that we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and we obey Him from the heart!***

***2) The Lord our God gave us JESUS to be our Savior and Lord. Included here is the grace and power to live a life that pleases and glorifies Him!***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, Thank You for our Lord Jesus Christ whom You sent and gave to be our Savior and Lord. Through Him You gave us a new heart – a heart that could love You, obey You, and please You and glorify You. To You I bow down in worship and praise. AMEN!”***

**TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS & RICHES**

In this section of the “Sermon on the Mount”, Jesus talked about the three “big” acts of righteousness of the Jews; namely, prayer, giving, and fasting. Jesus also gave them the cure for worry for all our material and physical needs.

***1) Our Lord Jesus teaches us that true righteousness is not external but internal. The Father looks at the motive of our heart!***

Our Lord repeatedly pointed out that our acts of righteousness should be done secretly and not to impress people. By this, we are guaranteed a reward from the Father. Praying, giving, and fasting; lose their value when we do them to impress people. Then it becomes a means to self-glory which is not pleasing to the Father. We must always remember that the Lord looks at the heart and that all our action should be motivated by our total devotion and love for Him. In fact, He has given us a new heart in Jesus Christ! (2 Cor. 5:17).

***2) Our Lord Jesus teaches us that the cure for worry for our physical and material needs is WORSHIP OF GOD! He is our true riches!***

Jesus also revealed to us here the cure to worry for all our material and physical needs. And this cure is to WORSHIP THE LORD. He began with teaching His disciples to pray; the God-ordained means by which we get from God what we need. We are to learn to PRAY TO GOD. Then, He pointed out to them to need to SERVE GOD ONLY and NOT MAMMOM. We are to SERVE GOD with all our heart. And finally, Jesus taught us to TRUST THE LORD. If our Father provided for His other lesser creation, will He not also provide for us, the “crowning glory of all His creation”

(Psalm 8)? We are to SEEK FIRST THE LORD's KINGDOM & HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, and all that we need will be provided.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord our God has given us a new heart through the Lord Jesus Christ! He looks at our heart and evaluates our motives and desires.***

***2) The Lord our God wants to show us the CURE to WORRY in this life: WORSHIP HIM & NO OTHER! Love Him with all our being!***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You desire from a HEART that loves You alone and is totally devoted and committed to You. Give us that kind of heart, LORD! Continually teach us to WORSHIP YOU ONLY and have no other gods in our life. Teach us to PRAY TO YOU, to SERVE YOU ONLY, and TRUST You with all our heart and being. In JESUS' NAME I pray. AMEN!”***

**WHO IS THE TRULY WISE PERSON?**

In this last section of the “Sermon on the Mount”, Jesus talked about the importance of doing or obeying the teachings or the truths that our Lord Jesus instructs or teach us to do.

***1) One could know who are the true followers and disciples of Jesus through the way they live or through their lifestyle.***

Our Lord Jesus pointed out here several descriptions of those who are His true followers or disciples. One is a non-judgmental attitude or recognition that each is responsible to the Lord and will be held accountable before Him. We are to be compassionate to people (vv. 1-6). Second is persistence in prayer or pursuing the Lord (vv. 7-11). Third is choosing the “narrow road” over the “wide road.” By this I think the Lord means choosing “obeying” God’s will rather than man’s will (vv. 13, 14). And fourth and last is a changed or transformed life. The only way to know a tree is by its fruit (vv. 15-23).

***2) The best and only right response to the Lord’s teachings or truths is obedience or putting it to practice!***

Jesus also emphasized the necessity to put into action the teachings that we hear from Him by telling his hearers the parable or story of the two builders. He told them that the only wise thing to do to respond to His teachings is to follow or obey them. Just like the “Nike” advertisement, we are to “just do it!” This is the key to a victorious life in Christ Jesus – to trust and obey HIM!

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord our God wants us to live a life that reflects His character and qualities. We are to live a life of compassion for people and passion for the Lord!**

**2) The Lord our God wants us not just to be HEARERS but DOERS of His Words! Let us JUST DO His Will!**

**PRAYER:**

**“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are LOVING & COMPASIONATE GOD! You DESIRE that we too live a life of compassion to people and passion for You. Lord, empower us and teach us to be DOERS of Your Words and not just HEARERS. Show us that this is the only way to be blessed and be able to please You. In Jesus’ Name, AMEN!”**



**FAITH – THE KEY TO SEE GOD'S WORK IN OUR LIFE!**

In Matthew 8 we will discover the key to see the works of the Lord Jesus in our midst – It is FAITH! Someone said the Lord cannot work in the atmosphere of unbelief. Unbelief ties the Hand of the Omnipotent but faith frees it to do the miraculous!

***1) The Lord Jesus came to heal us from all our infirmities and diseases (Body, Soul and Spirit). All He is looking for from our hearts is FAITH to believe Him and His Word!***

In this chapter we see the Lord Jesus doing what He came to do – teaching God's Word and healing people of their infirmities and diseases. This was to fulfill the words of the prophet Isaiah (Isa. 53:4). Indeed, Jesus is our Teacher and Healer. He taught us the Way to our Father in heaven and healed us from all our infirmities and diseases of body, soul (mind), and spirit. Note that Jesus responds to our FAITH. He knows those who believe and those who do not. He even knows those who have "little faith" in Him! And FAITH is the key that will bring God's manifold miracles in our life!

***2) People do not need "signs and wonders" in order to believe in God. Many would prefer "business as usual" than Jesus in their lives!***

But notice that not all people respond rightly to Jesus in spite of the miracles that He performed. Though these miracles proved among others things that He is God, many still doubted Him and refuse to believe in Him. They rejected Him because He is not good for their "business!" People do not want to surrender their life or will to Jesus but wanted to maintain their status quo. They know the cost of following

Jesus. It will cost them to change the way they live! And many even today do not want that.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord our God wants to HEAL us! He wants to bring WHOLENESS into our life. Our faith in Him will bring His manifold blessings and miraculous interventions in our life!***

***2) The Lord our God DESIRES that we BELIEVE in Him and His Word. But He gives us the FREEDOM to choose to BELIEVE OR NOT.***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are our SAVIOR & HEALER! You desire that we be healed from all that oppress and torment us and worries us. Thank You for Jesus and His Blood that paved all these blessings and miracles to be available to us. Lord, grant us the FAITH to believe YOU and Your Word. Lord, I place my faith/trust in You and Your Word. AMEN!”***

**FAITH – THE KEY TO SEE GOD'S WORK IN OUR LIFE 2**

In Matthew 9 Jesus continues to teach, preach and heal to every place He went. Noticeable was the prominence of faith in the ministry of our Lord. He acknowledged and blessed those people who placed their faith or trust in Him. He also gave them a vision to see the world through His eyes and shared His compassion and plan of salvation for sinful men.

***1) The Lord Jesus responds to faith in our heart. He blesses those who believe in Him and His power but leaves those who don't believe on their own.***

Observe that in every healing and miracle that took place in this chapter, we see the Lord Jesus responding and acknowledging the faith of the person asking for healing or a miracle (vv. 2, 18, 21, 28). All of them believed in Jesus and His power to heal or perform the miracle they were asking from Him. But to those who don't believe like the Pharisees, Jesus leaves them on their own (vv. 3, 11, 34).

***2) Our Lord Jesus shows His compassion to the lost and shares to His disciples a vision of a great harvest of souls!***

In vv. 35-38, our Lord showed His compassion for the lost. He saw them as hopeless, helpless, and shepherd-less. Without Him they were hell-bound. Then, He shared to His disciples His great vision of harvest from among these people. First, He told them about the POTENTIAL OF THE HARVEST. "The harvest is plentiful..." Then, He pointed out to them the PROBLEM OF THE HARVEST. "The workers are few..." Finally, He shared to them the PRINCIPLES OF THE HARVEST. "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into the harvest field." The principle is TALK TO

THE LORD OF HARVEST. Particularly we are to ask Him to send out workers. We need workers and not spectators and fence sitters. We are to TRAIN people who are ready and willing to work for Jesus Christ.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord our God SEES FAITH in our heart. Nothing will be impossible to Him who believes!***

***2) The Lord our God is a COMPASSIONATE GOD! He came to call and save sinners like you and me. And He wants us to join Him in their harvest as His faithful and effective workers!***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are our COMPASSIONATE GOD! You DESIRE to save sinners and are calling us to be active and faithful workers of Your end time harvest. Lord, empower us to be the faithful workers that You desire us to be. Mold us and shape us to be conformed to Jesus our Savior and Lord. In His Name we pray. AMEN!”***

**THE TWELVE – THE CHARGE & THE CHALLENGE!**

In Matthew 10, Jesus chooses from among His disciples 12 men whom He also called apostles. He charged them to preach that the kingdom of God has come and to heal the people from all sickness and infirmities. He also told them the challenges that they will face along the way but that their faithfulness will be amply rewarded by the Lord.

***1) The Lord somehow shows us that the key to accomplish the Great Commission is not a program nor an event but a living relationship of men with Jesus.***

Observe that these 12 were part of the first disciples that Jesus had. From Luke 6: 12ffg, we learned that Jesus actually spent some time praying before making His choice of these 12 men. He knew the great role and responsibility that they will bear as leaders of His Church. But most importantly, we know that they had a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus (of course the Lord knew about Judas!). In other words, they had a personal and living relationship with Jesus! Thus, we need men and women who are truly in love and 'crazy' for Jesus. Men who will follow hard after Jesus and His cause!

***2) Our Lord Jesus shows us that while salvation is free, but discipleship is not cheap. Following Jesus will not be easy but it will surely be amply rewarded!***

From the passage we also learn that salvation should be offered free of charge to all. While it is true that salvation is free because it is by grace through faith in Jesus, discipleship is not a 'bed of roses.' It will not solve all our problems but it will surely present to us challenges that through God's grace and help you could also overcome. In fact, there are great rewards that await the followers or

disciples of the Lord who are faithfully obeying and serving the Him (2 Cor. 5:9, 10).

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord our God wants to have a LIVING & LOVING CONNECTION with men and women. This is the KEY to our personal growth as individual believer and corporate growth as a church.***

***2) The Lord our God wants followers or disciples not just spectators or fence sitters. And He will amply reward those who are faithful to His cause!***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You DESIRE an INTIMATE & LIVING RELATIONSHIP with Your people. Mold and shape us to be the faithful disciples and followers that You want us to be. Teach us to obey Your Word and do Your will with all our being. In Jesus’ Name I pray. AMEN!”***

**THE CHURCH NEEDS FORCEFUL MEN!**

In Matthew 11, Jesus commended John the Baptist and spoke of his greatness as a prophet of God. He then declared that the kingdom of heaven had been forcefully advancing and “forceful men” were laying hold of it.

***1) Greatness in the Kingdom of God and before the Lord is not about a great and grand ministry. It's all about obedience to the will and purpose of the Father.***

When our Lord Jesus was asked by John's disciples (as requested by John) if He were the Christ, Jesus replied “Yes.” Then Jesus commended the person and ministry of John and spoke of his greatness among the OT saints. He even revealed that John was actually the one who will come in the spirit of Elijah who was to come to prepare His coming (v.10). As Jesus has noted, there is no ‘greatness’ or ‘grandeur’ in the person or ministry of John. But there is solid commitment to do the Lord's will amidst opposition and indifference of people. Thus, greatness in the Kingdom of God is all about obedience and submission to our Father's will.

***2) The Church of Jesus Christ needs men and women who will forcefully advance the Kingdom of God!***

Note that Jesus declared that the least in the kingdom will be greater than John. In fact, Jesus referred to them as “forceful men” laying hold of the kingdom (vv. 12-13). These are the kind of men and women needed today to advance the kingdom of God! And who are they? As seen in the ministry of Jesus and from our passage today, these “forceful men and women” are those who have believed in Jesus as their Savior and repented of their sins and taken hold of our Lord Jesus Christ! They had come to Him and

answered His call to “take His yoke and learn from Him!” (vv. 28-30).

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord our God wants our OBEDIENCE & TOTAL COMMITMENT. He is pleased with those who totally submit their life and will to Him!**

**2) The Lord our God needs FORCEFUL MEN today to advance His kingdom. Will you be these men and women who will “take His yoke and learn from Him”?**

## **PRAYER:**

**“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You desire OBEDIENCE rather than sacrifice. This is greatness in Your sight. Lord, teach me to fully and faithfully submit to Your will. Mold and make me the “forceful man” that You desire me to be. I am taking Your yoke and am willing to learn from You. In Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”**



**JESUS IS LORD OF ALL!**

In Matthew 12, Jesus answered some of the questions and criticism of the religious leaders of the day and taught the truths of the kingdom of God. He concluded his discourse by challenging the people to believe in Him and make Him their Master and Lord!

***1) The Lord Jesus Christ's preaching and healing ministry prove without a shadow of a doubt that He is the Messiah, the Savior our Father sent!***

In vv. 1-14 our Lord Jesus argued with the Pharisees about the Sabbath and pointed out to them that the Sabbath was made for man - to serve man; and that He is the Lord of the Sabbath. He also proved and demonstrated that He is the Lord over diseases and over demons by healing a shriveled man and setting free a demon-possessed man, who was blind and mute. By these things, Matthew declared that Jesus was the Chosen Servant of God and "in His Name the nations will put their hope" (v. 21).

***2) The Lord Jesus Christ must be the Lord of ALL in our life or not at ALL!***

Note that when Jesus was asked by the Pharisees for a miraculous sign, He told them about important events in their past history that will condemn them because they did not believe in Him. In effect, He was saying to them that they will not get it but they too have to believe by faith that He is the Messiah. Finally, when told that His family members were looking for Him, Jesus answered that His mother and brothers are those "who does the will of my Father in heaven" (v. 48). Indeed, they have to fully acknowledge Him as Lord of all or not at all!

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus Christ is the CHOSEN ONE, HE is the MESSIAH sent by the Father, our SAVIOR and LORD!***

**2) *The Lord our God desire that we acknowledge JESUS CHRIST as LORD OF ALL OR NOT AT ALL!***

## **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are the Lord of Creation! You are Lord over diseases and demons. You are the Lord of lords and King of kings! Teach me to submit to You and do Your will in my life. Lord, be Lord of all in my life, be Lord of all! In Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”***

## THE PARABLES OF JESUS

In Matthew 13, Jesus taught several parables about the kingdom of God. These earthly stories were supposed to teach the people heavenly truth and apply them in their lives. They were keys to entering the kingdom of God. They were the Word of God which could give us spiritual understanding and to know the Gospel and the Lord Jesus Christ.

***1) To understand the Parables of the Lord Jesus is a great privilege granted to God's people. Let us fully put to practice the principles they teach us!***

In vv. 34, 35, Matthew noted that Jesus' teaching in parables was a fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy about the coming Messiah (Isa. 6:9, 10). In vv.11-17, our Lord Jesus made it clear that the parables were intended for the Lord's people to understand and apply in their lives. While for those outside the kingdom they were just stories with no meaning whatsoever to them. In fact, they will never fully understand them unless enlightened by the Holy Spirit. So here Jesus explained the meaning of the parables of the sower and the weeds to the disciples (vv. 18-23; 36-43).

***2) Faith is the atmosphere whereby the miracles and works of the Lord Jesus will thrive or grow.***

Note that when our Lord Jesus began teaching and healing people in his own home town, he did not do many miracles there. The reason was the prevailing unbelief of the many about Jesus. After teaching in their synagogue, they were amazed by his teaching but it did not moved to faith in Him but made them to question where He got all these things. And verse 57 said "they took offense at Him." Indeed, as what our Lord Jesus Himself declared, "*Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without*

*honor” (v. 57). He did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith (v. 58).*

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord our God wanted His people to KNOW HIS TRUTH through His parables. They are earthly stories that will teach us divine or heavenly truths in this life!***

***2) The Lord our God desire that we LIVE BY FAITH! As Hebrews 11:6 says, “Without faith it is impossible to please the Lord...”***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are the Lord of TRUTH! You want us to know the TRUTH and to be set FREE by Your TRUTH. Teach me to obey Your Word and to LIVE BY FAITH BY OBEYING IT. Lord, teach me to LIVE BY FAITH by fully obeying YOUR WORD and just DO IT! In Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”***

**THE CHALLENGE OF FAITH**

In Matthew 14, Jesus did two notable miracles (the feeding of the 5,000 and walking on water) that convinced His disciples that He was indeed the Son of God, the Messiah!

***1) The death of John the Baptist may seem uneventful to men but not to God. The Lord values the death of the righteous!***

Matthew began this chapter by citing the account of the death of John the Baptist. Notice that John was speaking the truth when he was arrested and imprisoned by Herod. Later, John paid his righteous stand for God with his life. He was executed for speaking against sin and evil. His death may seem uneventful and unglamorous but not before the Lord our God. In fact, observed that our Lord Jesus spent time in prayer after learning of His death (v. 13). God mourns the death of the righteous! The death of His children will never escape God's attention!

***2) As our Lord Jesus challenged the faith of the disciples, He is now challenging us to believe in Him and His works!***

Note that in the feeding of the 5,000 our Lord Jesus challenged and stretched the disciples' faith to 'feed' the people. And they saw the mighty Hand of God provided for the needs of the people using five loaves and two fishes. While on the next miracle, when they saw Jesus walking on water, Peter somehow was challenged to do the same. At first Peter believed that he could walk and he did walk but when he saw the waves, his faith wavered and he began to sink. And the Lord rescued him. On the other side of the

sea, Jesus did many miracles because the people believed in Him (see vv. 32-36).

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord our God will surely REWARD the RIGHTEOUS for He DELIGHTS in them!***

***2) The Lord our God CHALLENGES us to BELIEVE in HIM and His mighty works! Without faith it is impossible to receive from the Lord what we desire from Him!***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You DELIGHT in YOUR People! Your eyes guard our life and You will REWARD us someday according to our faithfulness to You. Lord, You challenge us to live by faith. To believe that nothing is impossible with You. Lord, I do believe that You can do great and mighty things in my life and ministry. In Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”***

**THE HEART OF THE MATTER IS THE MATTER OF THE HEART!**

In Matthew 15, Jesus zeroed in to the heart of the matter as far as man's spiritual condition is concerned – It is the matter of the heart!

***1) It is not what comes into our mouth that defiles us but the things that come out of our heart!***

At this point, Jesus was questioned by the Pharisees and scribes because His disciples were eating without washing their hands. They contended that this was not in conformity to the traditions of the elders. But our Lord Jesus countered that they were disobeying the law of God by their man-made traditions or commandments. He cited the fourth commandment which was being sidestepped by their man-made tradition. Jesus pointed out that they were to worship and follow the Lord's command from the heart and not just to do a lip service to it as what they were doing. Then, Jesus proceeded to teach them that it is not the food or things that come into our mouth that defiles us but the things that comes out of our heart. Thus, declaring that the heart is sinful and needs the transforming power and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ!

***2) Our Lord Jesus is seeking those whose hearts are believing and following hard after Him!***

Matthew also noted of the story of the Canaanite woman who sought the Lord's favor to heal her daughter who was demon-possessed. She was so persistent in her request that the Lord Jesus granted her the "children's bread" which was supposed to be for the Jews only. This showed us that a heart, whether Jew or Gentile, that believes and earnestly and persistently seeks the Lord's

mercy shall be satisfied and blessed! May the Lord grant us such kind of heart that follows hard after the Lord!

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord our God looks at our heart! He is after the condition and state of our internal being!***

***2) The Lord our God delights in a heart that fully believes and follows hard and persistently after Him! It is the heart that will be blessed and satisfied!***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are the God who looks at the heart! You know us from inside us. You delight in those whose hearts are totally inclined towards You, a heart that fully believes and follows hard after You. Lord, grant me such kind of heart. Mold me and transform me to be the kind of person You intended me to be. In Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”***



**A FAITH LIKE PETER!**

Matthew 16 records the confession of Peter that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of Living God. Our Lord Jesus clearly told His disciples that this revelation or saving knowledge was not from Peter or man, but from God the Father. This is the kind of faith we need to have. Not a perfect faith as we will also discover; but nevertheless, a saving faith that comes from God Himself.

***1) The Bible predicted that false teachers and false teachings will abound in the last days. Like the ‘yeast’ of the Pharisees and Sadducees, we are to be discerning and on guard of these teachings. Thus, be equipped in the Word!***

At this point, Jesus warned the disciples of the “yeast” of the Pharisees and Sadducees. They did not get it at first but later on understood what the Lord meant. The NT writers clearly predicted that false teachers and false teachings will abound in the last days before the Lord returns. Thus, we are to be discerning and on guard of these things. As Peter himself exhorted us, “*But grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ!*” (2 Pet. 3:18).

***2) Like Peter’s faith, our faith too will be put to test. Our faith need not be perfect but it surely must be not just ‘head knowledge’ but a ‘saving knowledge’ of the Lord Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God!***

Matthew cited the confession of Peter as to who Jesus is. When Jesus asked the disciples who He was as perceived by the people, they gave various answers. But when He asked Peter, Peter confessed that Jesus was the

“Christ, the Son of the Living God!” Then, Jesus told them that Peter did not generate such knowledge but this ‘saving knowledge’ was a revelation by His Father in heaven. Later, Jesus tested again Peter’s faith by telling the disciples plainly His coming suffering and death in the hands of the religious leaders. This time Peter gave in to Satan’s lie (he entertained Satan’s ideas in his mind and spoke them to Jesus) and he was rebuked by the Lord. Peter’s faith might be imperfect but it surely was a “saving faith.” But how could we know whether our faith is a ‘saving faith’ or not? Our Lord Jesus gave us the standards as to where we are to measure our faith. In vv. 24-28, our Lord gave us the marks of His true followers and disciples. A true saving faith is demonstrated by this kind of life.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord our God is the God of TRUTH! He is the only WAY, TRUTH, and LIFE. We are to be People of the Book. We must be equipped in the Word of God!***

***2) The Lord our God is the AUTHOR and PERFECTER of our FAITH! He gives saving faith to His people and wants them to demonstrate it before the world.***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, You are the God of TRUTH. You hate the liar and the deceitful and those who love error. That’s why You gave us the Word for us to know Your truths. Lord, teach us Your truth that we may practice them in our daily living. Lord, thank You for giving us saving faith, to know Jesus as the Messiah and our Savior. Lord, may my life reflect this faith in Him by living a holy and fully obedient life before Him and in this world. In Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”***

**FAITH LIKE A MUSTARD SEED!**

In Matthew 17, the Lord Jesus challenged the disciples to increase their faith as well as exercise their faith in Him. He even declared that “nothing will be impossible for you” if only they will believe.

***1) The transfiguration of Moses as accounted by Matthew is another important proof of His divine origin and deity. Here, Jesus revealed His glory to His ‘inner circle’ of disciples.***

At this time Jesus brought Peter, John and James in a mountain to pray and there Jesus was transfigured before their eyes. His appearance shone and with Him appeared two men. The disciples recognized them as Moses and Elijah. Also, the disciples asked about Elijah and Jesus told them that he already came and prepared His coming. And they understood that He was referring to John the Baptist. So, this experience bolstered their faith in Jesus as the Messiah, Son of God.

***2) The Lord Jesus rebuked the disciples’ little faith. Then, He challenge them to believe in Him for “nothing will be impossible” for them.***

Here, we find a father crying to Jesus to heal his demon-tormented son because His disciples could not get the demon out of the boy. The Lord Jesus rebuked the disciples little faith and told them that even if they had a faith like a mustard faith, they could perform great miracles in His Name. So, He challenged them to increase their faith in Him and to believe that “nothing will be impossible” for them. He exhorted them to be persistent in prayer and use the

discipline of fasting as effective tools to destroy the works of the devil in people's lives.

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord Jesus Christ is the ETERNAL WORD! He was with the Father in the very beginning and He was God. In time, He became FLESH (MAN) and dwelt among men in order to be our Savior. His death on the Cross gave us life!***

***2) The Lord Jesus WANTS us to experience His supernatural intervention. He wants us to know and understand that “nothing is impossible” to him who believes in Him!***

## **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You sent us JESUS to be the Messiah, our Savior and King! He came as a Man yet He shared Your glory in heaven. He came down to earth so that we could go up in heaven. Lord, increase my faith to believe that “nothing is impossible” to him who believes in You. Lord, make me persistent and passionate in prayer and fasting for the sake of the revival and growth of Your church here in FBC. All these I pray in Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”***

**FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER!**

In Matthew 18 the Lord Jesus emphasized the necessity for believers to forgive one another from the heart. He showed them the consequences and cost of withholding or not releasing forgiveness to others.

***1) The “little children” illustrates to us who are the greatest in the kingdom of God - They are those who are child-like in their trust and humble in their walk with the Lord.***

When asked by the disciples, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of God?” The Lord Jesus called a little child used it to answer the question. He is the one who is child-like, that is, trusting and humble in walk with God is the greatest in the kingdom of God! Jesus proceeded to teach that we are not to be stumbling blocks to these little children but point them to Jesus. Our Lord taught us to deal seriously with sin in our lives and to live godly lives before God and others.

***2) Unforgiveness is a trap of the enemy. Our Lord Jesus wants His people to be known as loving and forgiving. He wants us to be free from this stronghold of the devil.***

In another question, Peter asked the Lord, “How many times should I forgive a brother who sins against me?” The Lord replied, “Seventy times seven.” What the Lord meant was actually was that it is unlimited. Then, He told them the story of the unmerciful servant which illustrates the truth that the Lord expects us to be a loving and forgiving people. Just as the Lord has forgiven us, we too are to forgive those who have wronged us. If we want God’s

forgiveness for our sins, we too are to forgive those who have sinned against us (Eph. 4:32)!

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus Christ delights on those who are HUMBLE in heart and CHILD-LIKE in their trust in Him. He is looking for those who admit that they are lost and needed to be found!***

**2) *The Lord Jesus WANTS us to be a LOVING & FORGIVING people. He expects us to forgive others as He has forgiven us our sins.***

## **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are LOVING & FORGIVING GOD. You CAME to seek us and even DIE for us. You FORGAVE us our sins and assured us of eternal life. Lord, empower us to do the same to others – to love and forgive those who have wronged us and be restored in all our relationships. Lord, I put my trust and hope in You and Your love for me. All these I pray in Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”***

**PRINCIPLES OF THE KINGDOM**

In this chapter, the Lord Jesus revealed to His disciples the principles of the kingdom. Particularly, He shared to them the rules, the requirements, and the rewards of the kingdom.

***1) The Rules of the Kingdom are obedience to the Word, willing surrender to God's will, and child-like faith (vv. 1-15).***

When asked by the Pharisees about marriage, the Lord Jesus affirmed the words of the Book of Genesis that marriage was instituted by God. Marriage is between a man and woman and the two shall become one flesh. He told them that divorce was not His original will and man should not separate them. He seemed to allow only divorce for marital infidelity or immorality. Related to this, the Lord Jesus also taught that some have been given the gift of celibacy and some chooses to be celibate for the sake of the kingdom. In saying this, I think that the Lord delights in willing and deliberate surrender of our will to His will. Lastly, Jesus again used the children to describe the kind of faith we need to demonstrate before God – a child-like trust in Him!

