



DR. JASON BRITTAIN
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1 February 2011

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Praise the Lord! God is so good to us. We are blessed to be able to study His Word every day. Pray and ask God to speak to You from His Word and He surely will. Then be sure to put what you learn into practice in your life. James 1:25 **“But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.”** The blessing comes as we DO what He shows us.

Gladly in His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Jason".

Dr. Jason B. Brittain





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Tuesday February 1

Scripture Reading: Exodus 27-28
Matthew 21:23-46

Praise the Lord! I hope you did last month's devotions because we are working our way straight through the book of Psalms and we are in the middle of Psalm 78. We are seeing that God is powerful and verse 23 says, **Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens.** The Word teaches us that every good gift comes from God. So, He is the One who opens the heavens for all blessings. This includes rain but it certainly isn't limited to it. Give thanks to God for every blessing in your life!

In our reading for today, Jesus taught several things about our need to be faithful. He also taught about the Kingdom of God. You see, the Kingdom of God is very different than the kingdom of the world. We are in God's Kingdom and He is the One who makes the rules. The way to be great in God's Kingdom is to be a servant and to be faithful. God always rewards faithfulness.

Matthew 21:43 say, **"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit."** These people had not been faithful and so they missed out. You see, God rewards faithfulness and those who are not faithful miss out. These are two pretty powerful reasons to be faithful. Look at what Jesus said in Matthew 25:21 **"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"**

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to be more thankful for all the good things You bring into my life. I also want to be faithful. I trust You to promote me and to use me more when I am ready. Please bless every person who is doing these devotions this month. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Wednesday February 2

Scripture Reading: Exodus 29-30
Matthew 22:1-22

Praise the Lord! Yesterday, I said that every blessing comes from God. Psalms 78:24 **“He rained down manna for the people to eat, He gave them the grain of heaven.”** I also said that God opening the heavens included rain but that isn’t all it included. In this case, God opened the heaven and provided food for His people. Do you realize that God fed 2-3 million people 3 meals a day for 40 years! Trust Him to meet your needs.

I am so thankful we have given our lives to Jesus! It really was the best decision we ever made. When I read the Gospels I see that everyone didn’t fall in love with Him. This is hard for us to understand because we know He is so wonderful. Look at Matthew 22:15 **“Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in His words.”** These people were rejecting Jesus and actually trying to trap Him so they could accuse Him of doing wrong.

Later on Jesus spok some words of truth to them. Matthew 22:22 **“When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.”** At least they were amazed here but they still didn’t turn their lives over to Him like we have. When people have hardened their hearts to God, they often keep going in that direction even when there is evidence that they are on the wrong path. We are not like that. We love Jesus and we have given our lives to Him. So, we keep drawing near to Him and learning His ways all the time.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the reminder that You can and will meet my needs. I love You so much and I am going to keep living for You forever. I also want to keep learning and I know that is Your will for my life as well. Please teach me Your ways and help me to be a doer of Your Word and not a hearer only. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Thursday February 3

Scripture Reading: Exodus 31-33
Matthew 22:23-46

Praise the Lord! Look at Psalms 78:25 **“Men ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat.”** Did you notice the last part of that verse? God gave them all the food they could eat! You see, God wants to meet your needs abundantly. Look at Ephesians 3:20 **“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.”** God is at work in our lives and He is the One who can do more than you could ask or imagine! That is giving us all the food we can eat and it is meeting all the rest of our needs abundantly.

In our reading for today, we see some people trying to trap Jesus. We know they were not going to win but they kept trying. It is kind of interesting that Jesus usually kept answering them. You see, He loved them and so He kept giving them truth and we gain some wonderful insights through it all too. Look at Matthew 22:37-39 **“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”** This was actually an answer to some of Jesus’ critics and we are blessed to learn from it.

Matthew 22:46 **“No-one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no-one dared to ask him any more questions.”** They will be back but they were shut down for a while. We need to keep learning from Jesus and never stop.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You are the God of abundance. Help me to renew my mind to this and never forget it. I know that You always meet my needs because You love me and I am thankful for Your patience. Help me to love You and people like I should. I know that Your ways are always right and I want all that You have for me. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Friday February 4

Scripture Reading: Exodus 34-36
Matthew 23:1-22

Praise the Lord! The author of Psalms 78 was convinced that God was in control of everything. Psalms 78:26 **“He let loose the east wind from the heavens and led forth the south wind by his power.”** He was convinced that God was in control of everything and he was right. We need to have this same kind of faith and confidence in God. Some people might let their lives spin out of control and miss God’s plan but we aren’t going to make that mistake!

In our reading for today, Jesus addressed some people who were teaching but they were not teaching what God wanted. They were actually putting people into more bondage rather than helping them. Matthew 23:4 describes them and it says, **“They tie up heavy loads and put them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.”** This was really the opposite of what Jesus was doing. Jesus helped people. Matthew 11:28-30 **“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”**

We need to be like Jesus; help people and don’t add to their burdens. These teachers of the law taught wrong things and they were not willing to help people in need. So, let’s really be like Jesus. Teach life and help people when they need it.

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that I have given my life to You and I am thankful that You are working in my life. I want to be more and more like You and I know that is always right. Help me to speak words of life to people and help me to be willing to back up what I say with the help that is needed. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Saturday February 5

Scripture Reading: Exodus 37-38
Matthew 23:23-39

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:27 is an interesting verse, **“He rained meat down on them like dust, flying birds like sand on the seashore.”** You see, there was a time in the wilderness when the people complained about not having any meat to eat. So, God sent them quail and He didn’t just send them just a few. He gave them quail in abundance! We need to know that God loves us and that He wants to meet our needs. He isn’t mad at us and He has plenty of power to help us.

Matthew 23:23-24 **“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.”** These people were tithers and Jesus said that was a good thing. In case you ever wondered what Jesus thinks about tithing now you know. He says it is a good thing. Jesus then went on and told them that they should have justice, mercy and faithfulness too. Develop all these things in your life and you will be on track.

Matthew 23:37 **“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.”** These people were rejecting Jesus and yet He loved them. He would have protected them if they would have turned to Him for help. Thank God we have given our lives to Him.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I thank You for always meeting my needs. I know that everything good in my life is gift from You. Help me to live and to give (tithe) like You want. Thank You that I have an opportunity to put this into action tomorrow at Church. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Sunday February 6

Scripture Reading: Exodus 39-40
Matthew 24:1-24

Praise the Lord! Yesterday, we talked about God providing quail for His people in the wilderness. Now, look at Psalms 78:28 **“He made them come down inside their camp, all around their tents.”** Did you notice what I saw in this verse? God not only had the quail show up, but He also had them come right down inside their camp and all around their tents. I don’t know if you have ever hunted quail but they don’t usually come to the people who are going to eat them. Isn’t God wonderful?

Matthew 24:4 **“Jesus answered: “Watch out that no-one deceives you.”** Jesus was referring to the subject of end times but the truth of this applies to everything. Sometimes people get deceived. Those who deceive fall into two groups. Some people try to deceive others and some just don’t know any better but Jesus tells us to watch out so we won’t be deceived. The more we know Jesus and His Word the more we will be able to stay on track.

Matthew 24:23-24 **“At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect--if that were possible.”** Here is a truth that will help you avoid being deceived. Know the real Jesus and you won’t fall for a counterfeit. Also, have Godly people in your life that can help you.

Prayer: Lord, I am amazed at all the ways You meet my needs. Help me to remember Your faithfulness when I am in need. I also thank You for revealing Yourself and the truth of Your Word to me. I want to stay on track and I want to help others. Please bless Church today. Help us all to be there ready and willing to live for You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Monday February 7

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 1-3
Matthew 24:25-51

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:29 **“They ate till they had more than enough, for he had given them what they craved.”** This is talking about the quail that God provided for His people. He gave them all that they wanted. This reminds me of the time in the New Testament when Jesus fed the multitudes with a small boys lunch. They actually had more leftovers than they started with. Thank God that we are in His Kingdom and His Kingdom is a place of abundance!

Matthew 24:25 **“See, I have told you ahead of time.”** This is a short verse but it sure says a lot. You see, we need to remember that God is in control. He knows all about what is going to happen in the end time AND He is looking out for us. We may be confused at times but God is never confused.