***2) The Requirement of the Kingdom is total surrender of our life to the Lord Jesus Christ! (vv. 16-27).***

When asked by a young rich man as to how he can enter the kingdom of God, our Lord Jesus presented to him the requirement of the kingdom – total surrender of our life even our all to the Lord. The man thought that being good was all that was needed and that he had complied with this.

But the Lord showed him the content of his heart – his greed for riches which he could not forsake for Christ. The Lord made it clear here that to enter the kingdom we are to totally surrender our life our all to Jesus!

**3) *The Reward of the Kingdom is present as well as future blessings and glory! (vv. 28-30)***

Our Lord Jesus also revealed the reward for all those who will take heed to the requirement of the Lord. He promised them present reward – 100 times as much what they lost and future glory –even eternal life!

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord desires that we obey His Word, surrender our will to His, and walk in child-like faith.***

**2) *The Lord wants us to willingly and deliberately surrender our will to His!***

**3) *The Lord shall certainly reward those who followed Him with all their being with present and future blessing and glory!***

**PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, Your desire is for us to walk in full obedience to Your Word and in child-like faith in You. Lord, empower me to willingly and deliberately submit and surrender my will to Your will. Lord thank You for You will surely reward me with present and future blessings and glory. And I give You praise and thanks and worship. In Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”***



**BE CAREFUL OF WHAT YOU ASK!**

In this chapter, the Lord Jesus followed up on the principle of the kingdom. He told them how one could be great in the kingdom of God and then continued to show compassion on the people and heal them.

***1) The Lord Jesus is free to be generous to whomever He wants to. He will show mercy and bestow grace on whomever He wants to (vv. 1-16).***

Our Lord Jesus gave a parable to teach His disciples that He will be generous to whomever He wants to. We are not to compare ourselves with others but to be focus on our own service to the Lord. His grace is sovereign and free. What matters to Him is our attitude and our heart – that it be grateful and thankful to Him for all His blessings to us.

***2) To be great in the Kingdom of God, you have to serve the Lord and others! (vv. 20-28)***

When requested by the mother of James and John to let her sons sit at the right and left of the Lord when His kingdom comes to reign, the Lord answered that it is His prerogative to assign who should sit on His left or right but the Father. Jesus sensing their wrong concept of greatness corrected it by telling them that the kingdom of God is different from the kingdoms of this world, where the rulers rule and lord it over their people. He told them that whoever wants to be great in the kingdom of God, he must be the servant of all. Like Jesus we have to have His mindset – He came to serve and not to be served!

***3) The Lord rewards persistent and persevering faith. We could get His attention with that kind of faith.***

Our Lord Jesus also demonstrated to the disciples that He rewards persistent and persevering faith. For when two blind men learned that Jesus was just around they never stop calling and crying His Name and to ask Him to heal them. The crowd tried to rebuke and stopped them but they continued. Then Jesus STOPPED and came to them and asked them what they wanted. When Jesus heard them, He has compassion on them and healed them!

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord or God is a GENEROUS & GOOD GOD! He will have mercy and grace on whomever He wants to.***

***2) The Lord wants us to be great in His Kingdom – Serve Him and others with all your heart!***

***3) The Lord shall certainly reward those who are persistent and persevering in their faith.***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are a GRACIOUS, GENEROUS & GOOD GOD! You desire that we walk in humility and with a servant attitude. Lord, mold me to be a humble and faithful servant. Make me also the persistent and persevering in my trust in You. I give You praise and thanks and worship You. In Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”***

**JESUS, REJECTED BY THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES!**

This chapter begins the Jerusalem ministry of our Lord Jesus and the start of the escalation of His falling out with the religious leaders of the day. This will eventually lead to His arrest, suffering, crucifixion and death at the Cross.

***1) The Lord Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem fulfills what was written about the Messiah in the scriptures (vv. 4-5, 9, 13, 16).***

Our Lord Jesus gave instructions to His disciples to prepare His coming to Jerusalem by riding a donkey. This was to fulfill what was written about the Messiah coming to Jerusalem (vv. 4-5). Amazingly, large crowds were formed to welcome His coming to Jerusalem and I led also to the fulfillment of scriptures prophecies about the Messiah. In the temple, the Lord drove out all those who were buying and selling and overturned the tables of the money changers (v.13) and the children were singing praises to Him. This angered the religious leaders and made them indignant.

***2) The Lord Jesus told the religious leaders that the Father had rejected them for refusing to believe in Him.***

When the chief priests and scribes saw what was happening to the people and the amazing things Jesus was doing, they came to Him and questioned Him. "By what authority are you doing all things?" Jesus told them that He will answer them if they answer first His question regarding John the Baptist's baptism - "Where did it come from? Was it from heaven or from men?" But they could not answer Him. They told Jesus, "We don't know!" So, Jesus told them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing all these

things!” Then, Jesus told them two parables (The Two Sons and the Tenants) which illustrated how God had rejected these religious leaders who were supposed to do the Father’s will but were now not believing Jesus and even rejecting Him. After hearing these parables they knew that He was referring to them. And so they started to talk of how to arrest Him but were afraid of the people who believed that He was a prophet.

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord Jesus is the Messiah our Father sent. He fulfilled all what was written about Him in the Scriptures.***

***2) The Lord Jesus gives the Kingdom to those who wants it desperately in their life. But those who don’t believe will not see it!***

## **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are our LOVING FATHER who gave us the MESSIAH, A SAVIOR FOR OUR SINS! He came and fulfilled Your will and HE gives the kingdom to all people You gave Him. Lord, blessed indeed are those You choose and open their eyes to see the beauty of the Lord Jesus. Increase my faith to believe that nothing is impossible to him who believes. In Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”***

**JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH & THE LIFE!**

In this chapter our Lord Jesus emphasized the need to wear the “proper clothing” for the Kingdom’s Banquet. He answered the questions posed by the religious leaders of the day whose aim was to trap Him. His answers to their questions astonished many but also made more enemies.

***1) The Lord Jesus compares the coming Kingdom of God to a Wedding Banquet. He pointed out that “proper clothing” is needed to enter this blessed occasion – the Righteousness of Christ!***

Our Lord Jesus continued to speak to the religious leaders who were trying to trap him with hard and tricky questions. He told the parable of the Wedding Banquet which again taught that God has opened the Banquet to all people because His guests (the Jews) had rejected the invitation (vv. 1-22). But the highlight of the story is the entrance of one fellow who did not have the “proper attire” for the Banquet. As usual, Jesus left the people wondering as to the meaning of His words. So the question is – What is the “proper clothing” for the Lord’s Banquet. The apostle John gave us a hint as to the answer. John, seeing the multitude of people which no man could count gathered before the throne of God (during his vision where he saw heaven), was asked by one of the 24 elders:

***“These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?” He answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Rev. 7: 13, 14)***

In other words, they got it by believing and trusting in Jesus, the Lamb of God who shed His Blood for them. Have you already trusted and believed in the shed Blood of Jesus? His righteousness is our “proper clothing” for heaven when the time comes!

**2) *The Lord Jesus answers all the questions of the religious leaders revealing His knowledge of the Scriptures. The fact is He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! (Jn. 14:6).***

After telling them the parable of the Wedding Banquet, the religious leaders, sensing that he was referring to them who had rejected Him, started to ask Him questions in order to trap Him. But Jesus answered them satisfactorily and with authority because His answers came all from scriptures (Note that He quoted four OT passages). First, our Lord Jesus established the truth that as believers and as citizens of a country, we are to pay taxes or submit to ruling government (Rom. 13:1ffg). Secondly, He corrected the wrong notion of the Sadducees regarding the resurrection and declared that resurrection is one of our future hopes (vv.23-33). Third, He declared to them the greatest of the commandments and quoted Deut. 6:5 and Lev. 19:18 in which He summarized the whole of the OT laws into two: Love the Lord and love people, with all our being! (vv. 34-40). Finally, He countered them with a question that revealed their lack of understanding as to who the Messiah was (vv. 41-39). As Matthew has stated, “No one dared to ask Him any more questions.” (v. 40).

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus is the WAY to Heaven! He is our RIGHTEOUSNESS! He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world! (John 1:29)***

**2) *The Lord Jesus is the TRUTH! He is the One that the Father has sent who will give us understanding as to the Father’s will. Let us listen to Him alone!***

**PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for the Lord Jesus Christ, our Messiah, the Lamb of God that took away our sins! He is the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE! In Him we put our trust and hope. To Him we give our allegiance and submit our life. In His SHED BLOOD we believe and look forward to His soon return. AMEN!”***

**BLIND LEADING THE BLIND!**

In this chapter our Lord Jesus spoke strong and hard words for the religious leaders of the day. He admonished the people to do what they tell them to do but not to practice what they do. He called them “blind guides”! They were the blind guides leading the blinds!

***1) The Lord Jesus speaking against the religious leaders of the day teaches us that LEADERS are to lead from the heart. AN EFFECTIVE LEADER IS A DOER OF THE WORD & NOT JUST TEACHER OF IT!***

It is interesting that our Lord Jesus gave these “seven woes” to the religious leaders of the day. So that some Bible commentators think that these are His final or complete condemnation of them noting that He predicted the evil that will happen to them (see vv. 33-35). Whatever may be the case, it was clear that Jesus was not happy in their leadership of the Lord’s people. As Jesus himself said of them, they were “blind guides.” They were not DOER of His Word but TALKERS only! So, Jesus used harsh and strong words to reveal and condemn their evil deeds. He showed them their hearts and exposed to the people. He admonished the people to obey what they teach because it came from the Law. But they were not to follow what they do. And Jesus enumerated these evil practices that they were doing that were not pleasing before the Lord.

***2) The Lord Jesus longs for an INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP with His people and HE has not changed. TODAY, HE LONGS FOR AN INTIMATE WALK WITH US!***



But note also that our Lord was not completely happy with what was happening to His people. Definitely He was not glad that these leaders were failing and leading the people astray. For after these strong words, our Lord demonstrated strong emotion of compassion and mercy to His people as a loving mother longs for His children (vv. 37-39). From this, we learned and understand that God still do long for us to be intimate with Him. For He has not changed. He's the same. Today, He longs to be close and intimate with each one of us who profess His Name. He even longs for sinners to come to repentance and faith in Jesus. For the Bible says, ***“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (Jn. 3:16, NIV).***

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord our God WANTS us all to be DOERS OF THE WORD and not just ‘TALKERS’ OF THE WORD!***

***2) The Lord our God WANTS us His people to BE INTIMATE with Him! He desires to be a FATHER and a FRIEND to us, His children. And He desires to be MERCIFUL & GRACIOUS to sinners!***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, make me and mold me to be a DOER and not just a TALKER of Your Word. Empower me to put them to practice every day of my life. Lord, remove the things that prevent me from drawing near to You for I know that You will draw near when I do. Lord, use me to be Your heart to others who don’t know You yet. Lord, I pray all these in Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”***

**THE END OF THE AGE!**

In this chapter, our Lord Jesus revealed to His disciples the signs of His coming again implying that somehow, the disciples had an idea that He will be going and returning again in the future. Here, He describes to them the “signs” of the end of the age.

***1) The Lord Jesus reveals to His disciples that “various signs” will first took place before the end of the world and His return will happen. The most important of these teachings is that Jesus’ return will be VISIBLE & VICTORIOUS!***

Awed by the grandeur and magnificence of the temple, the disciples called Jesus’ attention to it and from which they received a rather intriguing answer from the Lord (v. 2). Later at the Mount of Olives, the disciples asked our Lord to teach them about when these things will come as well as His coming again and the end of the age. Jesus told the disciples that there will be various signs that will happen first before He comes. They include the following: (a) the rise of false Christ, (b) wars, (c) natural and man-made calamities like famines and earthquakes, (d) persecution of the faith, (e) increase of wickedness and coldness of people’s heart, (f) increase of knowledge, (g) the world-wide evangelization of the nations, (h) abomination of the Holy Temple spoken by Daniel, and (i) abnormal cosmic signs or happenings. But what is interesting and I think the most important teaching of Jesus here is the VISIBLE COMING OF JESUS after all these things occurred. All the nations will see Him and mourn. And then, the ingathering of the elect will take place. Praise the Lord!

**2) As we wait for the Lord's Second Coming and the end of the age, our Lord teaches us to wait in faithfulness, patience, and endurance. He expects us to be always ready and prepared for these things.**

Observe that the Lord did not reveal the day or the hour for these things to happen. No one really knows the time. Thus, by this the Lord teaches us to live by faith and not by sight. He showed us that faithfulness, patience and endurance must characterize everyone who professed the Name of Jesus. The Lord expects us to endure the suffering and challenges of the coming persecution and trials of the faith (vv. -14). He expects us to be faithful in our calling and responsibility as His people (vv. 45ffg). We are to believe that His word is faithful and true when He said, "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my Words will never pass away*" (v. 35).

#### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord our God promised not only to RETURN but also to bring JUDGMENT to this present world. He will come as a VICTOR and as a JUDGE!**

**2) The Lord our God expects us His people to be FAITHFUL, PATIENT, & PERSISTENT as we wait for His Coming again and the end of the age!**

#### **PRAYER:**

**"Our heavenly Father, thank You for the BLESSED HOPE that we have in Jesus Christ! Thank You because You are coming again to take us to be with You and to restore Your Reign in the universe. Lord, as wait for You, make us Your faithful servants, patiently and perseveringly serving You. In Jesus' Name I pray. AMEN!"**

**GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANTS!**

In this chapter, our Lord Jesus continued to reveal to His disciples what shall take place in the future particularly when He returns and the Judgment Day! He warned them to be faithful and watchful as they wait for His coming again and the judgment day.

***1) The Lord Jesus through the Parable of the Ten Virgins teaches us to be always ready and prepared for the Lord's Return; while the parable of the Talents teaches us to be good and faithful stewards of His resources in our life.***

Jesus as I noted earlier was just continuing His teaching to His disciples and giving them insights as to what will take place in the days ahead. After telling them that the day and time of His return as well as the end of the age, He told in this chapter two parables to challenge them not only to be watchful but also be wise, good, and faithful servants and stewards of their Master even the Lord Jesus Christ. A servant must be a good and faithful steward! He reminded them that as His servants, they will give an account of the resources and opportunities He had given them here on earth. For we are not only going to heaven but we will also be rewarded or given eternal rewards for our good deeds done in the Name of Christ. The apostle referred to this as the Judgment Seat of Christ in his second letter to the Corinthian Church. He warned us that: *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad"* (2 Cor. 5:10).

**2) *The Lord Jesus clearly teaches that there will be a Judgment Day where like a Shepherd He will separate the Sheep from the Goats. By saying this, He clearly taught us that there are only two eternal destinations – Eternity with the Lord or without the Lord! It's Heaven or Hell!***

Our Lord Jesus clearly taught that there will be a GREAT & TERRIBLE DAY OF JUDGMENT for the nations. On this day, He will separate the “sheep,” His People, from the goat, those who rejected and refused Him. And He will give to His people their inheritance and to the “goats,” He will send them to eternal damnation. The apostle John referred to this as the Great White Throne Judgment in Rev. 20:21-15. In fact John ended that passage with this frightening admonition: *“If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire”* (v. 15). Is your name already in the Book of Life?”

#### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord our God shall JUDGE first His People. Paul refers to it as the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:9, 10). The Lord will make us account for our good as well as bad deeds!***

**2) *The Lord our God shall JUDGE the nations! He will give the inheritance of those who trusted in Christ and in Him but He will send to hell those who refused and rejected Him and God in this life!***

#### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for the hope that we have in our future. Thank You because You are coming again to give us the inheritance that You promised to all who will trust in Jesus as their Savior. Lord, continue to mold us to be the good and faithful servants that You desire us to be. Empower us to reach to others who are yet to believe in You that they may escape this great and terrible JUDGMENT DAY that***

***awaits those who reject and refuse Your Son Jesus.  
Lord, all these I pray in Jesus' Name. AMEN!"***

## **MATTHEW 26**

## **DAY 26**

### **THE ARREST OF JESUS**

Matthew 26 is an action packed chapter that deals primarily with the Lord Jesus' Last Supper with the disciples, his arrest and trial before the chief priests and scribes, and Peter's denial of the Lord and his repentance.

***1) Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, and later death are all written according to the Word of the Lord. They were not mere coincidences but a major part of God's incredible and inscrutable plan to save His people.***

In the opening verses of the chapter, our Lord Jesus himself predicted what will take place in the next few days- He will be arrested and be crucified! (see v. 2). From the very start Jesus knew what will happen because He came according to the Father's plan. Again we see this when the woman poured out a very expensive perfume on Him in the house of Simon the Leper in Bethany. He told them plainly that this was to prepare His coming death and burial (v. 12). Then, He gathered them for the last time to have the last supper with them and again told them what will take place to Him the days ahead. He told them that one of them will betray him and that He will not dine again with them until He comes again! (vv. 27-29). He also predicted that Peter will deny Him not one but three times. And all these took place according to Jesus' words in fulfillment of the OT prophecies!

***2) Peter's story reminds us of the Lord's amazing grace and favor towards His people. We will ultimately be saved because of the Lord's Sovereign and Victorious grace!***

Observe that the Spirit through Matthew highlighted Peter's denial of the Lord and his consequent repentance. At first, Peter as the impulsive person that he was, strongly declared that he will never ever deny the Lord. He was very vocal and strong about this that he was even willing to die for Jesus. But when the time came and Jesus was arrested and taken by the religious leaders, all of them fled (v. 56). Peter tried to follow the Lord but when he was identified by some as a disciple of Jesus, he denied it – yes, three times according to the Lord's words! But in the Gospel of John, we learned that the Lord knew this and that He told them that He has prayed for them and He also told Peter that he will be able to recover from this and will strengthen his brethren (See Luke 22: 31-32). Note also that our Lord Jesus taught and demonstrated to them the importance of prayer and intercession in times of crisis and temptation; but apparently they failed at that time and resulted later in their fleeing and deserting Jesus (see vv. 36-46).

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord our God clearly PLANNED our salvation! Our Lord Jesus intentionally came to seek and save His People from sin and hell.***

***2) The Lord our God is our SOVEREIGN & GRACIOUS GOD! His victorious and sovereign grace will see us through even in our times of failures, weaknesses, and shortcomings.***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for Your amazing PLAN of salvation. You sovereignly and intentionally orchestrated our salvation and a major part of it is sending us Jesus to be our Savior, the Atonement for my sins. Lord, thank for Your Sovereign and Victorious Grace which secure me of my eternal***

***salvation and blessed hope in Christ. Your sustaining grace as seen in Jesus' intercession for us Your people will see us through all our days in this life. I bow down to you in praise, thanksgiving. and worship. In Jesus' Name. AMEN"***

## **MATTHEW 27**

## **DAY 27**

### **THE CONDEMNATION, DEATH & BURIAL OF OUR LORD JESUS**

Matthew 27 records the condemnation of the Lord Jesus to die by crucifixion, his testimony before Pilate, and his death accompanied with supernatural events and his burial by a secret disciple named Joseph of Arimathea.

***1) Jesus' condemnation, trial, and death by crucifixion show the depravity of the human heart. Judas, the religious leaders, the people, and Pilate wanted only the miracles of Jesus but they refuse to believe Him and give Him their heart.***

In spite of the many evidences that the Lord Jesus was not just an ordinary person, Judas refused to believe in Him and betrayed Him. Judas lost a great opportunity and he knew this; and so in remorse, he took his own life. The religious leaders chose to close their eyes and condemned Jesus to die even though they could not really prove His guilt. Then, they sent Him to Pilate to be sentenced to die by crucifixion. The people who witnessed all of Jesus' miracles flippantly united to demand Jesus' death. And Pilate, who was intrigued by Jesus and had the power to save Him, even though he knew that He was innocent for the crimes being thrown at Him, gave in to the people's demand to have Jesus crucified. Pilate compromised the Truth that he knew for political and personal expediency. All of them knew that Jesus did nothing wrong but refuse to believe Him and give Him their heart.



**2) Jesus' death proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that He was the Messiah and the One sent by the Father to be our Savior. The supernatural events that accompanied it and the prophecies that were fulfilled attest to it.**

Observe the several scriptures fulfilled surrounding and during Jesus' death (vv. 9-10; 35-37; 45-46). There were also a number of supernatural events that took place at the time of His death. The first was the three hours of total darkness that happened from sixth hour to ninth hour of that day (v. 45). The second was the tearing up of the temple curtain from top to bottom (v. 51). The third was the earthquake that took place at that time (v. 51). The fourth was the rising again of some dead saints at that time and who appeared to the disciples (v. 52-53). These were undeniable proofs that Jesus was indeed the Son of God!

#### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord our God sent His Son Jesus in order to SAVE a sinful world. Man needed a change of heart even a new heart that only the Holy Spirit and Jesus could give!**

**2) The Lord Jesus is indeed the MESSIAH, the Son of God, who demonstrated to us through His Word and Work His OMNIPOTENT POWER & GLORY!**

#### **PRAYER:**

**"Our heavenly Father, thank You for the LORD JESUS CHRIST who demonstrated through His Word and His Works that He was the One whom You sent to be our SAVIOR from our sin and hell. Thank You for changing our heart through the miracle of new birth. Continue to mold and transform me to be the person that You want me to be. For Your honor and glory. In Jesus' Name. AMEN"**

**THE RESURRECTION & THE GREAT COMMISSION**

The Gospel of Matthew ends with the account of the Lord's resurrection and appearance to His disciples and with the commissioning of the disciples to win the world with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (The Great Commission).

***1) Jesus' resurrection proves not only that He is the Messiah sent by the Father but that the penalty of our sins had been paid and we have actually been forgiven by the Father. There is now forgiveness for man's sins!***

After three days, an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and an earthquake took place that opened the tomb where the Lord Jesus laid and he sat there. This event was witnessed by the soldiers who were shocked by this and by the women disciples of the Lord who went to see His body. But they were told by the angel that the Lord is alive and that they were to relay the news to the brethren. But before they left, the Lord also appeared to them and they worshipped Him. And the Lord sent them to tell the rest of the disciple that He is alive and to wait for Him in Galilee.

***2) Jesus' resurrection gave Him back His former glory and power and the authority as the Lord of lords and King of kings. He has now started to reign as the Lord of heaven and earth! He is the Lord of the Church!***

After the disciples went to Galilee to the place where Jesus instructed them to go, the Lord appeared to them and they worshipped Him. Observe that Jesus did not refused to

be worship indicating only that He is indeed a divine being, the Son of God! Then, after assuring them that He is now the Lord of the universe and the Lord of the Church and the Harvest and that He will always be with them, He gave them His final yet the most important mandate of the Church – the Great Commission (vv. 18-20).

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord Jesus' resurrection completed the purchase of our salvation. The Gospel or Good News is that there is now forgiveness for our sins through our Jesus Christ.***

***2) The Lord Jesus' resurrection is one of our greatest motivations to preach Gospel and make disciples of the nations. He is now the Lord of the universe and the Lord of the Church!***

## **PRAYER:**

***"Our heavenly Father, thank You for the LORD JESUS CHRIST, who through His resurrection assured us of the forgiveness of our sins and the hope of eternal life. Lord, make us and mold us to be faithful messengers of the Gospel to others that they too may come to know Jesus and the blessing of the His Gospel. Lord, be glorified and be magnified in my life as I go and make disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ. In His Name I pray all these. AMEN!"***

# **THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

**Jesus – Servant, Master, &  
Savior!**

## MARK 1

## DAY 1

### **JESUS, THE MINISTER & HIS MINISTRY**

The Gospel of Mark is a short but succinct account of the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. Mark's account is swift and describes Jesus as always "on the go." Some scholars say that it was the first Gospel ever written and the rest just copied or relied on it. Whatever may be the case, the Gospel of Mark though short is a goldfield, full of nuggets of wisdom and insights in the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Mark, we see Jesus as the Minister engaged in His various ministries.

#### ***1) Jesus' Forerunner – John the Baptist***

Mark opens up his Gospel by pointing out that John the Baptist was the forerunner of the Messiah as prophesied by Isaiah (vv. 3-4). John will prepare the hearts of the people to the Messiah's. Mark noted the baptism of Jesus by John and which was affirmed by the Father in Heaven (vv. 9-13).

#### ***2) Jesus' First Disciples – Peter, Andrew, James and John***

After His baptism Jesus called His first disciples in the persons of Peter (Simon) and his brother Andrew, and James and his brother, John. Jesus made it clear at the outset that His disciples were to be "FISHERS OF MEN." We are called and chosen to bear fruit – not only in character but also in converts. Thus, the Great Commission

should be taught early on to new believers just like what the Lord did.

### **3) *Jesus' Ministry – Healing of Body and Soul & Preaching the Good News***

There's no doubt that Jesus is our Great Healer. Note that He healed not only physical illness or disease but also spiritual diseases caused by demons. He cast out demons from people's lives and brought wholeness again to the person. Jesus also taught the people and they were amazed at His teaching because He taught with authority and power. His teachings were accompanied with supernatural signs and wonders.

### **4) *Jesus' Spiritual Discipline - Prayer & Intercession***

Worth noting is the spiritual discipline of our Lord Jesus of prayer and intercession (vv. 35-37). The disciples always see Jesus withdrawing and spending quality time in communion with the Father. I believe that prayer and intercession is one of those spiritual disciplines that we need to set in place in our walk with the Lord Jesus.

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

*1) Like John the Baptist, each one of us who believed in Jesus has a role to play in the Kingdom of God. The Lord expects us to serve Him faithfully.*

*2) The Great Commission is not the Final Command of the Lord after all. It was Lord's FIRST & FINAL COMMAND to the Church! Let's be FISHERS OF MEN!*

*3) Jesus is our Perfect Savior. He came to make us WHOLE AGAIN in body and soul and spirit.*

*4) If the Lord is our PERFECT MODEL, then one of the most important spiritual habit or discipline that I need to set in place in my life is prayer and intercession.*

## PRAYER:

*“Our heavenly Father, thank You for the LORD JESUS CHRIST, who is our PERFECT SAVIOR & MODEL. Through Him, we are made WHOLE AGAIN in body, soul, and spirit. Mold me to be like Him in my habit of prayer and intercession. Teach me and give me wisdom how to do this and be an effective servant of Yours. And make us indeed faithful “FISHERS OF MEN.” In Jesus’ Name I pray, Amen!”*

## MARK 2

## DAY 2

### **JESUS IS GOD & LORD OF ALL!**

One of the indisputable evidence that Jesus is indeed God is the fact that He forgives sins. And the Pharisees and scribes were right in saying that only God can forgive sins and Jesus was blaspheming when He did that. But this is only true if Jesus was not divine and God Himself. The fact is that He never denied that He was God. By saying and doing the supernatural things that He did, He proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that He was God. He was the Messiah who was to come!

#### **1) Jesus Can Forgive Sins! (vv. 1-12)**

Mark’s account of the healing of the paralytic highlighted the truth that our Lord Jesus has the power not only to heal illness but forgive sins. By doing so, He proved that He was the promised Messiah, the Anointed One. In other words, Jesus was God who became a Man in order to be our Savior!