Look at Matthew 24:35 **“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”** We can have confidence when we base our lives on the Word. Just about everything else is going to change but His Word never changes. Thank God we are able to study His Word. He even promises to teach us His ways. When we know His Word and His ways we can live like He wants. Then we will be safe. If He wants to reveal something to us He can do it. If He wants us to live by faith then His plan for our lives is best. Listen, the more we remember that God is in control and live for Him the better we will do. There may be something we don't understand but trusting Him is always the way to live.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your care and protection. Help me to always run to You for help. I also want the fact that my trust is in You to show to others so they can come to know You and Your goodness like I do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Tuesday February 8

**Scripture Reading: Leviticus 4-6
Matthew 25:1-30**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:30-31 **“But before they turned from the food they craved, even while it was still in their mouths, God’s anger rose against them; he put to death the sturdiest among them, cutting down the young men of Israel.”** They were not living for God because they loved Him. They were always testing Him and even when He came through for them they would rebel and resist His ways. We need to love God first! Then when He blesses us we should love Him even more.

Our reading from Matthew 25 sure shows that we need to be prepared to live for God. The first parable shows that some people were ready and others weren’t. Those who were ready ended up blessed and those who weren’t missed out. In the next parable we see that those who lived like God wanted were blessed. Matthew 25:21 **“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”**

So, we can see that we need to be ready to live for God but how do we get ready? Well, I am glad you asked. Look at 2 Timothy 3:16-17 **“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”** We are equipped to live for God through the Word. This is why it is so good that you are studying His Word every day. God is equipping you for what He wants you to do. Keep studying and know that God is surely doing His part.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to live for You because of that. I know You will bless me but that isn’t why I am living for You. I also thank You so much for the Word. Help me to be diligent to study it every day and help me to really put the things You teach me into practice in my life. I know Your ways are always right. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Wednesday February 9

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 7-9
Matthew 25:31-46

Praise the Lord! Yesterday, I said that the people talked about in Psalms 78 were not living like God wanted. Look at Psalms 78:32 **“In spite of all this, they kept on sinning; in spite of his wonders, they did not believe.”** God had loved them and blessed them but they kept sinning and they did not believe. Please know that we need to learn from this. We need to love God, live like He wants and believe in Him! These things might seem so simple that I shouldn't even need to point them out but they were the very things these people in the Old Testament missed.

We need to live for God. Now, doing good things does not save us but when we are saved our good deeds become evidence of our salvation. Matthew 25:40 **“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’** These people were saved and their lives showed it. They took care of the poor and needy. Jesus said that they were actually ministering to Him when they did these things. We are saved. We should have compassion and we should help those who are in need.

Matthew 25:46 **“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”** We will spend all eternity with Jesus because we have given our lives to Him and we have lived for Him. Those who reject Jesus and His salvation have rejected the only way to avoid eternal punishment.

Prayer: Lord, I am thankful that I have given my life to You and I really do want to live for You. I know that You have saved me and I want there to be lots of evidence in my life that I belong to You. Help me to be willing to serve those- You empower me to serve. I know that fulfilling Your will for my life is what I was saved for. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Thursday February 10

**Scripture Reading: Leviticus 10-12
Matthew 26:1-19**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:33-34 **“So he ended their days in futility and their years in terror. Whenever God slew them, they would seek him; they eagerly turned to him again.”** Some people only serve God when they are in trouble. They know how to seek Him when they are in need but then they go right back to rejecting Him and His help. We should not be like this. We should seek Him all the time. Hebrews 11:6 **“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”** Let’s be those who earnestly seek Him!

Matthew 26:1-2 **“When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, “As you know, the Passover is two days away--and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”** Jesus knew what was coming and yet He willingly submitted His will to the will of the Father.

Matthew 26:3-5 **“Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. “But not during the Feast,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”** These people thought they were in control but they were really fulfilling God’s will. If you can accept that God is in control of your life it will be good for you. Now, we do need to submit to Him and live like He wants but then we can trust Him to work out His will.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I thank You for the promise that You reward those who earnestly and diligently seek You. I want to be a person who lives with Your rewards consistently coming into my life. I also know that submitting to Your will is part of this process and so I willingly submit my will to Your will. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Friday February 11

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 13
Matthew 26:20-54

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:35 **“They remembered that God was their Rock, that God Most High was their Redeemer.”** Remembering God is always good but it has to really affect our lives. In tomorrow’s verse, we are going to see these people getting off track again. So, remember God and the wonderful things He has done for you and then live for Him! Look at Matthew 8:14-15 **“When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.”** Jesus healed her and so she served Him. That is how we should live.

Look at Matthew 26:20-21 **“When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me.”** Jesus knew that betrayal was going to happen. When you face betrayal Jesus can help you because He has been through it. Hebrews 4:15 says, **“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.”** If you face betrayal Jesus can help you.

Matthew 26:33 **“Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.”** Peter was going to betray Jesus and all the rest of them were going to as well but Jesus still loved them. Thank God for His patience with us.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all the wonderful things You have done in my life. I want to remember Your love and goodness. Help me to live for You completely. I know that giving my life to You was the best decision I have ever made. I also thank You so much for Your patience. Please bless all my brothers and sisters who are doing these devotions and bless my Pastor too. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Saturday February 12

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 14
Matthew 26:55-75

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:35-36 **“They remembered that God was their Rock, that God Most High was their Redeemer. But then they would flatter him with their mouths, lying to him with their tongues;”** They would remember God and then try to flatter Him and lie to Him. God knows everything so don’t ever try to lie to Him. Also you can tell Him how wonderful He is if you really mean it but don’t try to flatter Him because He knows what you really mean.

Yesterday, I said that Peter and all the rest of the disciples were going to betray Jesus. Matthew 26:55-56 **“At that time Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.”** They all betrayed Him and fled. They had made grandiose promises but they were not able to keep them. Does that remind you of your life at times?

Matthew 26:75 **“Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the cock crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.”** Again, haven’t you lived just like this at times? Well, I have good news for you. 2 Timothy 2:13 says, **“If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.”** Jesus remains faithful to us even when we let Him down.

Prayer: Lord, I know that You know all things and I am so thankful that You love me anyway. Please help Your love to transform my life. I also know that You have always been faithful to me even though I have let You down way too many times. Help me to really live for You and help me to rely on You when I am weak in my own strength. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Sunday February 13

**Scripture Reading: Leviticus 15-17
Matthew 27:1-31**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:37 **“Their hearts were not loyal to him, they were not faithful to his covenant.”** I don’t know whether to comment on the people’s lack of faithfulness or the fact that God always remained faithful. I guess I kind of commented on both of those things. We need to be thankful for God’s consistency and let Him develop the same characteristic in our lives. You see, we really can do better when we let Him help us.

We have been talking about the disciples betraying Jesus. Judas was one of those disciples and he ended up hanging himself. He could not deal with what he had done and he would not turn to Jesus for help.

1 John 1:9 says, **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”** Thank God that we have given our lives to Jesus. When we gave our lives to Him, He forgave our sins. I know we would all like to be perfect now but we do sin and He has already paid the price for our forgiveness. 1 John 2:1-2 **“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”** When we sin we are not hopeless. We can turn to Jesus and be forgiven. Thank God!

Prayer: Lord, I want to be more faithful to You and I know that I need Your help. I know that I can't do anything without You and I know that You always help me when I ask. I also thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I know that I should live better and I know that You have provided forgiveness for me when I do sin. I love You! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday February 14

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 18-19
Matthew 27:32-66

Praise the Lord! **Psalms 78:38** “Yet he was merciful; he forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them. Time after time he restrained his anger and did not stir up his full wrath.” These people let the Lord down time and time again. YET HE WAS MERCIFUL. Praise the Lord. There is hope for us. They found mercy under the Old Covenant and we are much better off because Jesus came and died on the cross for our sins. Let’s stay close to Him and never forget what He has done for us.

While Jesus was actually hanging on the cross some people were mocking him and saying that He should just save Himself. Matthew 27:42 “**He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.**” Jesus had the power to come down from the cross but He would not save Himself because He was providing salvation for all of mankind.

After Jesus died some other people were worried that the disciples would come and steal the body and say that Jesus was raised from the dead. Look at Matthew 27:65, 66 “**Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.**” They did everything they could but when it was time for Jesus to be raised from the dead He was going to come out of that grave!

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your mercy. Thank You for saving me and thank You for keeping me! I know that I would be lost without You. I know that Your death on the cross was payment enough for all of my sins as I keep my faith and confidence in You. Please continue to speak to me from Your Word. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Tuesday February 15

**Scripture Reading: Leviticus 20-21
Matthew 28**

Praise the Lord! Look at Psalms 78:39 **“He remembered that they were but flesh, a passing breeze that does not return.”** This is how God thought about the people who were rejecting Him. God knows everything and He remembers everything. For these people that was bad news but it should be good news for us. When we give our lives to Him and live for Him, He sees it and He remembers. Thank God that He will never forget us.