#### **2) Jesus Comes for Sinners! (vv. 13-17).**

Jesus continued His calling of disciples and here He called Matthew also called Levi, a publican or tax collector. During that time, these kinds of people were look down as sinners and corrupt for they worked for the Roman government and believed to be conspirators in their suffering as God’s people. Thus, they were hated by the people. But Jesus not only called one of them, He also came to dine and

had fellowship with them. Because of this action, the scribes and Pharisees questioned Jesus about this and He responded and told them, *“Those who are well don’t need a doctor but the sick do need one. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”*

### **3) Jesus Corrects the People’s Errors!**

After this, the people also questioned Jesus why His disciples were not fasting while John and the Pharisees’ disciples were. Jesus told them that it was not yet the right time for them to fast for He was still with them but the time will come when they will fast. And Jesus told them a very important principle. *“A new wine needs a new wineskin.”* The Pharisees also questioned Jesus because His disciples were picking up some heads of grains from the grain fields on a Sabbath. But Jesus told them the story of David and his men when they ate the bread in the temple and which was not lawful for them; but the high priest at that time gave the bread and they ate. Then, He taught them that the Sabbath was created to serve man and man for Sabbath and declared to them that He is Lord of Sabbath (See also Mark 3:1-6). Therefore, Jesus corrected the wrong notions of the people about Him, the Law, and righteousness.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

*1) Our Lord Jesus can forgive our sins! For He is indeed the Son of God! He is our Healer! He heals our bodies as well as our souls. By His death and resurrection He forgave all our sins!*

*2) Our Lord Jesus came on earth to call sinners! Unless we see ourselves as sinner and in need of a Savior, Jesus did not come for us!*

*3) Our Lord Jesus teaches us the TRUTH. In fact, He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! He is our Righteousness!*

### **PRAYER:**



*“Our heavenly Father, thank You for the LORD JESUS CHRIST, our Savior, the One who forgave all our sins. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! He teaches the truth about God and the Law and leads us on the path of righteousness. Indeed, He is our Righteousness! Lord, to You I give all praise and thanks and worship. In Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”*

## **MARK 3**

## **DAY 3**

### **JESUS IS LORD OVER ALL DEMONIC BEINGS!**

Another indisputable evidence that Jesus is indeed the Son of God is the fact that He has power over demonic beings. Even demons recognized Him as the Son of God and were subject to Him.

#### **1) Jesus Attracts large crowds of people! (vv. 7-12).**

At this time, Jesus popularity had grown that large number of people were coming to see Him and be ministered by Him. They bring along with them the sick and the demon-possessed and Jesus healed many. One interesting fact was that these evil spirits coming out from these people recognized who Jesus was – the Son of God! But Jesus would not permit them to divulge this truth to people.

#### **2) Jesus Appoints His 12 apostles! (vv. 13-19)**

Mark here also recorded Jesus’ appointment of the 12 apostles. The Gospel of Luke clearly told us that Jesus spent the whole night praying to God before selecting the Twelve (see Luke 6: 12). From this we learn a very important ministry strategy from our Lord Jesus – the small group strategy. The Lord showed us the importance of selecting and training of a small group of people to whom we could pour out our life, and pass to them the Vision of the Great Commission or disciple-making.

### **3) *The Scribes Accuses Jesus as possessed by Beelzebub! (vv. 20-30)***

But not all were happy for Jesus for the scribes or teachers of the law had accused Jesus as possessed by Beelzebub, the Prince of demons! In hearing this, the Lord told the people of the parable of the Strong Man where He refuted this accusation of the scribes. Jesus also warned the people not to sin against the Holy Spirit for they will not be forgiven of this sin.

### **4) *Jesus Affirms His disciples (vv. 31-34)!***

Even Jesus' very own family was wondering what had happened to Him and they were thinking that perhaps He had gone mad. So, they wanted to take hold of him and take him with them. But when Jesus was told that His family members were looking for him and wanted to take him, He told the people, pointing to His disciples who were surrounding Him, *"Who are my mother, my brothers and sisters? Here are my mother and my brothers and sisters! For whoever does the will of God is my mother and brother and sister"* (v. 34).

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

*1) Our Lord Jesus is Lord over disease and over demons! He is the Son of God! He is the Messiah! He is our Savior and Lord!*

*2) Our Lord Jesus modeled before us a strategy to fulfill the Great Commission. We are to make disciples who will also make disciple and continue the Vision until Jesus comes!*

*3) Our Lord Jesus teaches us that the most important thing in this life is to do the Father's will. This makes us truly "related or connected" to our Lord Jesus Christ!*

### **PRAYER:**

*"Our heavenly Father, thank You for the LORD JESUS CHRIST, the SON OF GOD! HE is not only Lord*

*over disease and nature but even demons! He set us free from Satan's control and dominion. Lord Jesus, teach us to do Your work like You did it and learn from Your ways. Remind me always that doing Your will is the most important thing in my life and ministry. In Jesus' Name. AMEN!"*

## **MARK 4**

## **DAY 4**

### **JESUS IS LORD OF THE HARVEST & NATURE!**

In this chapter Mark presented the Lord Jesus as Lord of the Harvest as well as Lord of Nature. Jesus' supernatural works attest to His deity and divinity!

#### **1) *Jesus is Lord of the Harvest! (vv. 1-34).***

Our Lord Jesus revealed to us here that He intentionally spoke in parables (earthly stories with spiritual meaning) to fulfill the OT prophecies and so that the people will not fully understand what He was talking about (v. 12). The secret of the kingdom was given only to the disciples but not to all the people. For Jesus would explain the meaning of the parables to His disciple (see vv. 33-34). *Thus, people are to believe first before they will see!* The series of parables here in Mark 4 depicted the Lord as the Farmer or Sower of the Seed (the Word or Gospel) and these parables teach us that the kingdom of God will certainly grow and advance. The kingdom will be victorious! Indeed, Jesus is Lord of the Harvest!

#### **2) *Jesus is Lord of Nature! (vv. 35-41)***

Jesus is not only Lord of the Harvest but also Lord of nature! Mark here showed us that Jesus could command nature and they obey Him. The disciples were able to experience this power of Jesus when the boat they were riding was nearly swamped by a strong storm. When they awoke Jesus, He rebuked the wind and the waves and they

calmed down. They were amazed at these and wondered, *“Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey Him!”*

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

*1) Our Lord Jesus is Lord of the Harvest! He is the Great Sower of the Seed (the Gospel) and we are called to labor with Him and to be faithful! The Church will be victorious!*

*2) Our Lord Jesus is Lord of Nature! He is the Almighty God, the Creator of the universe! Everything He created will worship and submit to His Lordship in due time!*

## **PRAYER:**

*“Our heavenly Father, thank You for the LORD JESUS CHRIST, who is Lord of the Harvest & also Lord of Nature! We thank You Lord that the Gospel we preach will certainly succeed and be victorious. We will have a great harvest of souls. Lord, thank You also that You are Lord of nature and You are the Creator of all I see in this life. Lord, teach me continually like the rest of Your creation to praise You continually. In Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”*

## MARK 5

## DAY 5

### THE LORD OF ALL SITUATIONS!

In this chapter we see the Lord Jesus being the Lord of all our situations and difficulties! Indeed, nothing is impossible with the Lord for He is the Lord of All!

#### **1) *Jesus sets free a demon-possessed man! (vv. 1-20).***

One of the authorities the Lord Jesus gave to His apostles was to cast out demons from those persons who are demon-possessed. In vv. 1-20, the Lord sets free a man who had been in bondage to the devil for some time and had made him useless and deplorable to society. Yet Jesus had mercy on him and set him free. He wanted to go with Jesus because of his gratitude but the Lord commanded him to testify to the Lord's goodness to his family and his hometown.

#### **2) *Jesus heals a desperate woman! (vv. 25-34)***

Also in this chapter Mark tells the story of a desperate woman who was subject to bleeding for twelve years and no doctor could make her well. When she heard of Jesus and that He was coming on her way, she took advantage of her opportunity and secretly and by faith, she touched the cloak of Jesus' robe. She believed in her heart that by even just touching Jesus' robe she will be healed. And indeed, the Lord saw her heart and healed her.

#### **3) *Jesus raises a dead little girl! (vv. 21-24, 35-43)***

One of the wonderful things that our Lord did while on earth was to raise people from the dead! Someone commented on the Gospels that Jesus always derails a funeral service! He means that in all the funeral situation that Jesus attended He raises the person from the dead. Here, Jesus raised from the dead the daughter of Jairus who requested Him to have mercy on him and his beloved daughter.

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

*1) The Lord Jesus SEES OUR FAITH in Him! We “touch” Him or “connect” to Him through our faith and trust. As pointed out by the Book of Hebrews, “Without faith it is impossible to please God...” (Heb. 11:6).*

*2) The Lord Jesus is the Lord of the IMPOSSIBLE! He specializes on the IMPOSSIBLE or DIFFICULT SITUATIONS in our life. As the angel Gabriel reminded us, “For nothing is impossible with God!” (Luke 1: 37)*

## **PRAYER:**

*“Heavenly Father, thank that there is NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE to You as well as the Lord Jesus Christ. Increase my faith in You and Your Son Jesus that I may live by faith and not by sight. To believe that You are ‘moved’ by my faith in You and that You are very much willing to demonstrate Your power in my life if only You will see “faith in You” in my heart. Lord, indeed, strengthen and increase my faith in You and what You can in my life. In Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”*

**THE PRICE OF FOLLOWING JESUS!**

In this chapter we will learn that following Jesus as Savior and Lord has consequences in our life. Some are eternally good but most of them will be challenging and faith-stretching in this life.

**1) *A disciple will be misunderstood by his/her loved ones! (vv. 1-6).***

The Lord Jesus taught that “*a disciple will not greater than his master or teacher.*” Since Jesus was without honor in his own family and town, the same will likely be experienced by those who will follow Jesus.

**2) *A disciple will serve or work in the kingdom! (vv. 7-13)***

Our Lord Jesus made it clear that following Him means serving Him and His agenda and purpose. Here we see Jesus training and giving authority to His disciples to preach the Good News of the kingdom and to set free people from demonic bondages.

**3) *A disciple will experience persecution and opposition! (vv. 14-29)***

But only misunderstood by loved ones for some of the disciples they will be persecuted and some even die for their faith in Jesus. This was the lot of John the Baptist. He died

lifting the Name of the Lord and proclaiming the righteousness of the Lord.

**4) *A disciple will have to believe and do the ‘impossible’! (vv. 30-56)***

When a large crowd followed Jesus and His disciples in a remote place, the Lord had compassion on them for He saw them as sheep without a Shepherd. It was also getting late and Jesus tested the faith of His disciples and He told, “Feed these people!” and they gave excuses how this task was impossible to do. But Jesus asked them what do they have in their midst and they answered, “Two fish and five loaves of bread.” Then, Jesus asked the disciples to organize the crowds into groups of 100’s and 50’s. He took the two fish and five loaves and blessed them and distributed them to the disciples and to the people. All the 5,000 people excluding women and children all ate and there were even 12 basketfuls of leftovers. In the other story (vv. 45-56), the disciples saw Jesus walking on water. At first they thought that He was a ghost and were terrified but later He showed himself to them and rode with them in the boat. And they were completely amazed! Our Lord had been strengthening their faith in Him knowing that as His servants they had to believe and do even the impossible in His Name!

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

*1) Jesus is the Lord of His people’s lives! He is the Lord of my life and I give to Him total control and full allegiance.*

*2) As a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, I am willing to pay the price of following Him. I will be misunderstood and opposed and persecuted but He expects me to serve Him faithfully and believe that He can do the “impossible” in my life.*

**PRAYER:**

*“Our heavenly Father, thank You for the LORD JESUS CHRIST, who is the Lord of all and the Lord of my*



*life. I know that as His disciple I will be misunderstood by my loved ones, opposed and persecuted by others; but all the more I will serve Him faithfully and believe that He can do the “impossible” in my life. Lord, to You I give praise and thanks and worship. In Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”*

## **MARK 7**

## **DAY 7**

### **JESUS TEACHES AND HEALS!**

In this chapter, we see our Lord Jesus as a divine Teacher and Healer in fulfilment of the OT prophecies regarding the Messiah who will *“preach Good News to the poor, proclaim freedom for prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind...”* (Luke 3:18).

#### **1) Jesus teaches the disciples about what makes a man “clean and unclean” (vv. 1-23).**

When the Pharisees and scribes saw that Jesus’ disciples were not washing their hands before eating, they questioned Jesus about this. But Jesus answered by pointing out that these religious leaders were nullifying the laws of God by replacing them with their man-made rules or laws. Their lips were near the Lord but their hearts are not. So Jesus told the people that it is not those outside a man that makes him unclean but the things that comes out of him. But the disciples still did not understand this and they asked him again. Then Jesus plainly told them that food does not make a man unclean for it comes into the stomach and then out of his body. But what make a man unclean are the things that come from his heart. For out of the heart comes evil thoughts and all other wicked desires and actions (vv. 20-23).

#### **2) Jesus sets free a demon-possessed girl! (vv. 24-30).**

When our Lord Jesus came to the region of Tyre and Sidon, a Greek woman came to Him and asked Him to heal her demon-possessed little daughter. At first Jesus said to her that what she was asking is “children’s bread” (that is intended for the Israelites only). But she countered that even dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs. With such answer the Lord was pleased and told her to go home and that her daughter is now well. Her faith pleased the Lord!

### **3) *Jesus makes a deaf and mute man hears and speaks!* (vv. 31-37).**

Also in Decapolis, some people brought to Jesus a deaf and mute man and asked Him to heal him. Jesus apparently moved by their compassion and concern for the man, granted their request and touched the man and healed him. When they saw that the man can now hear and speak, they were overwhelmed with amazement.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

1) *Our Lord Jesus teaches us to diligently guard our heart for “The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart.” We need a “new heart” that only Jesus could give.*

2) *Our Lord Jesus Christ is our Bondage Breaker and our Great Healer! He responds to our faith and is pleased with our believing and expectant faith (Heb. 11:6).*

### **PRAYER:**

*“Our heavenly Father, teach me to diligently guard my heart from sins. Teach me to trust You and Your Word and keep my heart in check and consecrated for You. Lord, sanctify my heart and consecrate my life for You and Your service. Make me ever conscious of sin and stop them from taking control of my heart and life. But to place my trust and confidence, and hope in You alone. Lord, to You I give my*

*heart. Mold it and conform it to Your will. All these, I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen!"*

## **MARK 8**

## **DAY 8**

### **JESUS & THE WAY OF THE CROSS!**

In this chapter, we see our Lord Jesus continues to do miraculous deeds among the people – performing miracles, healing and teaching. Here, Jesus particularly teaches the people the “Way of the Cross.”

#### **1) Jesus FEEDS the 4,000 people (vv. 1-21).**

Again a crowd followed Jesus and they have been with Jesus three days. Jesus felt compassion on them and again He fed them using only seven loaves. After they all ate there were seven basketfuls of leftovers. But when they transferred to another place and rode a boat, the Lord Jesus warned His disciples about the ‘leaven’ (the teachings) of the Pharisees and of Herod. But the disciples thought He was talking about ‘bread’ for they forgot to bring food with them. So Jesus rebuked their lack of faith and reminded them of what He just did, the feeding the 5,000 and now the 4,000 people. After this, Jesus also made a blind man see again fulfilling the work of the Messiah.

#### **2) Jesus QUESTIONS the disciples about Himself (vv. 22-30).**

Then, Jesus asked the disciples: “*Who do you think I am?*” They said some say He was John the Baptist while some say that He was Elijah. But Peter confidently declared that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God! Then

Jesus told them plainly what will happen to Him; that He will suffer at the hands of the religious leaders and be killed. But Peter took Jesus aside and told Him that these things should never happen to Him. And Jesus rebuked Satan who had put these thoughts in Peter's mind.

### **3) *Jesus teaches the people the “Way of the Cross” (vv. 31-38).***

Then Jesus called the people and His disciples to Himself and began to teach them what it is to be His true follower or disciple. He told them that they must be willing to give their life to Him and suffer for Him as their Savior and Lord. He told them plainly that to follow Him involved carrying a cross – To follow Christ is to follow the “Way of the Cross.” It is a daily dying to self and living for Christ!

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

*1) Our Lord Jesus is the Bread of Life! He is not only our Creator but Provider of all that we need. Most important of all, He is the Bread that can only give us eternal life!*

*2) Our Lord Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God! We are to acknowledge Him as such and personally apply this truth to our own heart.*

*3) Our Lord is our true Model of the Christian life. As His disciples and followers, we are to follow His lead. We are to follow the “Way of the Cross.”*

### **PRAYER:**

*“Our heavenly Father, thank You for reminding us that Jesus is our Bread of Life and the Son of God who died and rose again from the dead to give us life and victory over sin. Lord, thank that You have set forth before us a path to follow even the “Way of the Cross.” By Your grace and help, we know we will emerge victorious in our pilgrimage in this life. We will be victorious through Your grace in our life. In Jesus’ Name. Amen!”*

## MARK 9

## DAY 9

### JESUS AND HIS REVELATIONS

In this chapter, we see another of Jesus' undeniable proofs that He is the Messiah, the Anointed One of the Father. Also here, Jesus reveals the key secrets of the Kingdom.

#### **1) Jesus *SHOWS His glory to His inner circle!* (vv. 1-13).**

After some time, Jesus took Peter, James, and John and they went to a high mountain. There He transfigured before them in a glorious figure and Moses and Elijah also appeared to be talking with Him. At that time the apostles did not know what to do. Then, a Voice from heaven spoke saying, *“This is my Son, whom I love; listen to Him!”* Then Moses and Elijah disappeared and they went down from the mountain. But Jesus told them not tell this experience to others until He has risen from the dead. But they did not understand what Jesus meant with “rising from the dead.”

#### **2) Jesus *SHOWS the key to spiritual power!* (vv. 14-32).**

When Jesus and the three came to the other disciples they saw a large crowd around them and the scribes were arguing with them. Then Jesus learned that His disciples could not drive out an evil spirit in a little boy and the boy's father pleaded with Jesus to help his son. And because there were many other people still coming to them, Jesus rebuked the spirit and it left the boy and he was healed.

Then in private, the disciples asked Jesus why they could not drive out the evil spirit in the boy. He told them that it could only be driven out by prayer and fasting.

### **3) Jesus *SHOWS* the key to true greatness! (vv. 33-50).**

Then Jesus asked the disciples what was they were arguing about and they kept quiet. But the Lord knew about it and He began to teach them the secret to true spiritual greatness. *“If anyone wants to be first, he must be the last and the servant of all!”* Then, He admonished them to welcome children in the kingdom and to be not a stumbling block to them. He also warned them to be careful how they live and to be serious in dealing with sin in their lives. And He exhorted them to be the salt of the earth and to be at peace with each other.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

*1) Our Lord Jesus is the SON OF GOD, the GLORIOUS IMAGE OF THE FATHER! Let us take heed to His teachings and commands.*

*2) Our Lord Jesus teaches us that PRAYER & FASTING is KEY to spiritual power! Let us strengthen our prayer life and explore fasting in order to tap to God’s unlimited power!*

*3) Our Lord Jesus teaches us to have a SERVANT HEART/ ATTITUDE which is the key to spiritual greatness! Let us have the mindset of our Lord Jesus (Phil. 2:1ffg)!*

### **PRAYER:**

*“Our heavenly Father, thank You for showing us WHO TRULY JESUS CHRIST IS! HE is YOUR SON, and You are pleased with Him. Father, thank You that through Him I too could be Your son and be conformed to Your image and see You face to face someday. Lord, teach me indeed to be prayerful and to have that servant attitude like that of Christ my Lord. Mold and transform me into the image of Your Son Jesus. This I pray, in Jesus’ Name. AMEN!”*

## MARK 10

## DAY 10

### ***JESUS THE GREAT TEACHER OF THE KINGDOM!***

In this chapter, we see Jesus as the Great Teacher of God's Kingdom. Here Jesus will teach the great truths about marriage, entering the Kingdom, true spiritual greatness, and persistent faith.

#### ***1) Jesus teaches us what God's view on marriage is! (vv. 1-12).***

Some Pharisees came to Jesus and asked Him whether divorce is lawful or not in order to test Him. Jesus replied by saying "*What did Moses command you?*" They said basically that Moses allowed them to divorce their wife. But Jesus countered that that was because of the hardness of man's heart and not because it was God's will. Then He quoted Genesis 1:27; 2:24 telling them that God's original intention for marriage is a lifetime commitment and faithfulness to one another. In private Jesus told His disciples that a man or a woman commits adultery if he or she divorces his or her spouse and marries another except for marital unfaithfulness (See Matthew 5:31-32).

#### ***2) Jesus teaches us what is required to enter God's Kingdom! (vv. 13-31).***

Then there was a young man who came to Jesus and asked Him how he can enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus reminded him of the commandments of God but he

confidently replied that he had kept all those commands of the Lord. But Jesus pointed out to him one more thing that he needed to do – to forsake his wealth or riches, give to the poor, and to follow Him. When the man heard this he was sad and turned away because he had great wealth. Then, Jesus told plainly to His disciples that it is hard to enter the kingdom of God if you are not willing to totally surrender your life to Him. When the disciples said, *“Who then can be saved?”* Jesus said, *“With man this is impossible but not with God; all things are possible with God.”* Then, Jesus comforted His disciples who left all and followed Him with His promise of multiplied blessings along with persecutions and eternal life (see vv. 29-31).

### **3) Jesus teaches us what true spiritual greatness is! (vv. 35-45).**

Again, there was this resentment among the disciples when James and John came to Jesus and requested that they be seated at the Lord’s left and right in His glory. But the Lord corrected them about this desire for greatness in the Kingdom of God. Jesus told them that His kingdom does not operate like the kingdoms of the earth. But true greatness before the Lord could be achieved by servant hood. He who wants to be great and first among them must be the servant of all. Then He exhorted them to follow His lead - He came to serve and not to be served! And to give His life as a ransom for many!

### **4) Jesus teaches us what persistent faith is! (vv. 46-52).**

Then through a man named Bartimeus, Jesus taught what persistent faith is all about. When Bartimeus learned that Jesus was coming his way he did not waste the time and opportunity to cry out to Him and call on His Name. The people around him got annoyed that they rebuked him to stop; but Bartimeus shouted all the more to Jesus. Then, he got Jesus’ attention and Jesus asked him what he wanted from Him. He said, *“Rabbi (Teacher) I want to see!”* Then, Jesus told him, *“Go, your faith has healed you!”* And he was healed and followed Jesus.



## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

1) *Our Lord Jesus desires that we have a HAPPY & FULFILLING marriage and family life! Let's follow His blueprint for a happy marriage and family life – the Bible!*

2) *Our Lord Jesus desires that we enter the Kingdom of God by acknowledging Him as our Savior and Lord! Let's fully surrender our life to Him today!*

3) *Our Lord Jesus desires that we serve in His Kingdom with a grateful and humble heart—with a servant heart! Let us serve the Lord and one another with a servant heart!*

4) *Our Lord Jesus desires that we have a persistent faith like Bartimeus! Let us pursue and develop a 'believing and persistent' faith in the Lord today!*

## **PRAYER:**

*"Our heavenly Father, thank You for showing us these great truths today about marriage, entering your kingdom, spiritual greatness, and persistent faith. Lord, give me the grace and help to apply them in my daily living and be a blessing to those around me. Lord, I give You thanks, praise, and worship for Your goodness to me. I pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen!"*

## MARK 11

## DAY 11

### **JESUS IN JERUSALEM & IN THE TEMPLE!**

In this chapter, we see Jesus fulfilling what was predicted in the OT as He enters Jerusalem. He will also show here His zeal and reverence for the temple.

#### **1) Jesus *COMES* as the promised Messiah! (vv. 1-11).**

Note that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, He actually fulfilled two predictions in the Old Testament. The first was the coming of the Messiah in Jerusalem riding a donkey as predicted by the prophet Zechariah (Zech. 9:9) and the second was the triumphant entrance of the Messiah to Jerusalem as prophesied in the Book of Psalms (Ps. 118: 25, 26).

#### **2) Jesus *CLEARs* the temple of vendors! (vv. 12-19).**

Observe also the Lord Jesus zeal and reverence for the temple of God as shown by His action when he saw the all people using an area of the temple for buying and selling. He began driving out them all out of the temple and He overturned the tables of the money changers and all those doing business in the temple. This zeal for the temple also fulfilled prophecies concerning the Messiah in the OT (see Isa. 56:7; Jer. 7:11).

#### **3) Jesus *CHALLENGE* His disciples to believe! (vv. 20-26).**

We also see Jesus here challenging His disciples to believe in Him and in prayer. When the disciples saw that the fig tree that Jesus cursed the day before did wither and die, they were amazed and told Jesus about this. And Jesus exhorted them to believe and trust the Father and ask anything from Him believing in their hearts, and they will receive it. But Jesus added that their hearts must be free from un-forgiveness or from any impurities or sins.

#### **4) Jesus *CATCHES* the religious authorities! (vv. 27-33).**

In all these, the religious leaders were not happy about Jesus and were greatly disturbed by His actions. So, they confronted Jesus and asked Him as to what authority and whose authority He was doing the things that He was doing. But Jesus knowing their evil hearts countered by giving them a condition before answering their question. He asked them a question and if they answer this question, then He will answer their question. And Jesus asked them: Is John the Baptist's baptism from God or from men? But since they could not answer this question, Jesus told them that He will also not answer their question!

#### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

1) *Our Lord Jesus is indeed the MESSIAH, the ONE the Father has sent and given ALL THE AUTHORITY to be our Savior and Lord!*

2) *Our Lord Jesus' zeal and devotion to the temple teaches us that we are to be DEVOTED TO TRUE & PURE WORSHIP of the Lord! We are to WORSHIP HIM with our whole being.*

3) *Our Lord Jesus teaches us to BELIEVE & TRUST the Father for HE is a PRAYER-ANSWERING GOD! The Father hears and answers the prayer that comes from a believing heart!*

#### **PRAYER:**

*“Our heavenly Father, thank You for sending to us the LORD JESUS CHRIST! Indeed, HE is our SAVIOR & LORD! He is the ONE whom you gave the AUTHORITY to rule our life and heart. Lord, teach us to TRUST & BELIEVE YOU & YOUR WORD. To believe that You are our PRAYER-ANSWERING GOD and that You hear and respond to believing prayers. Lord, thank You for the privilege to come and offer to You our prayers. I give You praise and thanks. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen!”*

## **MARK 12**

## **DAY 12**

### **JESUS & ISRAEL’S RELIGIOUS LEADERS!**

In this chapter, we see Jesus confronting and answering the questions raised by the religious leaders of Israel. At the end they dared not ask anymore question to Jesus for He answered them wisely and with authority.

#### **1) Jesus SHARES a parable about the religious leaders (vv. 1-12).**

Jesus continued to speak to the religious leaders of Israel and told them the “Parable of the Tenants.” After hearing the parable, they realized that the story was about them and they were the ones being referred in the story. This all the more made them angry and they look for a way to arrest Jesus. But because they were afraid of the crowd they left Jesus and went away.