Jesus is alive! That is the greatest news ever. He came to die on the cross for our sins but death, hell and the grave could not hold Him. He overcame death so we could be saved and so we could live with Him forever. This is the essence of the Gospel and we need to tell others.

Matthew 28:18-20 **“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”** We know the greatest news ever and Jesus wants us to be His messengers of the Good News. And He will be with us as we go and tell others. Thank God that He is alive and He is alive in us. We never have to be alone and we always have His help to do the things He wants us to do.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I thank You for loving me. Help me to know that You will never forget me and that You know all that I have done for You. I am also thankful for the reminder that You are alive and living Your life through me. Help me to spread the Good News and help me to know that You are helping me to do what You have called me to do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Wednesday February 16

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 22-23
Mark 1:1-22

Praise the Lord! I really mean that. Praise Him right now! Psalms 78:40 **“How often they rebelled against him in the desert and grieved him in the wasteland!”** This is part of what God remembered about these people. He would save them and then they would wander away from Him and His ways. When we need help we should turn to Him and let Him help us too. Then we should be all the more committed to living like He wants us to live rather than falling away.

The Gospel of Mark is a very fast paced account of Jesus and His ministry. Mark 1:16-18 **“As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him.”** Sixteen verses in and we already see Him calling disciples. Jesus wants to save us and use us in His work. That was true back then and it is still true today.

Mark 1:21, 22 **“They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.”** Jesus was and is different than other teachers in so many ways. He has authority and He really lived the things He taught. We need to follow Him and those He brings into our lives to teach us His ways. Those who are really called by Him will also have authority and they will live what they teach just like Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, I really do want to live for You. I don't want to be up one day and down the next. I want to constantly live for You. I am thankful for all that You are teaching me and I thank You for the people You have brought into my life to teach me Your ways. Bless them! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Thursday February 17

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 24-25
Mark 1:23-45

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:41 **“Again and again they put God to the test; they vexed the Holy One of Israel.”** In Malachi, God tells us to test Him. He says to give your tithes and offerings and watch Him bless you. These people were not testing God in a good way. They ran to Him when they needed help and then they forgot about Him. They did those things over and over. This did not please God.

If you want to know about God look at Jesus. He came to show us God and His perfect will. Mark 1:32-34 **“That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.”** Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. God has always been a God of healing and Jesus was accomplishing God’s perfect will.

Mark 1:40-42 **“A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.”** Jesus was willing to heal then and He is still willing to heal today. Renew your mind to this and it will make it easier for you to believe God for healing when you need it.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so glad that I have given my life to You. I don't ever want to let You down. Help me to really learn Your ways and help me to believe all of Your Word. I know that You came to demonstrate God's perfect will and I am not going to doubt You. I know that You healed in the Gospels and I know that You have not changed. I believe You are my healer and provider. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Friday February 18

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 26-27
Mark 2

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:42 **“They did not remember his power--the day he redeemed them from the oppressor.”** God remembered them but they didn't remember Him and the times He had protected them. God has done wonderful things for all of us and we need to remember them. They will help you to stay in love with Him and they will give you confidence as you trust Him for the things you are facing today.

Mark 2:3-5 **“Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”** There are two things I would like to comment on from these verses. First, it says Jesus saw their faith. How do you think Jesus saw their faith? Do you think He has some special insight into their lives? I think Jesus saw their faith in what they were doing. They were bringing a man in need to Him and they would not be denied. So, when you seek Jesus and never quit both Jesus and others will see your faith.

Secondly, did you notice that they brought the man to Jesus for a healing and Jesus forgave his sins. Here's what we need to get from this. Jesus wanted to meet all of his needs. Thank God that Jesus forgives our sins and heals our bodies. Psalm 103 describes God and it says that **He forgives all our sins and He heals all our diseases.**

Prayer: Lord, I really am thankful for all that You do for me and I don't ever want to forget anything You have done for me. Thank You that You have forgiven me and healed me in the past and I know that You never change so I know You will still meet my every need today. I want to put my faith into action. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Saturday February 19

**Scripture Reading: Numbers 1-2
Mark 3:1-21**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:42-43 **“They did not remember his power--the day he redeemed them from the oppressor, the day he displayed his miraculous signs in Egypt, his wonders in the region of Zoan.”** These people were forgetful and they were forgetting some very important things. They were forgetting all the times that God had helped them and protected them. Don't forget the miracles that God has done for you and be willing to tell others about them.

In our reading from Mark 3, there was a man who needed a healing and look at what Jesus said in Mark 3:4 **“Then Jesus asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they remained silent.”** This probably sounds like a strange question for Jesus to ask but there were some people there who didn't think Jesus should heal on the Sabbath. They were more interested keeping man made laws than helping people. Jesus was all about helping people.

Look at Mark 3:11 **“Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.”** Evil spirits knew Jesus and they knew they were no match for Him. He came to destroy the works of the devil and He did it everywhere He went. Thank God that He is still destroying the works of the devil in our lives. You see, we served the devil right up until the time we gave our lives to Jesus and now we are free! Thank God for the freedom Jesus brings.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all the miracles I have seen in my life and I don't ever want to forget them. Thank You for the miracle of my being born-again and adopted into Your family. I am also thankful that You are always helping people and I want to help them too. So, please teach me how to be free so I can bring freedom to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Sunday February 20

Scripture Reading: Numbers 3-4
Mark 3:22-35

Praise the Lord! In Psalms 78, the writer is going to cover some of the things God did when He delivered His people from Egypt. Psalms 78:44-45 **“He turned their rivers to blood; they could not drink from their streams. He sent swarms of flies that devoured them, and frogs that devastated them.”** God sent ten plagues as judgement on Pharaoh so he would finally set God’s people free. Aren’t you glad that God is willing to use His power to help us?

I am glad you are doing your devotions every day. We need all the Word we can get and studying it every day is the way to go. As you read about Jesus keep in mind that He is just the same today. Hebrews 13:8 says, **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.”** So, when you read about how Jesus was back in the days we are reading about you can know that He is still the same today.

Look at Mark 3:35 **“Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”** Isn’t this an amazing statement? Let me ask you a question. Since Jesus said people who do the will of God are His family are you His family by this definition? As we spend time in His Word every day He will reveal more and more of His will to us. When that happens we should be thankful AND we should be quick to do the things He shows us. Matthew 7:21 says, **“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”**

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You have delivered me from the oppression of the devil. I didn’t even know how much bondage I was in until You set me free. Now I want to know Your will and I want to put Your ways into practice in my life. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Monday February 21

**Scripture Reading: Numbers 5-6
Mark 4:1-20**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:46-47 **“He gave their crops to the grasshopper, their produce to the locust. He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamore-figs with sleet.”** These are some of the other miraculous things God did for His people. You see, He loved them and He wanted them free so He was going to make sure they were set free. Now, these were the very things these people forgot about right after God did them. Don't forget what God does for you. Be thankful!

The parable of the sower is a very important teaching. Look at what Jesus said in Mark 4:13 **“Then Jesus said to them, “Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?”** Did you really catch what Jesus said here? If we miss the truth of this parable we won't be able to understand any of the parables. That sure makes understanding this one very important.

Jesus said the the sower sows the Word. Some people hear the Word but then they lose it. There were three groups like this but there was one group who held on to the Word and it produced in their lives. Mark 4:20 **“Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop--thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.”** We need to hold on to the Word. If you don't learn this you might see some things in other parables but you will lose what you know. So, learn from this parable. Let God speak to you from the Word and never give up on what He shows you.

Prayer: Lord, I want to be more thankful for all that You have done for me and I know that will help me to remember it all. I also want to learn from Your Word and I want to hold on to everything You speak to me. I want to be good soil so Your Word will produce in my life. Help me to know how to take these things and put them into practice in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Tuesday February 22

**Scripture Reading: Numbers 7
Mark 4:21-41**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:48-49 **“He gave over their cattle to the hail, their livestock to bolts of lightning. He unleashed against them his hot anger, his wrath, indignation and hostility--a band of destroying angels.”** Remember that these plagues were poured out on God’s enemies. They had His people in bondage and that was unacceptable to God. So, God was setting His people free through all this.