#### **2) Jesus SHUTS OFF the mouth of the religious leaders (vv. 13-27).**

Then, the religious leaders sent people to ask questions to Jesus with the goal of trapping Him to say something bad or wrong against the Law. The first was about paying taxes to Caesar and Jesus told them to give Caesar what is Caesar’s and give to God what is God’s! The Sadducees also put a question to Jesus about the resurrection (they don’t believe in resurrection) and corrected their mistaken view of the resurrection. He pointed

out that there is no marriage in heaven and that God is not a God of the dead but of the Living!

**3) Jesus SATISFIES the question raised by a religious leader (vv. 28-40).**

Again, one of the religious leaders asked Jesus as to what are the most important commandments of the Lord given to Moses. Jesus told the people – *“Love the Lord with you whole being!”* and the second is – *“Love your neighbor as yourself!”* This pleased the religious leader who asked and Jesus told him that he is not far from the kingdom. By this, Jesus summarized to us the OT laws by these two commands!

**4) Jesus SHOWS His disciples how to give to God RIGHT! (vv. 41-44).**

After this Jesus watching the people putting their offering and gifts to the temple treasury, called His disciples and taught them how to give to God right. Giving must come from a grateful and willing heart. It is not the amount that we give that counts but the amount that was left in our pockets or wallets. We are to give the Lord our best!

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

*1) Our Lord Jesus desires that we be OBEDIENT & CHRIST-CENTERED SERVANTS! Let's look at our heart and know whether we are serving “self” or Jesus!*

*2) Our Lord Jesus desires that we KNOW THE TRUTH and not walk in error! Let us be diligent students of the Word and know its power in our life!*

*3) Our Lord Jesus desires that we LOVE HIM WITH ALL OUR BEING & TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER! Let's faithfully obey the GREAT COMMANDMENTS!*

4) *Our Lord Jesus desires that we GIVE TO GOD THE BEST WITH A WILLING HEART! Let us give the Lord the best and with the right attitude!*

PRAYER:

*“Our heavenly Father, thank You for showing us these great truths today. Above all, teach us continually to LOVE YOU WITH ALL OUR BEING & LOVE OTHERS LIKE YOU LOVED US! Lord, mold us and transform our hearts and our lives. Make us the kind of FOLLOWERS & DISCIPLES that You desire us to be – OEDIENT & GENEROUS. All these I pray in Jesus’ Name. Amen!”*

MARK 13

DAY 13

## **JESUS & HIS SECOND COMING**

In this chapter, we see Jesus’ disciples asking Him about the time when the earth will be destroyed and the signs for these things and His return. So Jesus told them what will take place in the days to come.

### **1) Jesus ENUMERATES the signs of the end of the age and His Coming again! (vv. 1-27).**

Jesus noted that there will be many false Christ coming in the future, claiming to be the Christ. There will be wars and rumors of wars. The Gospel will be preached to all nations and the Church will experience severe persecution. There will be an abomination that will be set up in the temple in Jerusalem. There will be a great tribulation time. There will be cosmic signs in the sky like the stars falling from the sky. Then, the Christ will come in His glory and gather His people even the elect to be with Him eternally.

### **2) Jesus EXHORTS His disciples to take heed and to be alert and be ready for these things (vv. 28-37).**

Note that as Jesus enumerates these signs, He exhorts His disciples to be ALERT and to be READY for these things. In v. 13, He commends those who will endure to the end. In v. 31, Jesus teaches us to hold fast to His

Word for it will never be destroyed but last. He told His disciples that the day or the hour of His coming is unknown and only the Father knows it. So, He exhorts them to be always alert, to watch out, and to be always ready.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

*1) Our Lord Jesus teaches us that there will be an END to this world we live in and there will be DIFFICULT days ahead. Thus, let us live trusting the Lord and His Word!*

*2) Our Lord Jesus will certainly come again for HIS CHURCH, HIS BRIDE! Let us be alert and be ready for His Coming and it will be any time!*

### **PRAYER:**

*“Our heavenly Father, thank You for revealing to us that this world we live in will one day pass away. Teach us to put our trust in You and not in the things of this earth. Mold us to live holy and godly lives for You. Lord, teach us to be alert and always ready for Your Coming again and as we wait for You to snatch other from fire of hell by sharing the Gospel to them. All these I pray in Jesus’ Name. Amen!”*

**JESUS & HIS LAST DAYS ON EARTH**

In this chapter, we see Jesus preparing His disciples for His departure as well as predicting what will take place His last days on this earth.

**1) A woman *ANOINTS* Jesus with an expensive perfume (vv. 1-9).**

While Jesus was in Bethany, a woman came and anointed Jesus with alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. Some who were present there were angry at this and said that the money which was more than a year's wages could have been given to the care of the poor. And they rebuked her for this but Jesus told them to let her be. Jesus commended her act of love and sacrifice for it was done from her heart and it pleased Him. He even told them that she was preparing Him for His burial (which they did not understand). He added that what she just did to Him will always be remembered when His Gospel is proclaimed.

**2) Jesus *ADMINISTERS* His last supper with His disciples (vv. 12-26).**

Note that Jesus made a series of prediction in this chapter starting with where they were going to have their dinner or supper. Jesus also predicted that one of the 12 will betray Him and hand Him over to his enemies. He also predicted that this will be the last supper He will have with



His disciples before going back to heaven. Jesus knew what was happening to Him and why He came. He came with a purpose and it is to die for His People, the Church. And in this last supper, He proclaimed His death, His resurrection, and coming again!

**3) Jesus ANNOUNCES His disciples' falling away and Peter's denial (vv. 27-31; 66-72).**

Jesus also predicted the falling away of the disciples particularly of that of Peter. But the Good News was that He had already prayed and interceded for them and even told Peter to strengthen the brethren once he was able to come back (see Luke 22:31-32). Indeed, we see here the sovereignty of the Lord and the abundant and powerful grace of Jesus in the life of the disciples.

**4) Jesus AGONIZES in prayer at the Garden of Gethsemane (vv. 32-42).**

We see also Jesus here spending time agonizing in prayer and intercession for the last time in the last days of His earthly life. As if teaching us that prayer should always be an important part of daily walk with the Lord. Here, Jesus anticipated the brutal challenges that He will face and He needed enough supernatural strength to prepare for it. Note that He encouraged the disciples to do the same but they failed. For they slept more than they prayed!

**5) The religious leaders ARRANGE the arrest, trial, and condemnation of Jesus (vv. 43-65).**

As Mark noted in vv. 1-2, the religious leaders had been looking for opportunity to arrest Jesus and try Him and kill Him. Finally, they got their chance when Judas came to them and agreed to betray Jesus with 30 pieces of silver. So, they arrested Jesus and tried Him and sentenced Him to die by crucifixion. The only thing that they got from Jesus was for Him to confess that He was the Christ, the Son of God. And indeed, He admitted it (see v. 62). With this confession, they charged Jesus with blasphemy for claiming to be the Christ, the Son of God. In other words, they do not

believe that He was the Christ and rejected Him; thus fulfilling the scriptures (See Matt. 21:42).

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

*1) Our Lord Jesus is pleased with our EXTRAVAGANT LOVE FOR HIM! There is no such thing as an OVERDOSE OF LOVE FOR JESUS and He knows our heart! For He deserves our ALL in ALL THINGS!*

*2) Our Lord Jesus came with a definite purpose – TO BE DIE FOR HIS PEOPLE, TO BE THEIR SAVIOR & REDEEMER from sin and hell. Thus, Jesus came for me - to be my Savior!*

*3) Our Lord Jesus is our Sovereign Savior and Lord! His grace in my life is sufficient to make me victorious in this life!*

*4) Our Lord Jesus desires that we be men and women of prayer! Let us be fervent and persevering in prayer and intercession if we want to experience God's power!*

*5) Our Lord Jesus is the MESSIAH, the SON OF GOD! His life and works attest to this. The Bible, the Word of God, corroborates it. Let us place our trust in Him and His Word!*

## **PRAYER:**

*“Our heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the MESSIAH even our SAVIOR, JESUS! Indeed, He is the ONE that You sent to die for our sins and to redeem us from hell. Lord, teach us to love You and Him the way this woman loved Jesus. Teach us to obey Him and follow His lead. Mold me to be a prayerful disciple believing that nothing is impossible for them who have Your grace in their life. Lord I thank and praise You and worship You. All these I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen!”*

## MARK 15

## DAY 15

### JESUS & HIS CRUCIFIXION

In this chapter, we see Jesus being condemned to die by crucifixion; after being tortured and mocked by the soldiers and the people respectively. Then, He died and was taken by godly people and was buried.

#### **1) Pilate *CONDEMNS Jesus to die by crucifixion (vv. 1-15).***

When Jesus was brought to Pilate to be sentenced to die, Pilate could not find sufficient grounds to put Him to death. In fact, he knew that the religious leaders were just envious of Him. But these leaders stirred the people to pressure Pilate to sentence Jesus to die and they succeeded in pressuring him. Finally, Pilate set free Barabbas and sentence Jesus to die by crucifixion. Pilate was an example of us, who even though we know the truth will sacrifice it for the sake of our position or power or place in society. But Jesus is the Truth and His truth will set us free!

#### **2) *The soldiers TORTURES Jesus and the people MOCK Him (vv. 16-32).***

Note that Jesus was tortured and mocked by the soldiers. He suffered physical beating and verbal abused from them. They were also the ones who crucified Him on the Cross together with two thieves. The people passing by also hurled insults and mocked Jesus. The religious leaders were also there mocking Jesus telling Him, *“He saved others*

*but He can't save himself!"* And the thieves who were crucified with Jesus were also hurling insults to Him. But what was amazing was how Jesus our Lord dealt with all these people around Him who did Him evil. In the other Gospel, we learned that one of the very first words that came out of Jesus' lips on the Cross was to ask the Father's forgiveness for the sins of these people for He said, *"They don't know what they are doing!"* Even in His dying moment, Jesus is still loving and reaching out to sinners like you and me (Luke 23: 34). Praise Him!

**3) Jesus DIES and supernatural events TAKE PLACE during and around that time (vv. 33-47).**

At 12 noon (the sixth hour) total darkness came over the whole land until 3 pm (the ninth hour). At 3 pm, Jesus breathed His last. When He died, the curtain of the temple was torn into two from top to bottom. There was an earthquake that took place. And there were those godly people who rose from the dead (See Matt. 27:51). The centurion who witnessed all these things was convicted and declared that Jesus was "surely the Son of God!" There was also a prominent member of the Sanhedrin who took Jesus' body and laid Him in a tomb. Jesus faithfully fulfilled His mission and purpose – to die and give His life for His people!

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

*1) Our Lord Jesus is the TRUTH and His truth will set us free! Let us live in the Truth and not according to what people think or say. Let us live our life pleasing the Lord!*

*2) Our Lord Jesus is a LOVING & FORGIVING God! Let us come to Him admitting our sins and sinfulness and expect to receive His forgiveness and mercy!*

*3) Our Lord Jesus is our Messiah, the Son of God! He is a faithful God! His death was to fulfill what was written about Him – to pay the penalty of the sins of His people, to be our Savior from sin, death and hell! "For without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." (Heb. 9:22)*

## PRAYER:

*“Our heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the MESSIAH even our SAVIOR, JESUS! Indeed, He is the ONE that You sent to die for our sins and to redeem us from hell. And even in His death, He is loving and reaching out to sinners. Lord, teach us to live in the Truth, to live not for men but to do that which is pleasing before You. Lord, mold me and conform me to be like Your Son Jesus. In His Name I pray all these. Amen!”*

## MARK 16

## DAY 16

### JESUS, HIS RESURRECTION & THE GREAT COMMISSION

In this chapter, we see Jesus doing the greatest of His miracles; that is, rising from the dead! He appeared to His disciples and at first they could not believe it, but later on they were finally convinced. Afterwards, the Lord gave them the Great Commission!

#### **1) An Angel ANNOUNCES Jesus’ resurrection (vv. 1-8).**

When the women disciples of Jesus came to his tomb very early on the first day of the week to anoint Jesus’ body with spices, they were alarmed by the angel’s announcement to them: *“You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen!...”* (v. 6). By this, they were bewildered and fled from the tomb. And they told nothing to anyone because they were afraid.

#### **2) The Risen Lord APPEARS to His disciples (vv. 9-14).**

Note that Jesus’ disciples did not right away believe what the angel said about Jesus. Even when the Lord appeared to Mary Magdalene and the two disciples on Emmaus road, and told these appearances to the rest of the disciples, they still refuse to believe it. So the Lord finally appeared to all of them and rebuked their lack of faith and their stubbornness. In the Gospel of John, the Risen Jesus told them, *“Because you have seen Me, you have believed;*

*blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20: 29).*

### **3) *The Risen Lord ASSIGNS the Great Commission to His disciples (vv. 15-20).***

Afterwards, the Lord charged the disciples with the Great Commission (see Matt. 28:19-20). He exhorted them to go to the nations and preach the Gospel and make them His disciples. Then, He explained to them that those who will believe the Gospel will be saved but those who refused it will be condemned. He added that those who will believe in Jesus will do extraordinary things (see vv. 17-18). And He encouraged them by telling them that He will “*work with them*” and His presence and power will abide with them!

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

*1) Our Lord Jesus is the RISEN LORD! He is faithful and delights in the faith of His people! He wants us to live by faith and not by sight. Let us place our full trust in the Lord and in His Word!*

*2) Our Lord Jesus is the LORD OF THE HARVEST! He expects us, the Church, to fulfill the Great Commission. Let us be a faithful Great Commission Christian!*

### **PRAYER:**

*“Our heavenly Father, thank You for being our FAITHFUL GOD! You delivered Your promise of a Messiah and through our RISEN LORD JESUS; we have salvation and eternal life! Lord, empower us to live by faith and not by sight. To live in full trust and obedience to Your Word. Make us the faithful Great Commission Christians that You intended us to be. For the sake of Your Name and the Lord Jesus Christ, I pray all these things. Amen!”*

# **THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**

**Jesus – Savior of the  
World!**

**JOHN, THE FORERUNNER OF JESUS**

The Gospel of Luke is particularly written to a disciple named Theophilus, who was probably a new believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Doctor Luke wanted to give him an accurate account of the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus that which he himself “carefully investigated.”

***1) John the Baptist’s birth is foretold in the Old Testament and is confirmed by the angel Gabriel (vv. 1-25; 57-66-80).***

As noted by Matthew in his Gospel, the birth of John was predicted in the Old Testament. The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of a forerunner who will “*prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight paths for Him*” (Isa. 40:3). Here, this prophecy was affirmed by the angel Gabriel who was sent by the Lord to appear and announce to Zechariah the good news from the Lord – His prayer had been answered! (Elizabeth, his wife was old and barren) He will have a son and he will name him John! But because Zechariah did not believe Gabriel he was left not able to speak until the birth of John. When John was born they asked Zechariah what will be the name of the boy and he gave the name “John.” Then, Zechariah praised the Lord and gave a prophecy regarding his son who will be “*a prophet of the Most High, for (he) will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for Him, to give His people the know-*



*ledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins” (vv. 76-77).*

***2) Jesus’ birth is foretold in the Old Testament and is confirmed by the angel Gabriel (vv. 26-38; 39-56).***

After six months, Gabriel also was sent to Mary and told her about the message of the Lord. That she will bear a son and he will be called the Son of the Most High and will rule the kingdom of David forever! Gabriel explained that it will all take place through the power of the Holy Spirit who will cause her to be pregnant even though she was a virgin. Mary even though she did not fully understand what was happening to her believed Gabriel and she became pregnant according to the Lord’s words. When Mary visited her relative Elizabeth, her baby “John” recognized Mary’s baby “Jesus” and Elizabeth blessed Mary. Mary responded by praising the Lord by singing a song of praise to Him which came to be known as the “Magnificat,” in which Mary particularly sang to glorify and worship the Lord as His God and Savior for what He has done in her life!

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord our God has a particular PLAN & PURPOSE for each of His people. He has a definite plan for my life and so I will seek and pursue it faithfully like John for His honor and glory!***

***2) The Lord our God is pleased with our faith in Him! Blessed are those who believe and trust Him and His Word so let us believe His Word and expect great things from the Lord to do in our life!***

**PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, You are a MIRACULOUS & SUPERNATURAL GOD! You alone are GOD and there’s no other. There’s nothing hard or impossible with You. Lord, You have a PLAN & PURPOSE for my life. I***

***believe in You and Your Will for me is good. Teach me to trust Your Word fully and obey them wholeheartedly. Lord, increase my faith in You and Your Word and may Your will be done in my life and not mine. To You I give praise and thanks and worship. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen!"***

## **Luke 2**

## **Day 2**

### **THE BIRTH & CHILDHOOD OF JESUS**

The Gospel of Luke is the only Gospel that mentioned about the childhood of Jesus. Here, we see that Jesus underwent the normal stages of human life particularly his childhood. He grew up just like a normal human being but as Luke noted, "Jesus grew up in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (v. 52).

#### ***1) Jesus' birth is supernaturally ANNOUNCED by angelic beings (vv. 1-20).***

It is interesting to note that an angel of the Lord appeared and announced Jesus' birth not to the scribes and teachers of the Law; nor to the rich and powerful people of Israel but to the humble shepherds of the land and to Mary and Joseph. An angel of the Lord told them the birth of Jesus (Gabriel even gave Joseph the Name Jesus was to be called, Matt. 1:21) and a host of angels also appeared to them, praising and proclaiming the birth of Jesus that will bring peace to men. After this, these shepherds went to see whether what they heard was true and indeed they found the child in Bethlehem. So, they spread the word about Jesus and all who heard them were amazed.

#### ***2) Jesus' identity is personally AFFIRMED by godly men (vv. 21-40).***

After this, when baby Jesus was presented to the temple according to the practice of the Jews, certain godly men affirmed that He was the One they were waiting for. The first was Simeon. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he would not die until he sees the Messiah. When he saw Baby Jesus, he took him into his arms and praised the Lord and declared that Jesus will be *“a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory to your people Israel”* (vv. 29-32). Another was Anna, a prophetess and a widow. She also “spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem” (v. 38).

### **3) *Jesus’ childhood is wonderfully APPRAISED by the people (vv. 41-52).***

As Jesus grew, He continuously amazed the people around him. One time at 12 years old when he was lost, his parents found him in the temple talking to the teachers of the law. And these teachers were amazed at the knowledge and understanding of Jesus about the law. And when his parents saw him with these teachers they were astonished at Jesus. But what was truly wonderful was how Jesus lived His life as a child for Luke noted that Jesus was obedient to His parents. And that He grew up in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus is no doubt the Messiah that our Father in heaven sent to be our Savior! Angels and godly men acknowledged Him as the Messiah. So let us exalt Him and fully surrender our life to Him as our Savior and Lord!***

**2) *The Lord Jesus demonstrated how we are to live as human beings and followers of God. We are to be obedient to God and this should translate in our obedience to our parents and elders.***

## PRAYER:

***“Our heavenly Father, teach us to be like Jesus who fully OBEYED You from childhood until He died on the Cross for our sins. He fully surrendered His life to You and trusted Your will for His life. Lord, mold and make me the same kind of person that I may glorify and magnify Your Name in my life and ministry like Jesus my Lord. All these I pray in Jesus’ Name. Amen!”***

## Luke 3

## Day 3

### THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

As we pointed out in Luke 2, John was chosen by the Lord to fulfill the OT prophecy about the forerunner of the Messiah, the one who will prepare the hearts of the people to the coming of the Christ. Here, Luke clearly showed us that John was the Man and John himself affirmed that he was not the Christ but the one called to prepare His coming to His people.

#### ***1) John PREPARES the way for Jesus’ ministry (vv. 1-20).***

Like Matthew Luke cited the prophet Isaiah as the one who predicted the coming of the one who will prepare the way for the Christ. He will prepare the hearts of the people to receive the One the Father sent to be the Savior of His people (See vv. 4-6). His ministry was to call the people to repentance of their sins and to return to righteousness even obedience to the commands of the Lord. Many were coming to John from all walks of life and were convicted of his teachings about repentance and obedience to the Lord. And since they knew about the Christ, these people were thinking that perhaps John was the Christ who was to come. But as John himself had declared he was not the Christ but instead he pointed people to Jesus.

## **2) John POINTS the people to Jesus as the Christ (vv. 21-37).**

John clearly and plainly told the people, “I baptize you with water. But the more powerful than I will come, the thongs of his sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire...” (vv. 14-16). When Jesus came to John to be baptized, John at first would not do it knowing who Jesus was. But after Jesus explained that it should take place for righteousness’ sake, John consented (See Matt. 3:13-17). And heaven affirmed that Jesus indeed was the Son of God and that the Father was pleased in Him (vv. 21-23). Then, Luke recorded the genealogy of Jesus which goes back to God making Jesus the “Son of God” (v. 38).

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord our God has a definite CALLING & PURPOSE for our life as His children/people. Like John, let us diligently pursue His plan and will for our life. Let us be faithful steward of the gifts, opportunities, and resources He has given us!**

**2) The Lord our God desires that whatever may be our calling and lot in this life, we are to be FAITHFUL in POINTING people to JESUS as the Way, the Truth, and the Life!**

### **PRAYER:**

**“Our heavenly Father, teach us to be FAITHFUL STEWARD of Yours. Like John mold and shape us to be FAITHFUL AND DILIGENT in fulfilling Your will and purpose for our life and that Your over-arching will for us is to POINT people to Jesus as the Christ, our Savior and Lord. Lord, may You be glorified and magnified in my life as in the life of John the Baptist. All these I pray in Jesus’ Name I pray, Amen!”**

## **JESUS FULFILLS HIS MISSION!**

This chapter is highlighted by the temptation of Jesus as He starts His public ministry and His proclamation of the fulfillment of the sacred scriptures regarding the Messiah. Taking cue from Isaiah's prophecy, Jesus fulfills His mission as the Messiah, the Son of God!

### **1) *Jesus DISCARDS Satan's various temptations (vv. 1-13).***

The apostle John said that "The reason the Son of Man (Jesus) appeared was to destroy the devil's works" (1 John 3:8). We see this precisely in this chapter where Jesus first discarded Satan's various temptations to cause our Lord Jesus to sin against the Lord. He used the temptation of physical needs, wealth and power, and testing God; but Jesus rejected Satan. Note that Satan used even the Word of God to tempt Jesus and likewise Jesus clearly used the Word of God to deflect Satan's evil schemes. Thus, if Satan knew the Word and Jesus used it to overcome Satan's temptations, I need to be equipped in the Word of God! Indeed, Paul was right when he declared that the Word is the Sword of the Spirit; it is one of our valuable weapons of spiritual warfare.

## **2) *The people of Nazareth, his home town, DRIVES OUT Jesus in their midst (vv. 14-30).***

At this time Jesus was already popular throughout the whole countryside and He decided to visit His hometown of Nazareth where he grew up. As usual Jesus went to the synagogue to teach and preach the Good News. He read Isaiah 61:1-2 and declared that the scripture He just read was fulfilled at that very hour. The people were amazed at the gracious words that were coming from His mouth but people began saying that Jesus was just one of their own people and the son of Joseph, the carpenter. Sensing their unbelief and knowing that a prophet is not welcome in his own town, Jesus told them about the story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath and Elisha and Naaman. But instead of being grateful that Jesus was in their midst, the pride of the people were offended with these stories and they drove out Jesus away from their town even trying to throw Him in a cliff. But Jesus escaped them and proceeded to another town.

## **3) *Jesus DELIVERS people from demons and diseases (vv. 31-44).***

In Capernaum, Jesus taught in the synagogue and people were drawn to His teaching because He taught with authority. He even drove out an evil spirit from a demon-possessed man and the people were amazed at His power and news about Him spread to the surrounding area. So, the people would go to Jesus and bring their sick loved ones and those who are demon-possessed. And Jesus would deliver them from their sickness and infirmities as well as drive out demons. But Jesus kept on telling these demons not to tell who He is because they know that He was the Messiah, the Son of God (See vv. 40-41). So, Jesus went about preaching the Good News and delivering people from sickness and demons.

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Word of the Lord is a STRONG WEAPON in spiritual warfare! It is the Sword of the Spirit and has divine powers to defeat Satan and His minions! Let's be equipped in the Word!**

**2) The Arm of the Lord is SOVEREIGN! He will have mercy on whom He will have mercy and show compassion on whom He will show compassion. Let us humbly bow down to Him and submit to His Lordship and Leadership over our life!**

**3) The Work of the Lord is GOING ON in the Church! Let us faithfully fulfill the Great Commission and be an active part of His church in reaching out to the lost and setting people free from Satan's bondage!**

#### **PRAYER:**

**“Our heavenly Father, THANK YOU for Jesus the LIVING WORD and for the BIBLE, Your WRITTEN WORD! Teach me Your Word and let Your Word come alive in my life that people will see Your work of transformation in my life. Lord, mold me to be faithful in fulfilling Your Great Commission. And move Your Church to do the same. Lord, may You find us faithfully seeking the lost and setting people free from Satan's clutches. All these I pray in Jesus' Name I pray, Amen!”**



## **JESUS THE DISCIPLEMAKER & HEALER!**

In this chapter our Lord Jesus called the first disciples and clearly set forth before them on the outset what they will do in His kingdom. Jesus also demonstrated His power to heal and clearly stated His purpose to introduce a “new wine” in Israel.

### **1) *Jesus ASK men to become His disciples! (vv. 1-11, 27-31)***

Luke 4 described to us the calling of the first disciples particularly Peter, Andrew, John and James as well as Matthew or Levi. It centers on Peter and his companions who worked all night but did not catch any single fish! But when Jesus who happens to be there in the seashore of Galilee teaching the people, told them to throw their net in one place, they consented and were astonished with the large number of fish they caught. This prompted Peter to confess before Jesus that he was a sinful man (Perhaps, he doubted the word of Jesus!) and told Jesus to go away from him. But Jesus instead challenged him and his companions to follow Him and become His disciples. Note how Jesus told them their very job description in a way that they will never miss to understand nor forget: *“Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men”* (v. 10). In Matthew, Jesus told them: *“I*

*will make you fishers of men!”* (Matt. 4:19). The same was true of Matthew or Levi. In the midst of his tax collecting work, Jesus challenged him and told him those powerful words: “FOLLOW ME!” (v. 27).

## **2) Jesus *AMAZES* the people with His healing power! (vv. 12-26)**

Jesus did not only ask men to be His disciples but He also amazes the people with His healing power. In vv. 12-16, Jesus healed a leper. Note the faith of the leper in Jesus and His power to heal and how willing the Lord in doing his request. Indeed, the Lord sees faith in our heart! This is also true of the healing of the paralytic in vv. 17-26. The passage says that Jesus “saw their faith” and because of that He willing healed this man and made him walk again. Jesus also emphasized to the people that He has the power to heal as well as to forgive sins which angered the religious leaders but amazed the people.