Look at Mark 4:34 **“He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.”** Jesus explained things to His disciples. This is really great news because we are His disciples now and He still explains things. So, if you have questions take them to Him in faith believing that He will help you to understand and He will. Now, you may have to wait but He will come through. James 1:5 **“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”**

The very same day that Jesus taught the disciples that they needed to hold on to the Word, He spoke a Word to them. He told them to get into a boat and go to the other side. Along the way a storm came up and they were distracted from the Word He had spoken to them. I guess we could say that they failed the exam on what they had just learned but Jesus saved them and He kept working with them. Thank God for the fact that He doesn’t quit on us when we blow it. He loves us and He keeps working with us.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You are the One who is all powerful. I trust You to take care of me. I also thank You for all that You are teaching me. Help me to learn and help me to put what I learn into action in my life. I don’t want to fail and I don’t want to have to learn the same things over and over. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Wednesday February 23

**Scripture Reading: Numbers 8-10
Mark 5:1-20**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:50-51 says, **“He prepared a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death but gave them over to the plague. He struck down all the firstborn of Egypt, the first fruits of manhood in the tents of Ham.”** This is talking about God continuing to pour out plagues on the nation of Egypt until they will finally set His people free. You see, this was a huge battle between the powers of darkness and powers of God and God is going to win! Thank God we are on His side.

In our reading from Mark 5, we see that Jesus set a man free from the bondage of the devil. The last part of 1 John 3:8 tells us, **“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”** That is why Jesus came and that is what He did for the man who was demon possessed.

Now, look at the reaction of the people who lived in the same area. Mark 5:17 **“Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.”** Isn’t this a strange reaction? They should have been happy that this man was set free but they were actually afraid. You see, I think they were afraid that Jesus was going to expect them to change too. They saw the difference Jesus made in the man’s life and they must have been unwilling to let Jesus work on them. So, they asked Him to leave. Listen, if you see God moving powerfully in someone’s life don’t run. Get close to Jesus so He can work in your life too.

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that I have given my life to You. I know that You are all powerful and I thank You for loving me. I know that I never have anything to fear because You will always protect me. I also want You to work in my life. Even if it means I have to grow and change. I trust that Your will for my life is always right. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Thursday February 24

**Scripture Reading: Numbers 11-13
Mark 5:21-43**

Praise the Lord! We have been reading about the plagues God poured out in Egypt and now we are going to read about Him dealing with His people. Psalms 78:52 **“But he brought his people out like a flock; he led them like sheep through the desert.”** He judged the wicked and took care of His people at the same time. Let this sink into your thinking. God is well able to judge wickedness and take care of us at the same time. Meditate on that today and you will have even more confidence in God.

Look at Mark 5:28 **“because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.”** You have read the story. This woman wanted to be healed and she put her faith into action. She knew Jesus was the healer and she was determined to get to Him so she could receive her healing. Listen, she knew what she believed and she spoke it. Look at 2 Corinthians 4:13 **“It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.”** We need to believe the right things and speak what we believe. That is faith.

She also put action to her faith. She went to Jesus for her healing and she would not be denied. Sometimes people seek Jesus for help for a while but if it gets hard they quit. Because they quit they miss out. This woman had faith and she was not going to quit. She pushed through the crowd and got to Jesus and she was healed. Look at Mark 5:34 **“He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”**

Prayer: Lord, thank You for always taking care of me. Help me to keep my faith and trust in You. I do have faith in You and I am going to speak what I believe. I am also going to be like this woman and come to You for help and I am never going to quit. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Friday February 25

Scripture Reading: Numbers 14-15
Mark 6:1-32

Praise the Lord! Look at Psalms 78:53 **“He guided them safely, so they were unafraid; but the sea engulfed their enemies.”** What a wonderful verse. God guided them and they were not afraid. May I say that we should be the same way. When God is guiding us what do we have to be afraid of? We have God leading us! We can also see God judging wickedness while protecting His people in all this. The Red Sea delivered His people and it drowned those who were God haters. Again I say, thank God we are on His side.

When Jesus went to His hometown He was not able to do many miracles there because of the people’s lack of faith. Mark 6:5-6 **“He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith.”** Isn’t this amazing. At other times Jesus told people that they received what they needed because of their faith and these people missed out because of their lack of faith. This sure makes me want to be a person of faith because I want to receive what I need from God.