## **3) Jesus *ANSWERS* the question about fasting! (vv.33-39)**

Finally, Jesus answered the scribes and Pharisees’ question about why Jesus and His disciples were not fasting like the disciples of John. So, He told that He, like the bridegroom in a wedding, is still with the bride and their guests (that is still with His disciples and the people). In other words, there is nothing to fast about! But a time will come when Jesus will be gone and then the disciples will fast. Then Jesus taught them a very important principle— “A new wine must be placed in a new wineskin!” Jesus and His kingdom represent a “new wine” and it needs a “new wineskin” that is, a new people with new hearts! Jesus is looking for a people who will believe Him and puts their trust in His and His Word.

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord Jesus CALLED us to be FISHERS OF MEN.”  
A disciple and follower of Jesus is a “fisher of men.”  
Therefore, let us fulfill our job description. Let us win  
people and make them disciples of Christ!**

**2) The Lord Jesus CAME to be our COMPLETE  
HEALER! He alone could make us WHOLE again in  
spirit, soul and body. Let us trust Him to heal us  
wholistically!**

**3) The Lord Jesus CHALLENGES us to fully TRUST  
Him! He came to bring us the kingdom of God and He is  
the WAY in order to enter it. Let us place our faith in  
Him and fully obey His Word!**

**PRAYER:**

**“Our heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the  
great privilege to be Your DISCIPLES, TO BE “FISHERS  
OF MEN”! Indeed, it is a honor to be Your co-worker in  
winning men and making them Your disciples. Teach  
and empower us how to do this for Your glory. Lord,  
thank You also for healing us completely in Christ. We  
know that a time will come when we will be made perfect  
and we look forward to that in Your return. Father,  
indeed, teach us to fully trust in Jesus for He and His  
kingdom is the “new wine” that our heart must fully  
trust and surrender to. Lord, all these I pray in Jesus’  
Name. AMEN!”**

## **JESUS IS LOOKING FOR A BELIEVING & OBEDIENT HEART!**

Luke in this chapter shows us that Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath. He is looking for people who will follow hard after Him and give Him not just a lip service but a heart service. He is looking for fruit in our character and obedience in our heart.

### **1) *Jesus CHALLENGES the teaching of the elders and scribes about the Sabbath (vv. 1-11).***

During one Sabbath day, some of the Pharisees saw that Jesus' disciples were picking grains and rubbing them with their hands in order to eat the kernel. So, they asked Jesus about this because they believed that they are breaking the Sabbath. Jesus answered by referring to an OT story when David and his men ate the bread of the temple that was only lawful for the priests to eat. Then, He told them that He is the Lord of the Sabbath. Again, in another Sabbath day, Jesus was teaching and there was a man who was paralyzed in his right arm. The scribes and religious leaders were there and were trying to catch Jesus do something wrong in order to accuse Him. Knowing this, Jesus asked the people, "I ask you, which is lawful on the

Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?" Then, He told the man, "Stretch your arm!" And the man did so and he was healed! The religious leaders were angry with Jesus and discussed what they needed to do with Jesus. While these miracles amazed the hearts of many, it also hardened the hearts of some!

## **2) Jesus *CHOOSES* His 12 Apostles to assist Him in His ministry (vv. 12-16).**

At this time Jesus went up to a mountain and spent the whole night praying. Then, He went down and chose His 12 Apostles from His disciples and they will stay with Jesus for the rest of the time before Jesus die on the Cross. Note that after this, Jesus will be spending more time with these 12 disciples and that they will be involved in His ministry as hands-on trainees. Later, we will learn that these 12 men (except Judas and to be replaced with Mathias) will be the ones that Lord will use to spread Christianity in the known world at that time.

## **3) Jesus *CONDUCTS* a solid *TEACHING* time with His disciples (vv. 17-49).**

From vv. 17-19, we learned that our Lord Jesus taught the people and healed them of all their disease and delivered them from demonic spirits. Then in vv. 20-49, Jesus gave His disciples a solid teaching on who are indeed the followers and disciples of the Lord Jesus. Jesus emphasized that they would be known by their inward rather than external qualities. They are not merely serving the Lord with their lips but by their hearts. Our Lord Jesus ended this teaching session by the parable of the two builders emphasizing the importance of applying the Word of God into our hearts and our practical daily life. That they are not just to be merely hearers of the Word but doers of the Word of God!

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath! Sabbath was created to serve the Lord and man. We can do good in Sabbath and glorify the Lord in this!**

**2) The Lord Jesus has ordained that His work be completed by His Church or His people. Thus, we are God's co-workers in the vineyard. He expects us to faithfully fulfill the Great Commission! (Matt. 28:18-20).**

**3) The Lord Jesus is after our hearts! He LOOKING for people who will trust Him and obey His Word with all their heart! Followers who will not just be HEARERS but DOERS of His Word!**

#### **PRAYER:**

**“Our heavenly Father, THANK YOU for making us the APPLE OF YOUR EYE! All things are created to serve and worship You. You are our GLORIOUS & GOOD GOD! Thank You for CHOSSING me to be a part of Your Church. Lord, mold me and conform me to Jesus' image and continue to unfold to me Your plan and purpose for my life. Teach me to trust and obey Your Word and serve You with my whole heart and being. All these I pray in Jesus' Name I pray, Amen!”**

## **JESUS IS LOOKING FOR OUR FAITH & LOVE!**

Luke highlights in this chapter the unquestioning faith of the centurion and the extravagant love of a sinful woman to our Lord Jesus. The Lord is looking for those who will have the same faith and love for Him.

### **1) Jesus *VALUES* the human life (vv. 1-17).**

One day in Capernaum, Jesus was approached by some elders of the Jews to come to a centurion's house whose servant was in a critical condition and was going to die. The centurion heard of Jesus' power to heal and asked these leaders to request Jesus to come and heal his most beloved servant. But before coming to his house, the centurion already sent some of his men to Jesus and company to tell Jesus that he doesn't have to go and enter his house; but to just say the 'word' and his servant would be healed. He further told other things to convince Jesus that he believes in Him. After hearing this, Jesus was amazed at the centurion's faith in Him and He did heal his servant because of this. Our Lord is looking for such kind of faith!

### **2) Jesus *VALIDATES* John's ministry (vv. 18-35).**

Then some of John the Baptist sent two of his disciples to Jesus to inquire if he was the Messiah or should they expect another one. Jesus told them to tell John what they have seen there (at that time Jesus was doing various miraculous healings of many people with various diseases and preaching the Good News). When they left, Jesus spoke to the people about John. Jesus pointed out that John was the One the prophet Isaiah predicted who will prepare the way for Him (v. 27; Mal. 3:1; cf. Isa. 40:3). Jesus validated John's ministry and declared him to be the greatest man born of women but that the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he (v. 28). John was a faithful servant but we could be a more faithful servant than him!

### **3) Jesus *VINDICATES* a sinful woman's conduct (vv. 36-50).**

Now, a Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to a dinner and when they were reclining in the table there came a woman (known to the town people as one who lived a sinful lifestyle) who brought an alabaster jar of perfume and she stood behind Jesus. He began weeping at his feet and then wiping them with her hair and kissing them. Then, she poured out the perfume over Jesus. When Simon saw this, he thought of evil about Jesus. But the Lord knew this so He called Simon's attention and He told him a parable. The parable was about two persons whose sins were forgiven. And Jesus pointed to Simon that he loved Him little because his sins were little but the woman loved Him much because her sins were that much! And the Lord told the woman to go and sin no more! Our Lord Jesus is pleased with the demonstration of our extravagant love to Him!

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord Jesus is pleased with giving us life! He is the Giver and Source of our life. So let us praise Him and thank Him and worship Him as our Creator and Lord! Let us trust Him with our life!***



***2) The Lord Jesus is pleased with our faithful service! So let us use our spiritual gifts and abilities and resources to serve Him and fulfil His purpose for our life!***

***3) The Lord Jesus is pleased with the demonstration of our extravagant love for Him! So let us demonstrate a life of loving Him to the maximum and in an extravagant way!***

#### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, THANK YOU for this LIFE that You have given us! Lord, mold me and make me the faithful servant that You intended me to be. Lord, may You be pleased with my life and service to You. Lord, equip me and empower me to demonstrate my extravagant love for You in my own unique way. In Jesus’ Name I pray, Amen!”***

## **JESUS IS LORD OF ALL!**

In this chapter we see the Lord Jesus being the Sovereign Lord of all areas or aspects of this earthly life. He is Lord of lords and King of kings. He must either be the Lord of all our life or not at all!

### **1) *Jesus is LORD of the Word (vv. 1-18).***

One day Jesus taught the Parable of the Sower to the disciples and what it means. So the Lord Jesus explained the parable to them saying that the seed is the Word of God and it was sown into four kinds of soils or “hearts” (see v. 15). The Word of God will only bear fruit in the hearts of those who will hear it, retain it, and put it into practice. But it is interesting to note that Jesus said that the “knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given” to the disciples but not to others. To them the Lord will speak in parables. In effect, the Lord is saying that He is Lord of the Word! He will save those whom He will save. Or He will have mercy to those whom He will have mercy! Indeed, the Lord is Sovereign and man is responsible!

### **2) *Jesus is LORD over natural forces! (vv. 22-25).***

One day Jesus and His disciples rode on a boat and went to the other side of the lake. During their travel Jesus slept and then a squall or storm formed and began swamping the boat and the disciples were afraid. They woke up Jesus and told Him that they were going to drown! Jesus woke up and rebuked the storm and the sea was calm again. Then, He rebuked them, "Where is your faith?" Then, in fear and amazement, they asked each other, "Who is this that even the storm obeys Him?" Indeed, the Lord Jesus is Lord even of nature!

### **3) Jesus is LORD over demonic forces! (vv. 26-39).**

On the other side of lake in the region of Gerasenes, Jesus and His disciples were confronted by a demon-possessed man who had been living alone and could not be controlled anymore by the people for he was so strong. When this man saw Jesus, he fell at His feet and acknowledged Jesus as the Son of the most High God. When Jesus asked his name he gave the name "Legion" because the demons were so many inside the man. The demons begged Him not to torture them and send them into the Abyss. Instead, they requested that they be sent to the large herd of pigs in the region. Jesus permitted them and they went into the herd of pigs and they rushed down the steep bank into the lake and the pigs all drown. This was reported to the people of the town and they went to Jesus and found the man restored to his proper self but because of fear they pleaded Jesus to leave their place. The healed man wanted to go with Jesus but He instructed him to go to his people and tell them about the great deed the Lord had done for him and he did! Indeed, Jesus is Lord over all demonic forces!

### **4) Jesus is LORD over diseases and death! (vv. 40-56).**

After this, Jesus and His disciples was approached by Jairus, a ruler of a synagogue and fell at Jesus' feet and pleaded Him to come to him and heal his only daughter who was dying. So Jesus went with him and while they were on their way a large crowd of people keep on pressing and on

touching Jesus. A woman who was bleeding for 12 years was there and touched Jesus' cloak and she was healed immediately! Jesus stopped and asked who touched Him and they all denied it. But the woman sensing that the Lord knew about what she did told the Lord that she was the one. Then Jesus told her that her faith in Him healed her and He let go in peace.

But while Jesus was still speaking, someone came from Jairus' household and told him that her daughter was dead. Jesus told Jairus not to be afraid but to believe and she will be healed. So, when they arrived at Jairus' house, Jesus only asked Peter, James, and John and to come to Him with the parents and they went into her room. Jesus took the girl's hand and commanded her, "My child, get up!" And the girl did and she was alive and well! Jesus told her parents not to tell what they saw to anyone. Indeed, Jesus is Lord even over diseases and death!

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord Jesus is Lord of the Word! Let us not just be hearers but DOERS of the Word! Let us be the noble and good soil/hearts where God's Word will flourish and multiply a hundred and even a thousand times!***

***2) The Lord Jesus is LORD over natural forces! Let us trust Him to work out His divine plan and purpose for our life and this world we live in. Let us fix our eyes of faith in Him!***

***3) The Lord Jesus is LORD over demonic forces! Let us be aware that we are in a war and we have an enemy! Let us fight a good fight of faith and use every arsenal that is available for us to defeat our enemies!***

***4) The Lord Jesus is LORD over diseases and death! Let us not fear disease or death but fear the Lord who could send us to hell. Let us live our life fully trusting and obeying the WILL of the Lord over our lives!***

## PRAYER:

***“Our heavenly Father, INDEED, You are LORD of the WORD, You are Lord over nature, You are Lord over demonic forces and Lord over disease and death! Lord, mold and shape me to be the disciple and follower that You intended me to be. Lord, teach me to trust You fully and make You the Lord of every area of my life. For You are either Lord of all my life or not at all! In Jesus’ Name I pray, Amen!”***

## Luke 9

## Day 9

### JESUS EMPOWERS THE TWELVE!

In this chapter we see the Lord Jesus empowering the Twelve and sending them to do the ministry to the people. They were to drive out demons, to heal the sick, and to preach the Kingdom of God.

#### **1) Jesus COMMISSIONS the Twelve to minister (vv. 1-9).**

After He has chosen His Twelve Apostles, Jesus commissioned them to minister to the people. He gave them the power and authority to drive out demons, to heal the sick, and to preach the Kingdom of God. He sent them from village to village to minister to the people. Jesus empowers His people to be able to do the works of the ministry!

#### **2) Jesus CHALLENGES the Twelve’s faith (vv. 10-27).**

After they returned to Jesus, they went to a remote place to rest but the people learned about it and followed them. Jesus ministered to them and even healed those who were sick. When evening was coming, the Twelve told Jesus to dismiss the crowd so they could get lodging and food from the surrounding villages and towns. But Jesus told them to feed the people. They replied that they have only five loaves

and two fishes. Jesus commanded them to organized the people into groups of 50's each and let them sit down. There were about 5,000 men there. Then Jesus took the five loaves and two fishes and looked to heaven and blessed them and distributed them to the people. All ate and there were 12 basketfuls of leftovers. The Lord did an incredible miracle in their midst!

Jesus also tested the Twelve's understanding of who He was. He first asked them as to who the people think He was. And they said that some said that He was Elijah. Some said that He was John the Baptist, and others said that He was a prophet from the OT that has come to life. Then Jesus asked them, "How about you, who do you say I am?" Peter was the first to answer and he said that He was the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. And Luke added a call to discipleship to all who would follow and make Him their Savior and Lord (See vv. 23-27).

### **3) Jesus *CONFIDES* His glory to His "inner circle" (vv. 28-36).**

One day Jesus took Peter, James and John with Him and they came up to a mountain to pray. As Jesus was praying He was transfigured before them into a glorious appearance. They also saw Moses and Elijah talking to Jesus about His coming departure from Jerusalem! But they did not understand all these. Peter tried to let the two stay with them but a cloud covered them and they were afraid and they heard a voice saying, "*This is my Son whom I have chosen, listen to Him!*" Then, they saw Jesus alone and they kept this experience to themselves.

### **4) Jesus *CORRECTS* the Twelve's mistaken notion (vv. 37-62).**

In vv. 37-62, Jesus used these incidents to teach and correct the Twelve's wrong notion about things. When they went down from the mountain, they were met by a large crowd and a man from the crowd spoke about his demon-possessed son who was not able to be healed by His disciples. Jesus rebuked the evil spirit and healed the boy.

The other Gospel writers told us that the disciples asked Jesus why they could not drive out this spirit. Matthew noted that Jesus pointed to their lack of faith (Matt. 17:20ffg) and Mark noted that Jesus told them that this could be done only by pray and fasting (Mark 9:29). After this Jesus found the Twelve arguing as to who is greatest among them. So He called a child and using him as an illustration He told them that they must become like a child in their faith in Him and that the least among them shall be the greatest! For in God's economy, the first shall be the last and the last the first! Jesus also told them that those who were preaching His name and were not against them are for them! In vv. 51-54, Jesus showed that violence was not the way for His kingdom when the disciples suggested to Him to call fire from heaven to destroy the Samaritan village that refuse to help them.

#### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

- 1) The Lord Jesus EMPOWERS us to do the ministry! When He calls He empowers! Let us trust the Lord to empower us as we obey his commands and do His will!***
- 2) The Lord Jesus EXPECTS us to have faith in Him! He wants us to trust Him and obey His Word! Let us trust and obey the Lord!***
- 3) The Lord our God EXPLAINS Jesus to His people. He reveals His will & His Truths to us in His Word! We have to know His Word in order to know His will and His truths. Let us be diligent students of His Word!***

#### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for EMPOWERING us to do Your work and Your ministry. You REVEAL Your Son Jesus to us through Your Word and Your Holy Spirit who teaches us Your truths. Lord, make me a diligent student of Your Word, the Bible.***

***And teach me to be a DOER and not just a HEARER of Your Word. Remind me always that the only way to be happy in this life is to TRUST & OBEY YOU! In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen!"***

**Luke 10**

**Day 10**

### **JESUS, THE HARVEST, OUR NEIGHBOR, & THE WORD!**

In this chapter we see the Lord Jesus sending His disciples to proclaim the Good News. Here, Jesus also taught and pointed out to them who are their true neighbor. Lastly, Jesus exhorted them to impress His Word in their hearts.

#### ***1) The Need to INTERCEDE for more workers in the harvest! (vv. 1-24).***

Jesus here shows us a key strategy in winning a town or city for the Gospel. He sends seventy two of His disciples to every town or place where He wanted to preach the Good News and He assigns at least two disciples to go these places ahead of Him. He also gave them practical and spiritual principles on how they are to do it like what to look for prospects and how to behave or interact with the people of these places. One important principle is to look for the “man of peace” and stay in his house. Another is to live by faith and take nothing with them. But most important of all the Lord’s teachings here is the principle of prayer. The harvest is plentiful but they must be prayed for. We are to implore the Lord of the harvest to give us success in our harvest of souls (see vv. 2-4).



## **2) *The Need to IDENTIFY who is our neighbor! (vv. 10-27).***

Another important teaching of the Lord Jesus in this chapter is the Parable of the Good Samaritan which taught and showed the disciples who is our true neighbor. By this story, Jesus corrected our wrong thinking and attitude concerning the people that we are to help and minister to. The Lord taught us that our “neighbors” are those who are in really need and are helpless. And that to be a good neighbor is to be like the Samaritan who even though the victim does not belong to race or people still gave the needed help to the victim. This victim is the “neighbor” that we are to love with our whole being as commanded by the Lord (Matt. 22:39-41).

## **3) *The Need to IMPRESS God’s Word into our heart! (vv. 28-36).***

Finally, the Lord Jesus pointed out the importance of impressing God’s Word in our hearts. The story of Mary and Martha teaches us that not all things that we do are equal in spiritual value. The Lord said that Mary has chosen what is better – to sit at Jesus’ feet and listen to His Words! We are to prioritize our FIRST LOVE even our devotion to God through His Word and prayer. While there is nothing wrong with serving Jesus or doing thing for Him, prioritizing our FIRST LOVE is always a better choice.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus WANTS us to INTERCEDE & PRAY for more workers in His harvest. So, let’s ask the Lord of the harvest to send more workers for the harvest!***

**2) *The Lord Jesus WANTS us to IDENTIFY our neighbor, the one who need to be saved or have eternal life! So let us deliberate know and meet the needs of people around us!***

**3) The Lord Jesus WANTS us to IMPRESS His Word in our heart! So let us give PRIORITY to the Word in our personal daily living!**

**PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for the privilege of being Your co-workers in Your Vineyard! I ask You now to thrust more workers in Your harvest. Teach us to be sensitive and deliberate in loving and winning people for Jesus. Lord, teach us to love Your Word and make it a PRIORITY in our daily living. All these I pray in JESUS’ Name! AMEN!”***

**Luke 11**

**Day 11**

## **JESUS & PRAYER, BEELZEBUB & THE SCRIBES!**

In this chapter we see the Lord Jesus teaching His disciples to pray and denouncing the hypocrisy of the religious leaders of His day.

### **1) Jesus DEMONSTRATES the PRINCIPLE of prayer to His disciples! (vv. 1-13).**

After observing the important role of prayer in the daily life of Jesus, His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray. And the Lord taught them what is commonly called the “Lord’s Prayer.” But we know that Jesus meant this prayer to be a model for the disciples to follow and emulate. Jesus taught them also to be persistent in their prayers; that is, they are not to easily give up in prayer for something through two parables (The persistent neighbor and the evil father giving good gifts to their children). Thus, Jesus wants us to be persistent and persevering in our prayers!

### **2) The people DEMANDS for a sign from Jesus (vv. 14-36).**

The Lord drove out an evil spirit from a mute man and he began to speak and the crowd was amazed. But some of them said that Jesus is driving out demons through the power of Beelzebub or the devil. Some still tested Jesus

and asked Him to give them a sign from heaven. But Jesus knowing their thoughts replied that Satan could not build his kingdom by dividing it! But only someone more powerful than Satan could defeat him and overcome his demons. And Jesus told them that He will not give them a sign but only that of Jonah. As Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites so Jesus will be a sign to their generations! Probably, Jesus could be referring to His death and resurrection for Jonah stayed in the fish's belly and was vomited and lived after three days!

### **3) Jesus *DENOUNCES* the hypocrisy of the Jewish religious leaders! (vv. 37-54).**

When a Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner in his house, the Lord agreed and went with him. But Jesus did not follow the traditional practice of washing before taking the dinner and his host was surprised at this. But Jesus knowing this said to him that it is foolish just to clean the outside of the cup and not clean the inside also. Then Jesus denounces the religious leaders for their hypocrisy and pretensions. He told them that they were supposed the ones who should lead the people to know the Lord and obey His commands and entering His kingdom; and yet they were the very ones hindering their knowledge of the Lord! Because of this, these religious leaders began to oppose Him and plotted to catch Jesus say or do something wrong against the Law of the Lord.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus WANTS us to learn HOW TO PRAY EFFECTIVELY & POWERFULLY! So let us be persistent and patient in our prayer and believe that He answers our prayers and nothing is impossible to Him!***

**2) *The Lord Jesus WANTS us to KNOW that He is our SOVEREIGN/ALL POWERFUL GOD! So let us drive out***

***and overcome Satan and his minions' work in our life as well as in others' lives!***

***3) The Lord Jesus WANTS us to be HIS TRUE FOLLOWERS. He demands our whole heart to be fully devoted to Him! So let us FULLY SUBMIT & OBEY HIM and HIS WORD in our life!***

**PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for the privilege of PRAYER; that is, to be able to commune and talk to You every moment of our life. Father, You are so gracious that You gave us POWER to OVERCOME & DEFEAT SATAN and His demons in this life. By Your GRACE, through “Jesus in me” I can do all things! Lord, make me clean inside out by Jesus’ Blood and conform me to His image. All these in JESUS’ Name! AMEN!”***

## **FEAR JESUS, TRUST JESUS & SERVE JESUS!**

In this chapter, we see the Lord Jesus exhorting His disciples to focus their trust in Him and our Father in heaven. They are to fear the Lord, trust Him, and serve Him!

### ***1) Jesus EXHORTS His disciples to FEAR GOD and not men! (vv. 1-12).***

After warning His disciples of the teachings (yeast) of the Pharisees, Jesus exhorted His disciples to fear the Lord rather than men. He told them that men could only kill their body but the Lord could send their soul to hell. He further exhorted them to not be afraid to acknowledge Him before men for the Lord also would not acknowledge them before the Father and His angels. They were not to be afraid of what men will do to them but that they should fear the Lord only. The Holy Spirit will give them strength and power to endure and give them wisdom on what to speak when needed.

### ***2) Jesus EXHORTS His disciples to TRUST GOD and not their material possessions! (vv. 13-34).***

Also, when someone asked the Lord to intervene to divide their inheritance, the Lord warned His disciples to guard their hearts from all kinds of greed. He told them that *“a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his*

*possessions.”* They were not to be greedy for money or put their hope or trust in money or material possessions. He exhorted them not to worry for their needs but to trust the Lord. Instead, He commanded them to “SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU AS WELL” (v. 31). Jesus assured them that our Father in heaven will take care of our needs as they place their trust in Him.

### ***3) Jesus EXHORTS His disciples to SERVE GOD and not themselves! (vv. 35-48).***

Jesus also exhorted His disciples to focus on serving their King and His kingdom and not to serve themselves. The Lord expected them to be ready when He comes. He told them that since they do not know when He will come back again, they were to be always ready anticipating His coming so that He may find them faithful and true to their responsibility. For the Lord Jesus also warned them of the consequence of not being faithful and obedient to His command. He reminded them that judgment will begin in the household of the Lord (2 Cor. 5:9, 10) and that the Lord will reward them for their faithfulness to Him. As a principle the Lord said that the one “who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked” (v. 48).

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord Jesus DESIRES that we FEAR HIM alone and nothing else! He is the One who alone could send our soul to hell! So let us FEAR HIM above all!***

***2) The Lord Jesus DESIRES that we TRUST HIM with all our heart and not anything else! For He is our JEHOVAH JIREH! The God who PROVIDES! So let us place our full TRUST in Him alone!***

**3) The Lord Jesus DESIRES that we SERVE HIM faithfully as wait for His coming again! So let us be diligent and faithful servants of the Lord!**

## **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, remind me always of these things. That You desire for me to FEAR You alone, to TRUST You totally and to SERVE You faithfully. Lord, mold and shape me and make me the servant that You intended me to be. In JESUS’ Name! AMEN!”***

**Luke 13**

**Day 13**

## **JESUS & THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**

In this chapter, we see the Lord Jesus talking about the Kingdom of God. He longs for His people to repent and to enter the Kingdom!

**1) Jesus LONGS for us to REPENT or we perish in our sin! (vv. 1-9).**

When asked about the Galileans who died with a terrible death, whether they were worse sinners because they suffered such death, Jesus told the people that, *“Unless all of you repent all of you will perish!”* So, we learned that we are not to compare ourselves with others but to realize that before the Lord we all should repent and turn away from our sins. He also taught the parable of the fig tree reminding us that we will all be accountable to all our actions in this life and will give an account to God!

**2) Jesus LONGS for us to be SET FREE from Satan’s bondage! (vv. 10-17).**

At this time, Jesus also released or healed a crippled woman who was held in bondage by an evil spirit for 18 years. But Jesus did the healing in a Sabbath and this angered the synagogue ruler. But Jesus rebuked this leader as well as the others by telling them that they too were

breaking the Sabbath when they untie their donkey or ox from the stall and lead them out to give them water. So Jesus exposed the wrongs of their religious leaders to the delight of the people who were there. Thus, Jesus teaches us that it is okay to do good deeds on the Sabbath!

### **3) *Jesus LONGS for us to ENTER the Kingdom of God! (vv. 18-35).***

We also see Jesus talking about the subtle but powerful force of the Kingdom of God permeating the lives of people through the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast. Then, Jesus reminded us that it is not that easy to enter the Kingdom for its door is “narrow” and many choose to enter the wide door but it leads to destruction! Here, we see Jesus longing for the Jews to enter the Kingdom but they would not. For unless they (and we now) recognize Jesus as the Messiah, our Savior and Lord, we will never be saved or enter God’s Kingdom!

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus LONGS for all to REPENT, to forsake our sins, and to TURN TO GOD! So let us REPENT & TURN TO GOD or we, like the rest who refuse to repent, will perish in our sins!***

**2) *The Lord Jesus LONGS for all to be SET FREE from Satan’s bondage! So let us come to Jesus and ask Him to heal and set us free from all our strongholds!***

**3) *The Lord Jesus LONGS for all to ENTER THE NARROW DOOR! For this door leads to life but the wide door leads to death! So let us acknowledge JESUS as the Messiah, our Savior from our sins and make Him our Lord today!***

### **PRAYER:**



***“Our heavenly Father, thank You that you DESIRE for us to be SAVED! To be SET FREE from Satan’s trap and bondage, and to ENTER YOUR KINGDOM! Lord, THANK YOU for SAVING ME AND REVEALING to me Jesus, my Savior. Continue to show me my strongholds and set me free from them. Consecrate me that I may glorify and magnify You alone in my life. To You I give all praise and thanks and worship. In JESUS’ Name! AMEN!”***

**Luke 14**

**Day 14**

## **JESUS ON PRINCIPLES & REQUIREMENTS OF THE KINGDOM!**

In this chapter, we see the Lord Jesus continue to talk about the Kingdom of God. He also clearly laid out to the people following Him the requirements for being His disciple.

### ***1) Jesus teaches KEY PRINCIPLES of the Kingdom (vv. 1-24).***

When Jesus was invited to a dinner by one prominent Pharisee, he was carefully observed by the people. He deliberately used this occasion and opportunity to teach the people some principles in the Kingdom of God. The first was the priority of love or doing good, rather than keeping the Sabbath. Our Lord Jesus taught them that it is okay to do good on a Sabbath, to save a life and help others. Jesus also taught the people to pursue humility or a humble and lowly spirit but shun away from a proud or haughty spirit. He said that *“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled; but who humbles himself will be exalted”* (v. 11). Jesus also taught them to do good to those who could never repay them but expect that the Father in heaven who knows it will reward them in due time!

## **2) Jesus teaches KEY REQUIREMENTS for being His disciple (vv. 25-35).**

And when large crowd were gathering to see Jesus, He turned to them and taught them the requirements of the kingdom. In these verses, our Lord clearly laid out to them the prerequisites of becoming and being His disciple. First, one must be willing to relinquish his most precious people (v. 26). Second, one must be willing to receive personal pain (v. 27). And third, one must be willing to renounce his private possessions (vv. 33). There is no doubt that Jesus demands total commitment and full surrender of our will to His will. He wants disciples and not just a fan club!

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord Jesus DELIGHTS in those who walks in humility and lowliness of spirit. So let us pursue a life of humility and exalt the Lord in our life!***

***2) The Lord Jesus DEMANDS our TOTAL COMMITMENT & FULL SURRENDER of our will to His will! So let us fully submit our will to the Lord's will!***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed You oppose the proud but give grace to the humble. By Your grace and help, I choose to live in humility and lowliness of spirit. Knowing that You will be exalted in my life and You will exalt me in due time. Lord, mold me to be the faithful disciple that You desire me to be. To You I fully surrender my life. In JESUS' Name! AMEN!”***

**JESUS & THE HEART OF THE FATHER!**

In this chapter, we see the Lord Jesus revealing the heart of our Father in heaven. Our Father desires to see people repenting from their sins and returning to Him through faith and repentance.

***1) Our Father in heaven DESIRES that sinners repent from their sins!***

When the Pharisee and scribes were muttering that Jesus was ‘fellowshipping’ with sinners, the Lord began to tell them a series of parables (i.e., The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, and the Lost Son) that reveals the very heart of our Father in heaven. Through these stories Jesus showed us that the Father’s desire for sinners to come to repentance and return to Him. Notice that the Father was actively seeking the lost as indicated by the characters depicted in the stories (the Shepherd, the woman, and the Father). This was precisely the reason He came to this earth. As shown by that great passage, John 3:16, Jesus was sent by the Father so that through His death and resurrection, they could be saved as they placed their trust (“believe”) in Him. Indeed, Jesus himself said that He came to “*seek and save those who are lost.*”

## **2) *Our Father in heaven REJOICES over a sinner who repents!***

Also, these stories teach us that our Father is pleased every time a sinner repents and is saved. Another common thread in the three stories was the celebration following the finding of the “lost sheep”, the “coin,” and the “lost son.” Observe the gladness and joy of the “shepherd,” the “woman” and the “father.” We saw this particularly in the father who when he saw his son still a long way off, was filled with compassion and ran to him and embrace and kissed him. Then, he ordered that new robes be given his son and a ring and sandals, restoring his place in the family. Then, the father ordered to kill the fattened calf and to celebrate the return of his lost son. This showed us the joy of our heavenly Father every time a sinner repents. But not all were happy in the last story. The other son resents the action of the father and was not happy with the return of the lost son. Our Lord was showing the Pharisees and scribes (see 1-2) that they were this “other son.” Instead of rejoicing with our heavenly Father because sinners were returning to Him, they were not happy for it.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus is SEEKING the lost through the Gospel entrusted to His People, the Church! Let us JOIN the Lord Jesus through the Church in seeking and winning the lost or sinners through the Gospel of Christ!***

**2) *Our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus is REJOICING the repentance of every sinner! Let us celebrate with the Father for the return of every sinner and welcome them gladly into our Church family!***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, You have shown us today the very desire of Your heart – the salvation of the lost! Lord, give us the same heart, the same compassion for the lost. Give us Your heart for sinners and use us as great channels of blessing to others. Makes me a useful and effective member of Your Body the Church to win the lost for Jesus Christ. All these I pray in JESUS’ Name! AMEN!”***

## **Luke 16**

## **Day 16**

### **JESUS & STEWARDSHIP**

In this chapter, we see the Lord Jesus teaching His disciples to be wise and faithful stewards on this earth and to be faithful only to serve Him and not Mammon. He also reminded them of the eternal riches that await those who were truly and faithfully hoping and trusting in Him.

#### ***1) Our Lord Jesus wants His disciples to be WISE & FAITHFUL STEWARDS in this world! (vv. 1-15).***

The Lord Jesus continued to teach His disciples parables to stress the importance of wise and faithful stewardship of their gifts, resources, and opportunities in this life. In the Parable of the Shrewd Manager, Jesus taught them to use their worldly wealth or riches to do good and win people for the kingdom. They were to be faithful in big as well as little things that had been entrusted to them. Jesus stressed this because their faithfulness in these things will be the very basis of their rewards in heaven (See vv. 10-12). Jesus also taught them that they could never serve two masters; that is, God and Mammon. They could only serve one or the other. In teaching this, Jesus was offending the

Pharisees who loved money. But Jesus told them that the Lord knows their hearts.

**2) Our Lord Jesus WANTS His disciples to put their HOPE & TRUST IN GOD and not in WORLDLY GOODS! (vv. 19-31).**

After this, Jesus followed up His teaching with another parable. Though Bible scholars are not in agreement as to the factualness of this story, the Rich Man and Lazarus teaches us the reality of eternal destinies as well as eternal rewards. I think that by telling this story the Lord Jesus wanted His people to place their trust and hope not in worldly goods but in the goodness of the Lord. Not to trust in the temporariness of earthly life and goods but in the faithfulness of God who promised eternal life and rewards to those who will trust and hope in Him. In a way, the Lord wants us to be faithful in preaching the Good News which is man's only true hope and salvation in the life to come.

#### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord Jesus desires that we be WISE & FAITHFUL STEWARDS of His resources, gifts, and opportunities! So, let us be WISE & FAITHFUL Stewards of the Lord!**

**2) Our Lord Jesus desires that we fully put our HOPE & TRUST IN HIM ALONE and not in earthly goods! So let us fully place our hope and trust in the Lord only and exhorts others to do the same!**

#### **PRAYER:**

**“Our heavenly Father, You have made us Your STEWARDS & MANAGERS of Your creation as well as of the many gifts and abilities and resources in our life today. Lord, empower us to be Your WISE & FAITHFUL STEWARDS! Teach us to do Your will and that which**

*will please and glorify You the most. Lord, I put my HOPE & TRUST in You alone. I thank You and praise You and worship You for this great privilege You have given us. All these I pray in Jesus' Name! AMEN!"*

## **Luke 17**

## **Day 17**

### **JESUS & A LIFE OF FAITH!**

In this chapter, we see the Lord Jesus giving various instructions to His disciples and challenging them to fully place their trust and faith in Him and to live a life of faith.

#### **1) Our Lord Jesus teaches His disciples to be *LOVING & FORGIVING!* (vv. 1-10).**

The Lord Jesus continued to teach His disciples and here He taught them to be loving and forgiving of others. The Lord admonished them to live a life that encourages instead of discourages others to follow the Lord. They were to learn to forgive when a brother sins against them perfectly from the heart; that is, without limitation. Furthermore, they were to acknowledge that they were servants of the Lord and were expected to be obedient and submissive to their Master. And that all these could be done as they live by faith in the Lord, trusting Him to work in their life and to empower them!

#### **2) Our Lord Jesus teaches His disciples to be always *GRATEFUL!* (vv. 11-19).**

After this, as Jesus was going to Jerusalem he passed on a village and there were ten lepers who called out to Him and requested to be healed. So Jesus told them to go and present themselves to the priest. As they went they were healed. When one of them realized this, he went back to Jesus and thanked Him for the healing, but the rest did not return. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus told him *“Are you not ten and only one return to glorify the Lord?”* So, Jesus taught His disciples that the Lord is glorified when we live a grateful life before Him!

### ***3) Our Lord Jesus teaches His disciples to LIVE BY FAITH! (vv. 20-37).***

When the Pharisees asked Jesus about the coming of the Kingdom of God, He told them that it will not come with signs to be observed. Moreover He told them that it has already come and is now in their midst! But you will only see it and enter it through faith in Jesus. Also, He told them that the Son of Man has to suffer first and be rejected by this generation and even die! But He will return and told them that His coming again will be like the days of Noah and the Lot. People were eating and drinking and not believing that destruction will come to them. Indeed, blessed are those who believe and wait on the Lord's coming for they will be blessed indeed!

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) The Lord Jesus desires that we be LOVING & FORGIVING! So let us live a life that is loving and forgiving.***

***2) The Lord Jesus desires that we be grateful to the Lord for everything! So Let us live a grateful life. Always giving praise and thanks to our Creator and Savior and Lord!***



**3) *The Lord Jesus desires that we live by faith and faithfully anticipating the return of the Lord and the establishing of His kingdom!***

## **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, as Your people You desire that we live carefully in this world. Empower us indeed to live a life faith; loving and forgiving people and always being grateful for everything that You have given me as my Creator and Savior. Lord Jesus, may You be glorified and magnified in my life as I eagerly wait for Your return and may I be found faithful by You. All these I pray in Your Name! AMEN!”***

**Luke 18**

**Day 18**

## **JESUS & THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE & HUMILITY!**

In this chapter, we see the Lord Jesus teaching His disciples to develop the character quality of being persistent and humble. He exhorts them to be put the Lord and His kingdom first in their life!

### ***1) Jesus teaches His disciples to be PERSISTENT in prayer! (vv. 1-8; 35-43).***

In the Parable of the Persistent Widow, the Lord Jesus taught His disciples to be persistent in their prayers. They are not to easily give up. Jesus emphasized that if this ‘unjust judge’ in the story was not able resist the persistence of the widow, how much more our Father in heaven if we come to Him with the same attitude and behavior. Jesus wants us to know that the Father is always listening to the prayers of His people; but it only those who are persistent and passionate about it received what they asked from Him. I believe this truth was also the point of the story of the blind beggar in vv. 35-43. The Lord took noticed of his

persistence and eagerness to receive what he wants and so according to his faith in Jesus, he was healed.

## **2) *Jesus teaches His disciples to live in HUMILITY and CHILD-LIKE FAITH! (vv. 9-17).***

On the other hand, the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector showed us the Lord's desire that His children live in humility and lowliness of heart. Jesus contrasted the two persons, the way they approached the Lord or how they prayed to Him. Notice that their prayers gave away what was truly in their hearts. Their outside or external clothing and qualities and people's perception of them did not match the Lord evaluation of them. The Lord commended the sinner, the Tax Collector, but He rejected the "religious" Pharisee. Indeed, we could always fool people but not the Lord. There will come a time that our heart will be exposed and blessed are those who chose to pursue a life of humility and lowliness of heart before the Lord. Jesus followed this up with the illustration of the children who were coming to Him but which the disciples were preventing to happen. But Jesus called these children to come to Him and pointed out to the people that unless they become like these children they be could never enter the kingdom of God.

## **3) *Jesus teaches His disciples to forsake ALL but GOD! They are to seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness! (vv. 18-34).***

When a rich young ruler approached Jesus and asked what he must do to have eternal life, the Lord told him to forsake ALL and follow Him. As told by him, he had been obeying the commandments as a matter of obligation and not from a loving heart. Because when the Lord told him to sell all that he has and follow Him, he was sad and went away because he had many possessions. He values his possessions more than he values the Lord! The Lord made it clear that if we are to enter the kingdom of God, we must die to self and forsake ALL and surrender our life to Him. He must Lord of our life. We must seek first His kingdom and His righteousness! (Matt. 6:33).

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord Jesus wants us to be PERSISTENT in our prayers! So let us discipline ourselves to be persistent and patient in our prayers, not easily giving up but persevering until the Lord answers!**

**2) The Lord Jesus wants us to pursue a life of HUMILITY and CHILD-LIKE FAITH. We are to fully trust the Lord like a child trusts his father or mother. Let us fully place our trust and confidence in the Lord!**

**3) The Lord Jesus wants us to LOVE GOD with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength and all our mind. We are to FORSAKE ALL BUT GOD! So let us love the Lord with all our being!**

### **PRAYER:**

**“Our heavenly Father, You are a GRACIOUS & LOVING GOD! You are PRAYER-ANSWERING GOD! Mold us and shape us to be persistent and persevering in our prayer. Teach us continually to be humble in our walk with You in this life. Lord, show us that nothing will truly give us meaning and joy in this life but You! Teach us continually to forsake ALL but YOU! All these I pray in Jesus’ Name! AMEN!”**

## **JESUS & HIS KINGDOM!**

In this chapter, our Lord Jesus took note of the mistaken notion of His disciples about the coming Kingdom of God. Here, He also taught them to be wise and faithful stewards of the kingdom.

### **1) *Jesus defines the MISSION of the Kingdom! (vv. 1-10).***

In the story of Zacchaeus, the Lord showed His disciples His mission in coming to this world – “*to seek and save what was lost*” (v. 10). Our Lord Jesus took note of Zacchaeus who was considered one of those “sinners” and outcasts of the Jewish society for being a tax collector and “middleman” for the Roman government. But Zacchaeus’ demeanor demonstrated a thirst and hunger for God’s righteousness and Jesus recognized this for He knew his heart before he ever saw Him. Observe that Jesus called him by name even though this was the first time they met!

## **2) Jesus describes the NATURE of His Kingdom! (vv. 11-27).**

On the other hand, in the Parable of the Minas, Jesus described the nature of His kingdom. The reason for this was because Jesus knew that the people had a wrong notion of the coming kingdom of God (See v.11). But in v. 12, Jesus noted His 'dual return' and the parable was to show what the Lord expects from His "servants" whom He has commissioned to do the kingdom work. The parable showed us that Jesus expects wise and faithful stewardship from His people as they wait for His return. The parable clearly teaches that we will be rewarded according to our faithfulness to the task that He has given us.

## **3) Jesus demonstrates His LOVE FOR THE LOST! (vv. 28-48).**

We will also note here that Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem demonstrated His love for the lost when He cried as He approached and entered the city. He also showed His zeal for God and His glory when He drove out all those who were doing business in the Temple. He reminded the people that the temple was originally intended to be a House of Prayer and that they were not to prevent people from coming, knowing, and worshiping the Lord. Notice also that while Jesus was consumed on how to save the lost people of Israel; the religious leaders were all planning how to kill Him.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord Jesus came in this world with a clear MISSION - TO SEEK & SAVE THE LOST! So like Jesus let us like with the same mission – to seek and save the lost!**

**2) The Lord Jesus first came to be our SAVIOR & KING of our hearts! In His return He will come as JUDGE &**

***KING of kings and Lord of lords! So let us be wise and faithful SERVANTS of the LORD JESUS!***

***3) The Lord Jesus showed us the burden of His heart – His LOVE FOR THE LOST! So let us have the same burden of the Lord in our heart. Let us show love and compassion for the lost by sharing to them the Gospel of Christ!***

**PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, You are a GRACIOUS & LOVING GOD! You sent us Your Son JESUS to seek and to save us! In Jesus, we saw Your heart for the lost and taught us to have the same burden for them. Lord, indeed, mold and break our heart on the things that break Your heart. Lord, give us Your heart for the lost and use us for Your honor and glory. All these I pray in Jesus’ Name! AMEN!”***

**Luke 20**

**Day 20**

## **JESUS & HIS ENEMIES!**

In this chapter, our Lord Jesus confronted the Jewish religious leaders who were questioning His authority to teach the people in the Temple. He silenced them by answering their queries and by doing so further intensified their desire to kill Him.

### ***1) Jesus SILENCES the Jewish religious leaders who were questioning His authority! (vv. 1-10).***

When the religious leaders tried to question Jesus’ authority to preach and teach the people, He replied by asking them a question about John the Baptist, whether his authority is from God or from men. After consulting with each other they answered that they do not know where it came from. So Jesus told them that He will also not tell them where His authority came from. Then, He told them the Parable of the Tenants where Jesus taught that the Father will reject the ‘unfaithful tenants’ and give the vineyard to

others. Jesus also taught them about the “*stone that the builders rejected but has become the capstone*” referring to Himself being rejected by the religious authorities but will be the very foundation of the Church of God. Sensing that He was speaking to them through this parable, the religious leaders wanted to arrest Him but they were afraid of the people.

**2) Jesus *SQUASHES* the questions raised by the religious leaders to frame Jesus! (vv. 11-27).**

Jesus also stopped the religious leaders from questioning Him when those they sent to raise questions to frame Jesus were all shut off by Jesus' answers. When asked if it is right to pay taxes to Caesar, Jesus said, “*Give to Caesar what is due Caesar and to God what is due Him.*” Then, when the Sadducees questioned Jesus about the resurrection, He told them that they don't know the scriptures and the power of God. There is no more marriage in heaven. He told them that God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is not the God of the dead but of the living. After these no one dared to ask Him any more question. But He warned the people about the scribes and teachers of the law. They are to obey what they teach about the Law but not follow their example or deeds.

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus was QUESTIONED & EVEN REJECTED by men. But He was able to OVERCOME them by the SOVEREIGN POWER & PROTECTION of the Father. So we are to expect opposition but the Lord our God will deliver us from our enemies.***

**2) *The Lord Jesus was QUESTIONED by His enemies. But He was able to QUASH their questions by the TRUTH OF HIS WORD. So we are to be equipped in the Word of God!***

## PRAYER:

***“Our heavenly Father, You predicted and said that men will oppose us when we speak for Jesus and His righteousness. But You promised Your protection and guidance through Your Word and the Holy Spirit. Lord, we claim Your Spirit who will give protection and wisdom to us when we speak Your Word boldly. Mold us and embolden us to teach and proclaim Your Good News of hope and salvation in Christ. To set people free from lies and deception of Satan and his minions. All these I pray in Jesus’ Name! AMEN!”***

**Luke 21**

**Day 21**

### **JESUS & HIS SECOND COMING!**

In this chapter, our Lord Jesus discussed with His disciples His Second Coming. He predicted the things that will take place in the future including Israel. He exhorted them to be ready, watchful and faithful to the Lord.

#### ***1) Jesus EXPLAINS the SIGNS of the End of the Age & the Time of His Second Coming (vv. 1-28).***

When His disciples asked Jesus when will the judgment come to the nation Israel and the rest of the world, He clearly did not give any specific time or date but predicted the things that will take place in the future and gave several signs of the time of His coming again. One is the rise of false christs and prophets (v. 8). Second are wars and revolutions. Third are natural and man-made calamities (v. 11). Fourth is persecution of the Name and His believers (vv. 12-19). Fifth is Israel being attacked by nations (vv. 20-24). Sixth and last will be the cosmic signs. Jesus told them



that these things must happen first before He will come in all His power and glory.

**2) Jesus EXHORTS His disciples to be WATCHFUL, CAREFUL, & FAITHFUL as they wait for Him (vv. 29-38).**

Jesus then gave a parable teaching them to be always ready and watchful as they wait for these things to happen and for the coming of the Lord. He also exhorts them to be careful how they live their lives so that their hearts will not be tempted and trapped by dissipation, worries, and anxieties of this life. Jesus exhorts them to be always watchful and prayerful as they wait for these and Jesus' coming and to be faithful to Him so that they could stand confidently and not be ashamed when we stand before the Lord when He comes.

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord Jesus is COMING AGAIN! We are actually seeing some of the signs that He predicted will happen before He comes. So let us TRUST HIM & HIS WORD!**

**2) The Lord Jesus gave no specific date of His Return but SIGNS. So let us be always watchful for these things, be careful how we live our life, and be faithful to the Lord until He comes!**

**PRAYER:**

***“Our Dear Jesus, You promised to return and to take us to be with You and eternally enjoy Your fellowship in heaven! Lord, I place my full trust and hope and confidence in Your Word. I believe it. Lord, teach me also to be always watchful for these signs, to be careful how I live, and to be faithful to You as I wait***

***for Your coming again. All these I pray in Your Name!  
AMEN!"***

**Luke 22**

**Day 22**

### **JESUS & HIS LAST WEEK!**

In this chapter, our Lord Jesus faced some of His most painful experiences. Judas betrayed Him, Peter denied Him, and His disciples abandoned Him. Yet He faced them all for you and me. Indeed, His love for us is amazing!

#### ***1) Judas BETRAYS Jesus and Peter DENIES Him! (vv. 1-6, 47; 53-65).***

Judas, prompted by Satan, went to the Jewish authorities to discuss how they could arrest Jesus privately. They welcomed Judas and bribed him to betray Jesus into their hands. Judas agreed to do it for thirty silver coins. And so he looked for opportunity to do it. And so when the opportunity came, a crowd led by Judas arrested Jesus and took Him away. Later, we also saw Peter denying the Lord after he tried to follow Him in the High Priest's house. Some were able to recognize him as one of Jesus' disciples but Peter denied this three times. Then the cock crowed and he

remembered the words of the Lord that he will deny Him three times. Here we learned that people we minister to has the capacity to hurt us. They will cause us pain but that is the cost of following Jesus and making Him Lord of our life!

## **2) Jesus KNOWS Judas and Peter' hearts! (vv. 20-23; 31-32).**

But what was amazing about these things was the fact that Jesus knew the hearts of Judas and Peter. He knew the hearts of men! (Jn. 2: 24, 25). Jesus knew that Judas will betray Him and in fact, had been telling His disciples that one of them will betray Him (see vv. 20-23). He knew the heart of Judas from the very beginning and that it was greed for money that got the best of him at the end of the day. And Satan took advantage of this weakness or stronghold and caused him to sell Jesus to the authorities. For Peter the Lord knew that he will deny him when the time comes. But the Lord also knew that his heart truly loves Him but that his heart will be greatly molded by this crisis that he will face. The Lord told us that He has prayed for Peter and that he will recover from this defeat and will strengthen his brethren (vv. 31-32). Jesus has to humble Peter and all of us for us to see how deceitful and wicked our hearts and we are not to trust in ourselves but in the Lord alone. And we have seen the transformation of Peter after this incident and how he became as bold as a lion in preaching the first public Christian sermon in Acts 2. Thus, it is the Lord's grace and power which is the true source of our victory over temptation and trials and troubles in this world!

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord Jesus is our STRENGTH & SUSTAINER! Ministry will hurt us because ministry is about people. But the Lord and His grace will sustain and strengthen us! Let us fix our eyes on Jesus and not on the things of this world!**

**2) The Lord Jesus is our SOVEREIGN & OMNISCIENT GOD! He knows people and He knows you & me! Let us fully give our heart to Jesus for He alones knows it and can heal and change it!**

## **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, You are our Sovereign and OMNISCIENT God! You know our hurts and our hearts. Heal our heart, change our heart and conform it to Jesus’ heart. Lord, mold and transform me to be the servant leader and follower that You desire me to be. In Jesus’ Name I pray. AMEN!”***

## **Luke 23**

## **Day 23**

### **JESUS & HIS LAST DAY ON EARTH!**

In this chapter, the Gospel writer, Luke, records and describes the last day of the Lord Jesus on earth.

Amazingly, Jesus spent this day still dispensing grace and mercy to sinners!

#### **1) Jesus before Pilate & Herod: Composed & Truthful! (22:60-71; 23:1-25).**

It is worth noting the composure of Jesus during his last days on this earth. Here, before Pilate and Herod, Jesus demonstrated composure and truthfulness. When asked who He was and if He was the Messiah or the Son of God, Jesus answered “Yes” (See 22:70 & 23:3). On the other hand, Pilate and Herod even though they knew from their conscience that Jesus was innocent of all the charges the people were accusing Him would not dare stand for the Truth. It only showed clearly that they feared men more than God. May the Lord help us to be men of integrity and truth!

## **2) *Jesus at the Cross: Compassionate & Forgiving!* (23: 26-43).**

Notice that there was no struggle in Jesus as He underwent His ordeal at the hands of wicked men. There was no complaint or attitude of hate in Jesus but amazingly there was only love and mercy! Jesus was experiencing the most painful time of His life but He was still showing compassion and mercy to sinners. Note that Jesus told the women and the people following Him not to weep for Him but for themselves. Then, note also the first words that came out from Jesus' lips at Cross was to ask the Father to forgive the people for they don't know what they were doing. Finally, before dying He forgave one of the criminal crucified with Him and promised him paradise or eternal life. May the Lord give us such kind and loving heart for others!

## **3) *Jesus at Death: Calm & Trusting!* (23: 44-49).**

Finally, Jesus sensing death is coming entrusted Himself to the Father and breathed His last. At death Jesus was calm and trusting! He knew where He came from and where He will be going to – His Father in heaven who loved Him and loved us all who also trusted Jesus as Savior and Lord. May the Lord open our eyes of faith and see the blessed assurance that we have in Christ Jesus as our Savior!

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus Christ is the FAITHFUL & TRUE GOD! He is not only the Way and the Life but the Truth! Let us believe Him and put our confidence in His Word.***

**2) *The Lord our God is our LOVING, COMPASSIONATE & FORGIVING GOD! In Jesus, we saw all these attributes as well. Let us come to Him in faith believing that He will never reject us but will accept and forgive us as we come in faith and humility to Him!***

**3) The Lord our God is TRUSTWORTHY! We can rely on Him and entrust our life to Him! Let us fully place our trust in the Lord and His Word or Promises!**

#### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, in JESUS CHRIST our Savior, we see WHO YOU ARE! You are our FAITHFUL, TRUE, COMPASSIONATE, LOVING & TRUSTWORTHY GOD! YOU ARE AWESOME & AMAZING! Teach us to be like Jesus in His action and attitude when He once lived on this earth. Mold and shape us to trust You and Your Word just like Jesus trusted You and Your Word. In Jesus’ Name I pray all these. AMEN!”***

**Luke 24**

**Day 24**

#### **JESUS & HIS RESURRECTION!**

Here the Gospel writer, Luke, concludes his Gospel with the account of the appearances of the risen Jesus to His disciples. The risen Lord has to open their spiritual eyes to understand what was taking place and that by rising from the dead Jesus had fulfilled all OT prophecies about Him.