Then Jesus sent out some disciples to minister. Look at Mark 6:12-13 **“They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.”** These people must have had faith because they received what they needed from God.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the reminder that You can take care of wicked people and protect me at the same time. I am glad that I have given my life to You. I also want to be a person of faith. I want to know Your Word and I want to believe every bit of it. I want to believe and receive rather than doubting and doing without. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Saturday February 26

**Scripture Reading: Numbers 16-17
Mark 6:33-56**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:54 **“Thus he brought them to the border of his holy land, to the hill country his right hand had taken.”** This is talking about God bringing His people to the promised land. You see, He had a place of promise for them just like He has promises that He wants us to have. We are going to see that they missed out on what God had for them but we don't have to miss out. We can stay close to Jesus and have all that God has for us.

I told you that the Gospel of Mark was fast paced and I am sure you are seeing that. There aren't any long stories. They go from one to the next and they are all good. Jesus was always doing good and meeting people's needs. There was a time when Jesus was teaching and lots of people showed up. The crowd was probably about 20,000 people. The disciples thought Jesus should send the people away so they could find something to eat but Jesus had a better plan. The people were in need so He fed them. Aren't you glad that Jesus is your Lord?

Look at Mark 6:56 **“And wherever he went--into villages, towns or countryside--they placed the sick in the market-places. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.”** Jesus didn't just meet needs in a few places. He ministered to people wherever He went. Praise the Lord that we know He has not changed. He still meets peoples needs today.

Prayer: Lord, I am thankful for all the promises You have made to me. I am going to believe Your Word for me. I want to receive everything You have for me. I also thank You for all the times You have met my needs and I am going to keep trusting You. I know that learning Your ways and living for You are the best things I can do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Sunday February 27

Scripture Reading: Numbers 18-20
Mark 7:1-13

Praise the Lord! Look at Psalms 78:55 **“He drove out nations before them and allotted their lands to them as an inheritance; he settled the tribes of Israel in their homes.”** This is great. God brought His people to the promised land AND He drove their enemies out. This means God will make promises to us AND He will help us to get what He promises us. I hope you can really grasp what I am saying here. God is so wonderful to us.

Look at what Jesus said in Mark 7:8 **“You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”** He was addressing some people who were all bound up by the rules and regulations of man. They were so deceived that they actually opposed what Jesus was doing. They had the Light of the world speaking Words of life and they missed it all because they didn’t want to do anything different than how they had been doing it.

Later in Mark 7:13 Jesus said this to them, **“Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”** You know that I love the Word. I write these devotions to help people like you to be in the Word every day. Jesus said these people were *nullifying* the Word. That is serious and I don’t want to you to miss what they were doing. They were holding on to their traditions and the rules of man rather than the Word.

Prayer: Lord, I am thankful that You saved me from the kingdom of the devil AND You brought me into Your Kingdom. I love You and I want to live fully for You. I want to base my whole life on Your Word. Please continue to teach me and help me to always choose You and Your ways over everything else. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Monday February 28

**Scripture Reading: Numbers 21-24
Mark 7:14-37**

Praise the Lord! We have been reading about all the wonderful things God had done for His people and now look at Psalms 78:56 **“But they put God to the test and rebelled against the Most High; they did not keep his statutes.”** God had judged their enemies and brought them out of Egypt miraculously. He had guided them across the wilderness and parted the Red Sea for them to enter the promised land. Now, they put Him to the test and they don’t live like God wanted them to live. I sure hope we appreciate all that God does for us more than this.

In our reading, a woman came to Jesus for help because her daughter was demon possessed. Jesus delivered her. Praise the Lord! Do you think this woman and her daughter appreciated what Jesus had done for them? I bet they did and I bet they loved Him and lived for Him. We should be like this. We should love Jesus and live for Him because He has blessed us so much.

Mark 7:34-35 **“He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “Ephphatha!” (which means, “Be opened!”). At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.”** I bet this man loved Jesus and lived for Him too. Listen, God has done so much for us and we need to let those things really impact our lives. Some people are thankful for a while and then they forget. Don’t be like that.

Prayer: Lord, I know You are talking to me today. I know there have been times when You have blessed me and I was thankful for a while and then quit. I don’t want to be like that any more. I want Your love to so transform my life that I am changed into a much more grateful person. I sure know You deserve it. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.