##### **1) The risen Lord Jesus EXPOSES Himself to His disciples! (vv. 1-12; 30-32; 36-49).**

It is very clear from the narrative that the disciples did not fully understand Jesus’ words when He told them before that He would die and rose again from the dead. It took the angels of the Lord to tell the women who came to see Jesus that first Easter morning that Jesus is alive! (See vv. 6-8). In fact, even after being told about this, when these women told the others about what the angels told them, they still could not understand. The risen Lord also appeared to the two disciples walking towards Emmaus discussing and being disappointed about what happened to their Messiah. He

walked and talked with them until He revealed Himself to them. Finally, the risen Lord appeared to the rest of the disciples because many of them had not yet believed that He has risen from the dead.

**2) *The risen Lord Jesus EXPLAINS Himself to His disciples! (vv. 6-8; 25-27; 45-53).***

Notice that only after the Lord had opened their spiritual eyes to the Scriptures that they understood His words and what had happened to Him. In v. 8, it says that after the angels reminded the women of the words of the Lord, they “remembered His words.” Then, in vv. 25-27, we saw the risen Lord explaining the Scriptures to the two disciples and v. 31 say that *“their eyes were opened and they recognized Him...”* And when the risen Lord appeared to all the disciples, v. 45 says that He *“opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures.”* Indeed, apart from the Lord and His grace, we could never know Him in our own. Indeed, even today we need His Spirit to help us understand His Word and to rely on Him for wisdom and understanding His will for our life.

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus is our RISEN SAVIOR & LORD! He is the MESSIAH who was proclaimed in the OT and fulfilled all prophecies about Him. Let us praise Him, worship Him, and serve Him with all our being!***

**2) *The Lord Jesus is our LIVING WORD & ETERNAL LIFE! He who believes in Him and His Word will be saved and live forevermore! Let us believe His Word and hold on to His promises until He comes!***

**PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for JESUS, THE MESSIAH, OUR SAVIOR & LORD! Thank You for***

*sending Him to save and redeem us from sin and hell. Lord, I place my HOPE and TRUST in Jesus alone and looks forward to receive the same glorified body that You promised me in Christ. Lord, open my eyes to see wonderful things in Your Word and give me the grace to obey it with all my being. Lord, I put my TRUST in Your Word until Jesus returns and take me to be with You forevermore! I pray these in His Name! AMEN!"*

# **THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

**Jesus – The Son of  
God!**



## DAY 1

## JOHN 1

### **JESUS IS THE ETERNAL WORD!**

Here the Gospel writer, John, teaches without a doubt that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who is the ETERNAL WORD! Jesus Christ is ETERNAL LIFE!

***1) JESUS is the Word who became FLESH. He is the LAMB OF GOD who took away man's sins! (vv. 1-18; 29-34).***

John in His unique perspective of Jesus, shows the readers that Jesus is not just a man but a divine person. He is the ETERNAL WORD who became flesh and blood according to the will of the GODHEAD or TRINITY. Jesus is also the Creator of all the things that we see in this universe as taught also by the apostle Paul (See Col. 3:1ffg). In fact, He is the LIFE and LIGHT of men but they refused to acknowledge this truth but to all who believed in Jesus the Father gave them the right to be called children of God (vv. 12-13).

**2) JOHN THE BAPTIST is the VOICE who proclaimed the WORD. He is the FORERUNNER of the Son of God! (vv. 19-28).**

This truth about Jesus was farther confirmed by the man called John the Baptist who preached repentance to the people of Israel at that time. He himself denied that he was the Messiah or the Christ but that he was the “voice in the wilderness” who will be the forerunner for the Messiah. And that upon seeing Jesus, John proclaimed that Jesus was “*the Lamb of God that will take away the sins of the world*” (v. 29).

**3) THE DISCIPLES are FOLLOWERS of the Word. They are to be FISHERS of men! (vv. 35-51).**

Here, note how Jesus called His first disciples and challenged them to follow Him wholeheartedly. In the other Gospels, Jesus literally told them that they will be “fishers of men.” What is interesting in their call was how the Lord Jesus knew something about them even when though this was the first time they met Him! Note that Jesus knew the hearts of men and no one could ever fool nor mock Him.

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *Is the Lord Jesus my God and my Savior from my sins? Have I already place my full trust in Him as my Savior?***

**2) *Am I a voice for the Lord Jesus? Does my life point others to Jesus?***

**3) *Am I a faithful follower of Jesus and His Word? Am I deliberately “fishing” men for the Lord Jesus?***

## **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for JESUS, THE MESSIAH whom You sent to save and redeem us from sin and hell. He is our RISEN SAVIOR, OUR HOPE and ETERNAL LIFE! Lord, I place my HOPE and TRUST in Your Words. Open my eyes to see wonderful things in Your Words and obey it with all my being. I pray these in His Name! AMEN!”***

## **DAY 2**

## **JOHN 2**

### **JESUS, OUR ALMIGHTY SAVIOR!**

Jesus amazingly demonstrated His supernatural power in His earthly ministry that it left no doubt that He was more than a man. He is the Son of God, He is our Almighty Savior!

#### **1) *Jesus demonstrates His supernatural POWER! (vv. 1-11).***

It is very interesting to see Mary, Jesus’ mother, prodding Jesus to do “something” in the wedding celebration they attended. But what He did –changing the water to wine, totally surprised them especially the master of the banquet who had raised the problem of lack of wine for the guests. This was the first time Jesus demonstrated and revealed His supernatural POWER. And as John noted His disciples put their trust in Him (v. 11).

## **2) *Jesus demonstrates His ZEAL for the things of God! (vv. 12-22).***

Notice the zeal of Jesus when He saw what had happened to the Temple and how He drove out all the people and their merchandize away from it. He reminded and taught the people that this was not the original intent of the Temple. It was supposed to be a place of worship and prayer especially a place where the rest of the nations, the Gentiles, could go and worship the Lord Jehovah. When the scribes wanted a sign from Jesus, the Lord told them to destroy His temple (his body) and He will rise again! They misunderstood Him as usual and even misquoted Him later (They will testify that He said “I will destroy this temple...”). But note that He said “Destroy this temple...” The apostle John noted that the disciple remembered the scriptures where it said that the Messiah will show great zeal for the Lord and His Temple (v. 17).

## **3) *Jesus demonstrates His KNOWLEDGE of man’s heart! (vv. 23-25).***

Notice that the Lord Jesus did not only possess great supernatural power but also knew the hearts of men. Jesus was OMNISCIENT! He knew all men since He is the Creator of man. He knows our heart and thus knows our true problem. He knows that we are sinful by birth and choice and only He could provide the solution to our greatest problem; even the shedding of His Blood on the Cross!

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus is OMNIPOTENT & OMNISCIENT! He is our POWERFUL God and Savior! Let us learn to entrust our life into His Hands and fully trust Him and His Word!***

**2) *The Lord Jesus is ZEALOUS for His GLORY & HONOR! Like Jesus let us be zealous for God and the things of the Kingdom!***

## PRAYER:

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for JESUS, our OMNIPOTENT & OMNISCIENT SAVIOR! Jesus like You is ALMIGHTY & GREAT! Teach me continually to entrust my life into His Hands and fully trust His Words. Lord, mold me and like Jesus make me zealous and passionate too in pursuing You and Your will for my life. All these I pray in His Name! AMEN!”***

## DAY 3

## JOHN 3

### JESUS & JOHN THE BAPTIST

Jesus in this chapter encounters Nicodemus, a seeker of truth and looking forward to the kingdom of God. Jesus shows us the need of every man whatever maybe your religious standing before men; and that is to be “born again.” He also explains to us what this means and John did testified about this truth about Jesus.

#### ***1) Jesus TEACHES that to be BELIEVE in Him is ETERNAL LIFE! (vv. 1-21).***

It is very interesting to see Nicodemus coming to see Jesus at night. Perhaps, he was not yet ready to identify himself as a disciple and follower of Jesus but his zeal to know the truth was evident in this story. In fact, he wanted to know how he could enter the kingdom of God. Jesus wasted no time teaching him how he could enter the kingdom of God. Jesus told him that every person who

wished to enter His kingdom must be “born again!” The reply of Nicodemus to Jesus to this revealed his ignorance of the things of Spirit. So Jesus explained to him what he meant by his words. Finally, Jesus summarized and stated his explanation in that famous and unforgettable text, John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world...”* From this text, we learn that every person, if he is to enter heaven, must BELIEVE in Jesus as His Savior from his/her sins. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life! (Jn. 14:6).

## **2) John the Baptist TESTIFIES that to BELIEVE IN JESUS is indeed ETERNAL LIFE! (vv. 22-36).**

John the Baptist affirmed this truth when he testified about Jesus as the Messiah. Firstly, John personally admitted that he was not the Messiah but that he was just a FORRUNNER for Him. John faithfully proclaimed that the Messiah was coming after him and he was to prepare the people for His coming. Secondly, John affirmed that Jesus was indeed the Son of God and the One the Father sent to be our Savior. And He personally proclaimed that to believe in JESUS is ETERNAL LIFE!

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) Have you been “born again”? Have you already placed your faith or trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior? As Jesus taught let us be “born again”!**

**2) Are you faithfully testifying about the Lord Jesus to others? Are you passionate and zealous in seeing His Name glorified and lifted up? Let us seek to magnify and glorify the Name of the Lord all the days of our life!**

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for JESUS, Your GIFT OF A SAVIOR to us. You sent Him in order that we***

***might be “born again” and be able to enter Your Kingdom. Lord, like John the Baptist, mold us to be faithful and passionate in serving and pleasing You in our life and telling others about Your Good News of salvation in Christ. All these I pray in Jesus’ Name! AMEN!”***

## **DAY 4**

## **JOHN 4**

### **JESUS, THE LIVING WATER & THE GREAT HEALER!**

Jesus in this chapter encounters the Samaritan woman whose life was transformed with her encounter with the Lord Jesus. Jesus exposed her heart and her need and satisfied it with Himself – the Living Water!

#### **1) Jesus *HEALS* the Samaritan woman’s heart! (vv. 1-42).**

Note that the Samaritan woman knew what was “culturally correct” at that time between Jews and the Samaritans. She knew that Jesus was not supposed to be talking to her but to her surprised Jesus even initiated it. But Jesus was intentional in doing this and wanted this woman and His disciples to know (later) that He is the Savior of the world! He came not just for the Jews but for the Gentiles as well. And Jesus used the situation (His being thirsty) to show this woman that there was something much greater that He could give her than water, which could only

temporarily quench her thirst. He showed her that what man needed is the “Living Water” that He alone could give. After exposing her heart and life, the woman could sense that there was SOMEONE extraordinary in front of her. She tried to evade her issue but Jesus showed her that what she needed was not another relationship but a relationship with Him, the Messiah. When she took note of the Messiah whom she said will explain all these to the people, Jesus revealed Himself to her as the One! Because of this, the woman believed and shared her story to her fellow-Samaritans and many of them believed in Jesus.

## **2) Jesus HEALS the official's son! (vv. 43-54).**

When Jesus came back to Galilee, a royal official whose son was sick and dying in Capernaum went to see to Him in Cana and requested Him to come and heal his son. When Jesus told him to go and that his son was already healed, the man believed His Word and went. At home, the man found his son healed and well. And when he inquired he learned that his son got healed at exactly the same time Jesus told him that he was healed already! This was only the second time Jesus did his miracle in Galilee!

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) Our Lord Jesus is the Living Water! He alone could quench our spiritual thirst and hunger! Let us covet His Holy Spirit who alone could meet our greatest and deepest needs!***

***2) Our Lord Jesus is the Great Physician/Healer! He alone could heal us of all our sickness, spiritually, emotionally and physically! Let us come first to Jesus the Healer of our body, soul, and spirit!***

## **PRAYER:**



***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for the Lord Jesus Christ, the Living Water and our Great Healer/Physician! Indeed, He alone could meet our deepest and greatest need – YOU in our heart! Only He could give us Your Spirit who alone could heal our broken and sinful heart. Lord, I praise You because through Jesus’ wounds we were healed! He alone could heal us of all our sicknesses; whether spiritual or physical. Lord, I give You praise and thanks and worship. All these I pray in Jesus’ Name! AMEN!”***

## **DAY 5**

## **JOHN 5**

### **JESUS & THE TESTIMONIES OF HIS DIVINITY!**

Jesus in this chapter declares the testimonies that proved His divinity as the Messiah. As God’s Son, He has been sent to all who will believe in His Name as the One sent by the Father!

#### ***1) Jesus’ miracles testify that He is the Son of God, the Messiah! (vv. 1-30).***

When the religious authorities were questioning Jesus’ authority and were planning to kill Him because He was calling God His Father making Himself equal to God; He pointed to His miracles as one of the proofs that He was the Son of God. After Jesus healed a paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda, He went on to answer their questions once and for all and proclaim that He was the Son of God, the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. He told them that His miracles were done because He was working with the Father and that He will do greater works than these in the days to

come. Most importantly, Jesus declared that those who will believe in Him will receive eternal life (see vv. 24-25).

**2) *John the Baptist testifies that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah! (vv. 31-35).***

Jesus noted John the Baptist as another major proof that He was the Son of God. In chapter 1, John himself admitted that he was not the Messiah but Jesus! He even referred to Jesus as the “Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world” (Jn. 1:29).

**3) *Our heavenly Father testifies that Jesus is His Son, the One in whom He is pleased! (vv. 36-38).***

In vv. 36-38, Jesus cited His intimacy with the Father and that He had testified to Him as His Son. We will remember that when Jesus was baptized by John, the disciples heard a Voice from heaven that declared that Jesus was His Son and that He is pleased with Him (See Matt.3:13-17; Luke 3:21-23).

**4) *The Scriptures & Moses testify about Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah! (vv. 39-47).***

Finally, the Scriptures and Moses testified that Jesus was the Messiah. A casual reading of the Gospel of Matthew will show us that Jesus practically fulfilled the majority of the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. Jesus clearly pointed to the Scriptures and Moses as strong evidences of His Messiahship and Sonship. And that if they will only carefully search the Scriptures, especially the things that Moses wrote about concerning the Messiah, they will see the truth that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah the Father promised to send to be our Savior. But since they do not believe in Moses or the Scriptures that point to Jesus as the Messiah, how could they believe in Jesus!

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) Our Lord Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah! To believe in Him is ETERNAL LIFE! Let us be sure that we have placed our trust in Jesus as our Savior and have eternal life!**

**2) Our Lord Jesus loves God the Father and God the Father loves Son! Jesus came to do the Father's will and pleased Him! Like Jesus, let us STOP SINNING but love the Father with all our being and live to please and glorify Him!**

**3) The Bible, God's Word, reveals to us that Jesus is the Son of God the Messiah! Let us search the Bible diligently and put to practice its teachings in our daily walk with the Lord!**

#### **PRAYER:**

**“Our heavenly Father, thank You for Your Son, Jesus, our Messiah, our Savior and Lord! Through Him we understood Your amazing love for us. Through Him we learn how to relate with You as our Father. Lord, empower us to STOP SINNING and to passionately love and fully obey You. Mold us to be Your loving and obedient children. All for the glory and honor of Your Name and the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom I pray all these. AMEN!”**

## DAY 6

## JOHN 6

### JESUS, THE BREAD OF LIFE!

Jesus in this chapter declares that He is the Bread of Life! After miraculously feeding the 5,000 people by a few bread and fishes, the people thought of making Him King but Jesus eluded them. Then, after seeing them again He exhorted them to pursue not just the bread that they ate earlier but the Bread of Life!

#### **1) *Jesus FEEDS five thousand people! (vv. 1-15).***

When a big crowd of 5,000 people gathered to be with Jesus, John told us that He tested His disciples' faith by asking them to feed the people. They told Jesus that they don't have the resources to do it but they only have a few bread and fishes. Taking these items and telling His disciples to organize the people and making them sit; Jesus thanked Heaven and began distributing the bread and fishes. After they all have eaten and were satisfied, there

were even 12 basketfuls of leftovers. When the people saw this miracle, they thought of making Him king; but Jesus knowing their thoughts, eluded them. After feeding the 5,000, the disciples went to Capernaum, on the other side of the lake in a boat without Jesus. Again, Jesus tested their faith and He went to them by walking on the water and they were terrified at seeing Him thinking He was a ghost. But after telling them that it was Him they welcomed Him into the boat; and note that the boat immediately reached the shore! Through this, Jesus continued to reveal Himself to the disciples and to increase their faith in Him.

## **2) Jesus CLAIMS to be the BREAD OF LIFE! (vv. 25-71).**

The people after learning that Jesus had gone somewhere else searched for Him and they followed Him in Capernaum. Seeing them, Jesus exposed the motives of many and told them that they were following Him because of the food that He provided them the other day. So, Jesus exhorted them to pursue not just physical bread that will not last but instead pursue the “Bread of Life” that will eternally satisfy their hunger and thirst; and that Bread of Life was none other than Himself. But the Jews began to grumble on this because they could not believe that a son of a carpenter in Nazareth was the Christ! So, Jesus told them that only those whom the Father had enabled could come to Him and thus, believe in Him. And since they don’t believe in Him, they don’t belong to those whom the Father has called to come to Him and be part of His family (see vv. 43-51). But they could not understand Jesus that He will give them His flesh and that they have to eat His flesh if they were to live forever or have eternal life. But Jesus was talking about giving His life and that they have to believe in Him as the Messiah who was to die for their sins. Also, because of this hard saying, some of Jesus’ disciples deserted Him. But when Jesus asked the Twelve whether they too will abandon Him, Peter replied, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life...”* (vv. 68-69).

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord our God is JEHOVAH JIREH! He is the God who provides our needs! Blessed are those who fully trust in Him! Let us place our full trust in the Lord as our Provider & Sustainer!**

**2) Our Lord Jesus is the BREAD OF LIFE! He is the One the Father sent to give us life even eternal life. He who “eats” or “believes” in him will live forever!**

**PRAYER:**

**“Our heavenly Father, thank You for being our JEHOVAH JIREH! You are the PROVIDER of all our needs whether spiritual or physical. We will never lack in You as we trust You and believe Your Promise. Lord, thank You even for Your Son, Jesus, the BREAD OF LIFE. Through His body that was sacrificed on the Cross, we, now who believed in Him have the assurance of eternal life. Father, we love You and praise You and worship You alone. In Jesus’ most precious Name I pray. AMEN!”**

## DAY 7

## JOHN 7

### **JESUS, THE GIVER OF LIVING WATER!**

John here shows us the various opinions of people regarding who Jesus was. Many say that he was demon-possessed but many also believed that He was the Messiah, the Christ. But later in the chapter, Jesus declares that He is the only One who could give us the LIVING WATER; which He meant the Holy Spirit whom He will give to all who will believe in Him.

#### ***1) Jesus' family DOUBTS His authority and motive! (vv. 1-9).***

When the Feast of Tabernacles came; where many Jews will be gathering in the Temple in Jerusalem, Jesus' brothers tried to persuade Him to come right away to the Feast saying that this will be a great opportunity for Him to introduce Himself to the 'world.' They said this because they too still did not believe in Him and they thought that Jesus

was just promoting His own selfish human agenda to be great and known by the people. So Jesus told them that He will come later but not according to their timing. For He was always waiting for the perfect timing, even God's timing! And He did come later on.

**2) *The people DEBATE as to who JESUS really was! (vv. 25-71).***

Even before Jesus began teaching in the temple at that time, the people were already discussing among each other as to who Jesus really was. Some were saying that He was a good man. Some were charging that He was demon-possessed. Still others say that He was the Prophet. But many still believed in Jesus as the Messiah. But John noted that the Jews could not explain where Jesus got His great learning and wisdom from the Scriptures knowing that He came from a carpenter's family in lowly Galilee (See v. 15). But Jesus declared that He is the only One who could give them the "Living Water"; that is, the Holy Spirit whom He will give to all who will believe in Him in due time (See Acts 2).

**3) *The religious leaders DISCARD Jesus' and His authority! (vv. 25-71).***

When the temple guards whom the religious authorities sent to arrest Jesus returned without Jesus, they berated the guards. They also rebuked Nicodemus who tried to be civil and clear-minded about the matter. Their hatred and unbelief in Jesus and His authority led them to totally discard Him as the Messiah, the Christ the Father promised to send.

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus in OBEYING GOD'S WILL was doubted and misunderstood by His very own family. So let us expect that people will NOT always believe and***



***understand us but that we have to be faithful to God in obeying His will!***

***2) Our Lord Jesus is the LIVING WATER! He is the GIVER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT! So let us praise Him and thank Him, and LIVE in step with His Spirit residing in our hearts!***

## **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for JESUS, paving the WAY for us to receive the HOLY SPIRIT, THE LIVING WATER, who alone could fill our spiritual hunger and thirst. Lord, empower me and anoint me to be faithful and diligent in obeying and doing Your will. Fill me always with Your Spirit and direct me to fulfill Your will for my life and for Your work. All these I pray in Jesus Christ most precious Name. AMEN!”***

## **DAY 8**

## **JOHN 8**

### **JESUS & THE CHILDREN OF GOD!**

Jesus in this chapter identifies who are truly those who are children of Abraham; that is, true believers of God. They are those who believe in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God and hear His Word, and obey or practice it in their lives.

#### ***1) The religious leaders CONSPIRE to trap Jesus! (vv. 1-11).***

This chapter opens up with the Jewish religious leaders bringing a woman to Jesus whom they said was caught committing adultery. They asked Jesus what they should do to her. Actually, they were setting a trap for Jesus so that they could accuse Him of a wrongdoing. But He knew their thoughts and He told them that anyone who is without sin is the first to stone her. And when they heard this, each one went away, the older one first, until one no was left.

Jesus forgave the sinful woman but charged her to leave her life of sin!

**2) Jesus CLARIFIES who are the true children of the Lord (vv. 12-47).**

Jesus, in this chapter also clarified who are the children of the Lord. When the Jews claimed that they were children of Abraham, Jesus refuted them. He told them that if they were so, they would have believed in Him and recognized Him as the Messiah. But when they insisted that they were children of Abraham and thus children of the Father, Jesus told them that they were actually children of the devil for like him, they refused to believe in Him and submit to His Word. Jesus told them that if God is their Father then they would love Him for the Father sent Him to be their Messiah, their Savior!

**3) Jesus CLAIMS to be the Messiah, the Pre-existent One! (vv. 25-71).**

Jesus also claimed that those who believe in Him will never die but live forever. The Jews charged Jesus as demon-possessed and refused to believe His words. But Jesus told them that He is greater than Abraham and that Abraham rejoiced when he saw Jesus. By saying this, Jesus claimed to be pre-existent or had been existing even before Abraham was. With this, the Jews tried to stone Jesus because they thought that He had blasphemed by making Himself equal with the Lord. But Jesus hid and evaded them.

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord Jesus came not CONDEMN sinners NOR CONDONE their sin; BUT to CALL them to Himself – to repent and put their trust in Him as their Savior and Lord! So let us call sinners to repent and place their trust in Jesus!**

**2) *The Children of Abraham (Children of God) are those who believe in Jesus Christ as the Christ, the Pre-incarnate One, the Eternal Word. They hear His Word, love Jesus and obey His commands! Do we?***

## **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for JESUS, the Pre-incarnate One and Eternal Word, whom You sent to be our Savior! He came not to condemn us nor condone our sins but to call us to Himself to repent and believe in Him as our Savior and Redeemer. Lord, teach us to love Him with all our being and demonstrate this by obeying His Word. All these I pray in Jesus’ Name! AMEN!”***

## **DAY 9**

## **JOHN 9**

### **JESUS ON SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS!**

Jesus in this chapter, after healing a blind man, confronts the religious leaders of the day for their spiritual blindness. Jesus declares that though they see, they were spiritually blind and could not grasp who He really is.

#### **1) *Jesus EXPLAINS the blindness of a man born blind! (vv. 1-12).***

When passing a blind man, Jesus’ disciples asked Him who sinned or who was to be blamed for the man’s blindness, the man or his parents. He told them that neither of them. Jesus said this happened to the man in order that the Lord’s work might be displayed in him. Then, He made some mud from the ground and placed it to his eyes and asks him to go and wash at Siloam. The man obeyed Jesus and he came back healed! The people could not believe that he was the blind man that they knew though he kept on

saying that he was the one! The man told them that a certain Jesus had healed him for he had not yet seen HIM!

## **2) *The religious leaders EXAMINE the healing of the blind man! (vv. 12-47).***

When the Pharisees and scribes learned that the man was healed on a Sabbath, they proceeded to investigate the matter. He questioned him how he got healed and who healed him; and he told exactly what happened but they would not believe him. They even called his parents to testify whether he was their son born blind but though they admitted that he was indeed their son. Afraid of the earlier threat of the leaders that anyone who believes in Jesus would be thrown out of the synagogue, they told them that their son was of age and he could answer for himself. Again, they went back to the man and asked him again about his healing and about Jesus but he got fed up with them that he told the religious leaders whether they too wanted to be Jesus' disciples. And they were pissed off by the man and they threw him out!

## **3) *Jesus EXPOSES the spiritual blindness of the religious leaders! (vv. 25-71).***

When Jesus saw the man again He asked him whether he believes in the Son of Man. He asked Jesus who was this man and he will believe in Him. Jesus told him that He was the Man and he believed in Him and worshipped Him! (It is interesting to note that Jesus did not refuse to be worshiped as God!). Then, Jesus declared that He came to bring judgment on people – to make the blind see and those who claim to see to become blind! Jesus was speaking about the judgment of those who are proud in their heart and refuse to believe in Him as the Messiah. But the spiritually 'poor' or humble and believe, they will 'see' Him or understand His truths! For the Lord opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble! (Jas. 4:6).

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN CREATOR & LORD of the universe! All His creation will give Him glory in due time even in His perfect time! Let us submit to the Lord's sovereign plan and purposes in this world He created. Let us seek to glorify Him!**

**2) The Lord Jesus is the GIVER OF 'SIGHT' and 'LIGHT'! He opens the eyes of the blind as well as the spiritually blind! He opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble! So let us humble ourselves before the Lord and receive manifold graces and blessings!**

#### **PRAYER:**

***"Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are our SOVEREIGN CREATOR & LORD! Teach us to submit to Your will and plan even in our life. Father, thank You for JESUS who gave us "SIGHT" and LIGHT that we might be able to see You and Your truths. Lord, You deserve all our praise, thanksgivings and worship. You alone are the only true God and Lord. To You, I submit my will and my life. In Jesus' Name! AMEN!"***

## DAY 10

## JOHN 10

### **JESUS, THE GATE & THE GOOD SHEPHERD!**

Jesus in this chapter claims to be the Gate and the Good Shepherd of God's flock. And the Jews are again divided as to their opinion of who Jesus is. Jesus continues to proclaim that He is the Son of God, the Messiah but the Jews keeps on rejecting Him and His claims.

#### **1) *Jesus CLAIMS to be the Way to the Father! (vv. 1-21).***

When Jesus tried to illustrate that He is the WAY to the Father or God's kingdom, the people could not understand Him. So, He again used two more illustration for them to get this. First, He told that that He was the "GATE" or "DOOR" of the sheep pen! No one could enter God's kingdom without coming into the door. Anyone who will try to use other ways to enter was thieves or robbers. But the true owner comes or enters through the door! Second, Jesus told them that He was the "Good Shepherd" of the sheep.

And the sheep knows and listens to their shepherd. The Good Shepherd has only the highest good of His sheep and will do all to protect and take care of them. Unlike hirelings who thinks only of themselves. After hearing this, the Jews were again divided as to who Jesus really was.

## **2) *The religious leaders CHARGE Jesus with blasphemy! (vv. 22-42).***

At another opportunity, the Jews tried to corner Jesus and pressed Him to tell them whether He was the Christ or not. But Jesus told them that He had already told them but they only refuse to believe. And that proved only that they do not belong to him for if they belong to His sheep, they would believe and listen to Him. For He and the Father are one! By hearing this, the Jews tried to stone Jesus for blasphemy because Jesus, *“a mere man, claim to be God”* (v. 33). Finally, they understood what Jesus was claiming all along; that is, He is the Christ, the Son of the living God! But unfortunately, they do not believe this as their action (stoning Jesus) indicated. Jesus tried to point out to them the scriptures that proved that He is the Son of God. But again, they tried to arrest Jesus but He eluded them. When Jesus came to the place where John the Baptist baptized, many people there believed in Him!

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus is the GREAT DOOR & GOOD SHEPHERD! He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! No one comes to the Father apart from Jesus! Let us be 100% assured that Jesus is our Way to heaven and the Shepherd of our soul!***

**2) *The Lord Jesus is indeed the SON OF GOD! He is the Word who came from the Father and they are ONE; that is, they are of the same kind. They have one glory and substance. Thus, Jesus is God! Let us worship Jesus as our Messiah and Savior!***

## PRAYER:

***“Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are our SOVEREIGN & WISE GOD! You sent Your Son and made Him a Man so that we could have a perfect Savior from our sins. He became the Great Door to heaven and our Good Shepherd who led us to You. Father God, this is amazing and beyond our understanding. Yet we believe in Your Word and Your Will. And I praise and worship You Father. All these, in Jesus’ Name! AMEN!”***

## DAY 11

## JOHN 11

### **JESUS, THE RESURRECTION & THE LIFE!**

Jesus in this chapter performs perhaps one of His greatest miracles – the raising of Lazarus from the dead! Surely, this miracle led many to believe in Jesus but it also cemented the plan of the Jewish religious leaders to kill Him.

#### ***1) Jesus RAISES Lazarus from the dead! (vv. 1-44).***

In Bethany, Jesus’ friend and disciple, Lazarus was very sick and his sisters, Mary and Martha, sent word to Jesus about the condition of their brother and were praying that Jesus would come and heal their sick brother. But Jesus did not come at the “right time” so they thought and Lazarus died. After four days Jesus came and the family was already mourning for the dead body of Lazarus. The sisters told Jesus that if He had come earlier, He could have healed Lazarus. But Jesus told Martha that this thing happened so that His glory might be displayed before them. So, Jesus



went to the place where Lazarus was laid and commanded some to take the stone from the grave. At first, they hesitated but Jesus' order prevailed. Afterwards, Jesus called Lazarus to come out of the grave and to the amazement of all he did! Jesus told them to take off the grave clothes from Lazarus and let him go! And many believe in the Lord Jesus. Indeed, the words Jesus spoke to the sisters that they will see the glory of God were true. Indeed, Jesus is the resurrection and life and he who believes in Him will never die but have eternal life!

**2) *The religious leaders RESOLVE to kill Jesus (vv. 45-57).***

But some of those present when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead reported to the Jewish religious leaders what He just did and they were all concerned. They were afraid that the people will believe in Jesus and proclaim Him their King, and that the Romans will not let this happen but will take their temple and their land. But Caiaphas the High Priest at that time said that it is necessary for "one person to die so that the nation would not perish." So, from that time on they resolved to arrest Jesus and kill Him at all cost. Note that John cited Caiaphas prophesying when he said those words being the High Priest that year. Indeed, the Lord uses even wicked people to advance His cause and glory!

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus is the Resurrection & the Life! He who believes in Him will never die but live forever! Let us continue to hold on to Jesus the Giver of Eternal Life!***

**2) *The Lord our God is the Sovereign God of the universe! He uses even the wicked to fulfill and advance His purposes and plan in this world. Let us put our full trust and confidence in Him alone!***

## PRAYER:

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for the Lord Jesus from Whom eternal life comes! He is indeed the Resurrection and Life! He alone gives life forevermore. Lord, You are the Sovereign Lord and You are in control of all things even though at times we doubt Your power and presence in our life. But You are indeed a SOVEREIGN & WISE GOD! You even use the wicked to advance Your cause and Your purposes. Lord, to You I put my full trust, hope and confidence. All these, I pray in Jesus’ Name! AMEN!”***

## DAY 12

## JOHN 12

### JESUS’ POPULARITY SPREAD

Jesus in this chapter continues to attract many followers as well as detractors and enemies. Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus, anointed Jesus with precious perfume and was commended by Jesus. Here, Jesus also entered Jerusalem triumphantly as word about His miraculous deeds spread among the people. But Jesus also continued to develop many enemies among the Jewish religious leaders.

#### **1) *The ANOINTING of Jesus (vv. 1-11).***

When Mary anointed Jesus with a precious perfume worth a year’s wages, Judas Iscariot objected or complained saying that this money could have used to help the poor. But our Lord Jesus knew his heart that he was a thief. Instead, the Lord commended Mary and told them that she as preparing for this for His burial; and that her action will always be remembered every time the Gospel is preached.

From Mary's action we learned that our Lord is pleased with our extravagant love and devotion to Him.

## **2) *The TRIUMPHANT ENTRY of Jesus (vv. 12-36).***

Because of Jesus growing popularity, the Jewish religious leaders were plotting to get rid of Him. This was especially so when Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly. Large crowds followed Him and even meet Him with branches and shouting, "Hosanna!" Here, Jesus also predicted to His disciples His imminent death but they could not get it yet. Jesus taught us here a very important principle of multiplication and effectiveness as a servant of the Lord. We are to learn to die to self and live for Christ! For it is by dying to self that we will live and gain life (see vv. 23-26).

## **3) *The UNBELIEF of the Jews (vv. 37-50).***

But in spite the many miracles that Jesus did among the people the Jewish religious leaders continued in the unbelief. Instead of trusting in Jesus, they started on plotting how to eliminate Him. Even though many still of the religious leaders believed in Him but they were afraid to come out in the open for fear of its repercussion. But Jesus assured those who believed in Him that they do not just believe in Him but also to the One who sent Him, even our Father in heaven! And that believing in Him means eternal life!

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus DELIGHTS in our extravagant love and devotion to Him! Let us therefore give Jesus the best that we could Him in our life!***

**2) *The Lord Jesus TEACHES us the KEY to spiritual multiplication and power – DEATH TO SELF! A life that seeks to die to self and live for Christ will gain life and God's blessings and favor. Let us therefore daily die to self and live for our Lord Jesus Christ!***

**3) *The Lord Jesus is the ONE the Father sent to be our Savior and Lord! To believe in Jesus is to believe in the Father. And to believe in Him means eternal life. Let us therefore believe in Jesus and make Him our Savior and Lord!***

## **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for the Lord Jesus from Whom eternal life comes! He is indeed deserves my extravagant love and devotion even my ALL IN ALL! Lord, teach me daily to die to self and lie for Christ. Use and empower me to preach the Good News that Jesus is the Messiah and to believe in Him is eternal life! All these, I pray in Jesus’ Name! AMEN!”***

## **DAY 13**

## **JOHN 13**

### **JESUS, THE GREAT SERVANT & LOVER!**

Jesus in this chapter spends the last night of His life giving valuable instructions to His disciples. Here, Jesus washes the feet of His disciples and sets forth before them the path to true greatness and blessedness.

#### ***1) Jesus TEACHES His disciples true greatness and blessedness - Serve one another! (vv. 1-17).***

Knowing that this will be the last time He will be with His disciples, Jesus spent His last night with them teaching them true greatness and blessedness in this life as His followers. Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with them but after they ate, He washed their feet and then taught them the key to true greatness and blessedness. We learned from the previous chapters that Jesus taught them the value of humility and serving others. But here Jesus set forth before them an example that they need to follow if they want to be

great before God's eyes – Serve one another! Jesus also taught them that doing this will result to true blessedness in their walk in this life (v. 17).

**2) *Jesus teaches His disciples the true evidence and demonstration of Christianity – Love one another! (vv. 18-38).***

During their supper Jesus also predicted that one of them was going to betray Him to the religious officials. But He said that this will happen according to God's holy words, the scriptures, fulfilling His great plan of salvation for man. Jesus also clearly revealed to them who would betray Him (see vv. 21-27). From this, we realized that Jesus indeed was not merely human - having known what will happen in the future! It is interesting to note that He let Judas went out first from among them before He gave His personal and solemn instruction to them. He exhorted them to "love one another!" He reiterated the importance of obeying this for this would prove to the world that they were really His disciples and this would convince them that Christianity is true! Thus, Jesus taught us that people don't care much about doctrine or what we believe but much about our treatment of one another or love for one another. While doctrine is important to us, we believe that people are seeking for God's love and this could only be found and demonstrated when God's people demonstrated it in a very practical way as we lovingly relate with one another.

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The path to true greatness and blessedness in the Kingdom of God or in our walk with the Lord is servanthood! Let us faithfully serve the Lord and one another from the heart!***

**2) *The best evidence of true Christianity and our greatest tool for evangelism (attracting people to Christ)***

***is our love for one another! Let us passionately love one another from the heart!***

## **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for showing us the path to true greatness and blessedness in Your Kingdom work. Teach us indeed to be faithful servants of Yours like our Lord Jesus Christ who served You and us! Thank You also for showing us that loving one another is the best way to prove our faith in You. So, mold us to be loving towards one another realizing also that this is the best tool to win others to Christ. Lord, indeed conform us to our Lord Jesus Christ and may You be magnified and glorified in our life. In Jesus’ Name! AMEN!”***

## **DAY 14**

## **JOHN 14**

### **JESUS: THE WAY, THE TRUTH, & THE LIFE!**

Jesus in this chapter, after telling His disciples that He is going away and leave them, comforts them with the assurance of a sure place in heaven or God’s house. Jesus emphatically declared to His disciples that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

#### ***1) Jesus PROMISES His disciples a sure place in His Father’s house! (vv. 1-14).***

Knowing that His disciples were troubled after they heard and learned that He was going away and leaving them, Jesus began to comfort them by telling them of what He was going to do when He leaves them. He told that He was going to heaven or the Father’s house to prepare a place for them and that He will come back again to take them to be with Him! In other words, His departure was only

temporarily but when He returns they will be forever united with Him, spending eternity with the Godhead! Jesus also clarified to them the means to go to heaven. It was not through other ways or means but Jesus! He declared that He is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life” and no one comes to the Father except through Him (v. 6). Again, Jesus asserted that He is in the Father and the Father is in Him. In another place, He plainly declared that He and the Father are one. Indeed, Jesus claimed to be the “Son of God”!

## **2) Jesus *PROMISES His disciples the coming of the Holy Spirit to replace Him!* (vv. 15-31).**

Jesus also comforted His disciples by telling them the coming of the Holy Spirit. He promised them that He will give them another Counselor to be with them. Jesus promised that He will not leave them as orphans but the Holy Spirit will come and will guide them to the truth. For the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth! He is also the One who will remind them of His teachings and who will guide and teach them His truths. Jesus also reiterated the importance of obeying God’s Word which is the best and practical proof of our love for Him. For Jesus said that “*If anyone loves Me, he will obey my teachings*” (vv. 15, 23).

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! No one comes to the Father except through Him! Let us come to Jesus and receive life from Him. Acknowledge Him as Savior and Lord of Your life today!***

**2) *The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ and God! He is now the Lord of the Church, teaching and guiding us to God’s truths! Let us seek His empowerment and blessings in our life!***

### **PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for giving us JESUS, the Way, the Truth, and the Life! Through Him we had access to Your heaven. Father, thank You for the Holy Spirit whom You gave to replace Jesus and to teach and guide us today. Lord, I praise and worship You. To You belong all praise, honor, glory and power! I put my trust and hope in You alone. In Jesus’ Name! AMEN!”***

## **DAY 15**

## **JOHN 15**

### **JESUS IS THE VINE & WE ARE THE BRANCHES!**

Jesus in this chapter teaches that He is the “Vine” and the disciples as His “branches.” Jesus is pointing out that apart from Him or without Him, we can do nothing. We are nothing apart from Him.

#### ***1) Jesus DECLARES to His disciples that He is the “Vine” and they are the “Branches”! (vv. 1-8).***

Using the metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus pointed out to His disciples that He is the “Vine” and they were the “branches.” In other words, Jesus is their source of life and being! Apart from Jesus they can do nothing and they are nothing. Jesus emphasized the need to ‘remain in him’ or ‘abide in Him’ or to ‘obey His words’ if they were to be fruitful and productive as believers. Jesus also expected that they “bear fruit that last.” And as far as I



know, the only fruits that will last according to the Bible are “souls” and our “character.” They will remain forever with us.

**2) Jesus *DECLARES* His disciples to be His “*FRIENDS*” and not “*SLAVES*.” (vv. 9-27).**

Jesus also told His disciples that He considered them His “friends” and not as “slaves.” In other words, Jesus saw them now not as outsiders but His very own close family belonging to His household. The reason was that He had already revealed to them the Father and taught His truths and knew Him. He also told them that as the world hated Him because the world doesn’t know the Father; they too will be hated by the world. He told them before it come to pass that they too will be persecuted and opposed just like Him. But He encouraged them to stand firm in their faith and to testify for Him and the Father as He promised that He will never leave them nor forsake them. In fact, He had promised them another Counselor, the Holy Spirit, who will come from the Father to replace Him and to reside in each one of them. And so with these, Jesus encouraged them to stand firm in their faith and to remain or abide in Him!

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Lord Jesus is the Vine and we are His Branches! Apart from Him, we can do nothing. He is the Fountain of Life and Source of all that we have! Let us abide and remain in Him. Let us faithfully obey His words!***

**2) *The Lord Jesus is our powerful and gracious FRIEND! He will never leave nor forsake us! He has given the Holy Spirit to assure us of His presence and power in our life. Let us stand firm in our faith and testify of His truth and grace to others!***

**PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for giving us JESUS, our Fountain of Life, the Source of all our blessings! Through Him we become “friends” to You and You became our Father. Lord, I praise and worship You today! Empower me continually to testify of Your truths and Your love for sinners like me. Lord, may You be glorified and magnified through my life and ministry. In Jesus’ Name! AMEN!”***

## **DAY 16**

## **JOHN 16**

### **JESUS & THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

Jesus in this chapter highlights the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the One He promised His disciples to replace Him and whom the Father would send. Among others, the Holy Spirit will be the Teacher of the Church. He will guide us to Christ’s truth and remind us of His teachings.

#### ***1) Jesus EXPLAINS the work of the Holy Spirit to His disciples! (vv. 1-16).***

His discourse with His disciples, Jesus explained to them the work of the Holy Spirit whom He promised to replace Him. He told them this in order to comfort them knowing that they were depressed when they learned He was going away and leaving them. Jesus told them that unless He goes the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, will not come

to take His place. Jesus assured them that He will come and will minister to them. The Holy Spirit will convict men of their guilt with regards to sin, righteousness, and judgment. He will show them the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ. He will convict men of sin and God's coming judgment to this world. Also, Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and that He will be their Teacher, reminding them of all His teachings and God's truths.

**2) Jesus *EXPLAINS* His origin and mission plainly to His disciples! (vv. 17-33).**

Jesus, knowing the grief and sorrow of His disciples after learning His coming departure, explained why He was leaving and where He was going. He told them what will take place before they happen in order that they may understand that He was not just mere man but the One who came from the Father. Jesus told them plainly that they will weep and mourn but their mourning will be turn into joy; for they will see Him again and their joy will never be taken away from them again. He was probably referring to His coming resurrection and ascension to heaven. Jesus also plainly told them that He was going back to the Father where He came from. And that the Father loved them because they believed and loved Him.

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ! He was given to the Church to be its Director and Teacher! Let us acknowledge and honor Him as we honor the Father and the Son!***

**2) *The Lord Jesus Christ, like the Holy Spirit, came from the Father! The ministry of the Spirit is to continue the ministry of Jesus of calling people back to the Lord. He convicts man of sin, righteousness, and judgment. And He causes people to be born again. Let us ask the empowerment of the Spirit to use us as channels of His***

***blessings that people might come to know Jesus through our witness!***

**PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit! We know that He is present with us and reign as Lord of the Church. He is our Teacher and Guide to Your truths. He convicts sinners to turn to You as we faithfully share Your Gospel to people. Lord, empower us with Your Spirit! That we might be Your powerful and effective vessels for people’s salvation. All these I pray in Jesus’ Name! AMEN!”***

**DAY 17**

**JOHN 17**

**JESUS & HIS PRAYER FOR HIS DISCIPLES!**

Jesus in this chapter highlights His ministry of prayer and intercession. He prays for His disciples, those who were with Him at that time as well as for those who will yet to believe in Him in the future.

***1) Jesus prays to the Father to GLORIFY Him! (vv. 1-5).***

In the first section of this high priestly prayer of Jesus, He asks the Father to “glorify Him in His presence with the same glory that He had with Him since the world began. This was because Jesus had completed the mission or task that the Father had given Him.

***2) Jesus prays to the Father to FORTIFY His disciples! (vv. 6-19).***

In the second section of Jesus' prayer, He prays specifically for His disciples. Note the following requests He made to the Father. First is their protection - He asked the Father to protect them by His Name. Jesus knows that the devil and his minions will all things to stop them from obeying His words so He asked the Father to cover them with His powerful Name. Second is their sanctification. Jesus asked the Father to sanctify them by His holy Word!

**3) *Jesus prays to the Father to UNIFY all His disciples! (vv. 20-26).***

Finally, in the third section of Jesus' prayer, He prays to the Father to UNIFY all His disciples, present and future, to be UNITED in spirit and in purpose as the Father and Jesus are one I mind and purpose. And that they will be ONE in love as the Father loved Him and Jesus loved the Father.

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Alpha and Omega! He is the Eternal God. The Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father. The Father and Jesus are ONE!***

**2) *Our Lord Jesus Christ is our Great Prayer Warrior & Intercessor! He prays and intercedes for His people. Let us pray for one another and continually ask the Father to protect and unify us His people!***

**PRAYER:**

***"Our heavenly Father, thank for the Lord Jesus who is not only our SAVIOR but also our PRAYER WARRIOR & INTERCESSOR! Father, mold us to be like***

***our Lord Jesus Christ to be prayerful and always fully trusting and dependent on You. Lord, teach us to be powerful and effective intercessors for our church and use us for Your honor and glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen!"***

**Day 18**

**John 18:1 - 19:27**

## **ISRAEL CONDEMNS JESUS TO DIE!**

In this section of John's Gospel, the Israelites led by their religious leaders condemn Jesus to die by crucifixion fulfilling the words of OT prophets.

### **1) Judas BETRAYS Jesus! (vv. 1-11)**

Judas by his own free will fulfilled the words of the Lord Jesus that he will betray His Master (See again John 13:18-29). And when the opportunity came, Judas led a group of soldiers and some of the religious leaders to arrest Jesus. Note that Jesus was not surprised but expected their coming! Peter tried to prevent the arrest from happening but to no avail for God's will prevail! So, they took Jesus and brought Him to Annas and then to Caiphas, the High Priest.

## **2) Peter *DENIES* Jesus! (vv. 12-27)**

Not only did Judas betray Jesus, the rest of the disciples because of fear scattered and abandoned the Lord Jesus and Peter denied Him. Not once but thrice! Note that this also fulfilled the words of the Lord Jesus to Peter in John 13: 31-38. Indeed, His disciples might have abandoned Jesus but not the Father!

## **3) Pilate *GIVES UP* Jesus! (18:28-19:16)**

Not only betrayed, abandoned, and denied, Jesus was also given up by Pilate! Even though he knew that Jesus was innocent of the crime the religious leaders were charging Jesus, Pilate was weak to uphold the truth. He listened not to his conscience but to the voice of the people shouting for Jesus to be crucified. He did find way to rescue Jesus from death but he could not sacrifice his job for Jesus or the truth! He finally gave up Jesus to be killed by the Jews!

## **4) The people *CONDEMN*S Jesus to die! (19:17-27)**

Finally, we see the people condemning Jesus to die by crucifixion. They made Jesus carry a cross and to that cross He was crucified together with two thieves. And even at that time Jesus was fulfilling the words of the prophets as the soldiers tried to tear His clothes and divide them among themselves but his tunic or underclothing was preserved to fulfill the words of Psalm 22:18.

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) Our Lord Jesus indeed is the Messiah! As a man He willingly experienced all the pain of humanity and fulfilled God's words. If Jesus willingly suffered for our sake, we too are to willingly and courageously face the troubles of our faith and this life knowing that we will be victorious at the end through Jesus!***

**2) Our Lord Jesus obeys and fulfills the Father's will! He accomplished His mission and task! We, like Jesus, are to be faithful in obeying our Father's will even the Great Commission!**

**3) The Lord our God is the Sovereign and Almighty God! All things that happens around us are not mere coincidence but the outworking of the mysterious and sovereign plan of our Father in heaven. Let's put our trust in Him!**

**PRAYER:**

***"Heavenly Father, indeed you are Almighty God our Sovereign Lord! There's nothing that's happening in this life that is not according to you mysterious and sovereign plan for Your people and Your universe. Lord, open our eyes to understand that we are not at the mercy of things nor of people but You! Thank you that after all our pain is the gain. After all the bleeding is the blessing. After the crucifixion is the coronation. Lord, I bow down to you in worship and praise. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen!"***

**DAY 19**

**JOHN 19-20**

## **JESUS' DEATH, BURIAL & RESURRECTION!**

This chapter highlights the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. With all the miraculous things that happened during Jesus' death, there was no doubt that He was no ordinary man. His resurrection was the ultimate proof that He indeed was the Messiah, the Son of the Living God!

### **1) Jesus dies and fulfills Old Testament prophecies! (19:28-42).**

Note that even in His death, Jesus did fulfill OT prophecies! One was the fact that none of Jesus' bones were broken contrary to the practices of the day! This fulfilled the prophecies found in Exodus 12:46, Num. 9:12, and



Psalms 34:20. Note also that Jesus was pierced on the side of His body fulfilling the words Zechariah 12:10.

## ***2) Jesus rises from the dead and appears to His disciples! (20:1-30).***

In this chapter, Jesus fulfills His very words that He will rise from the dead as well as fulfills OT prophecies concerning the Messiah. Noteworthy was the fact that the risen Lord Jesus appeared first to His women disciples before the rest of the disciples. Jesus appeared to His disciples in a miraculous, powerful, and amazing way such as His coming inside their place without entering the door! Not also how the risen Lord confronted Thomas' doubt by showing him his nail-pierced hands and side. And assuring us today of blessedness, who do not see Him and yet believe in Him as our Savior and Lord! Jesus also used these appearances to empower His disciples with the Holy Spirit whom He now gives to every person who believes in Him.

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

***1) Our Lord Jesus Christ came to fulfill the promise of the Father to provide redemption for His people! Thus, Jesus became a man in order to die for His people – to be the atonement for their sins! Let us praise and thank the father for His indescribable and wondrous gift in the person of JESUS!***

***2) Our Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again from the dead! True to His words, He had the power to lay down His life and power to take it up again. By rising from the dead, He proved once and for all that He was the Messiah and Savior the Father promised to His people. Let us praise and worship the Father and the Lord Jesus***

***Christ for they are worthy of our praise, honor, and worship!***

**PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for giving us JESUS, OUR SIN OFFERING! The One who died for our sins as well as the One who rose again from the dead! Our Risen Savior! Father, You are indeed marvelous and worthy of our praise, worship and service. Lord, indeed mold us and make the grateful people that You intended us to be. Thank also for the Holy Spirit whom You have given me as an assurance of my salvation and my hope. I bow down to You Father and to Your Son Jesus my Savior and Lord. And through Whom I pray all these things. AMEN!”***

**DAY 20**

**JOHN 21**

**THE RISEN JESUS & HIS MIRACULOUS CATCH!**

This chapter highlights probably the last of the risen Lord Jesus’ appearances to His disciple. Here, He reaffirms His disciples’ calling and reinstates Peter’s leadership of His disciples.

***1) The risen Lord RE-AFFIRMS His disciples’ calling to be “fishers of men”! (vv. 1-14).***

Through a miraculous catch of fish, the risen Lord Jesus reaffirmed His calling to His disciples to be “fishers of men.” By showing them that they could do nothing apart from Him and that through Him nothing is impossible, the risen Lord strengthened the disciples’ faith in Him and

encouraged them to continue the task that He has given them even the Great Commission!

**2) *The risen Lord REINSTATES Peter to lead His disciples! (vv. 15-25).***

At the same, the risen Lord Jesus reinstates Peter to be the leader of the group. The risen Lord fulfilled His words to Peter in Luke 22:31-32, where our Lord told Peter that He has prayed for him and that when he returned he will strengthen his brethren. The risen Lord Jesus through this conversation with Peter affirmed His trust and confidence in Peter by entrusting to him His flock for him to feed and to lead. Here, the risen Lord challenges Peter and the disciples to follow Him!

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**1) *Our Lord Jesus Christ is our LIFE & the SOURCE of all our blessings! Apart from Him, we can accomplish nothing! Let us put our trust and hope in Him alone!***

**2) *Our Lord Jesus Christ is our GREAT SHEPHERD & LEADER! He expects us pastors and leaders of His church to be faithful under-shepherds of His church. As pastors of the church, let us be faithful in the task of shepherding God's people! Let us love and take care of God's people the way He took care of them!***

**PRAYER:**

***“Our heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the Lord Jesus Christ, our ETERNAL LIFE & the SOURCE of all our blessings! Thank You for being our Great Shepherd who leads and guides us and for giving us faithful under-shepherds who fulfill Your will for the church. Lord, may You increase their number and bless them. May you mold me to be the faithful and loving***

***under-shepherd that You intended me to be. In Jesus' Name. AMEN!"***

**[IMPORTANT NOTE: This Devotional material was written and prepared by Pastor Valentino P. Natcher, Senior Pastor of Filipino Bible Church and cannot be reproduced without his prior permission.)**