

1 March 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am so glad that you have taken a set of these devotions. It is my privilege to provide these for you and I hope they help you study God's Word every day this month.

God bless you as you study God's Word this month.

Gladly in His Service,

Dr. Jason B. Brittain

Thursday March 1

Scripture Reading: Numbers 26-27

Mark 8:22-38

Praise the Lord! In Titus, Paul is talking about how the fact that we are Christians should affect every area of our lives. Chapter 2, verse 4 is addressing older women and it says, **Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children.** Younger women (and everyone else) need older Christians to teach them how they should live.

In the first part of our reading from Mark 8, Jesus healed a man who was blind. Verses 22-25 say, **They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When He had spit on the man's eyes and put His hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." Once more Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.**

This is an interesting case because Jesus ministered to him twice. For whatever reason, he wasn't completely healed at first but Jesus kept working until he was totally healed. Don't miss the last thing I said there. Jesus kept working until he was totally healed and He wants you totally healed too.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to live for You. I want You to affect every area of my life. Please help me to really live like You want and then help me to be willing to share what I know about living for You with others. I also ask You to completely heal me and help me to know that it is always Your will for me. I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday March 2

Scripture Reading: Numbers 28-29

Mark 9:1-29

Praise the Lord! Titus 2:5 says, **to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.** These are some more things older women should teach younger women about.

In our reading from Mark, a man came to Jesus because his son needed healing. Jesus told him to believe. Look at what he said in verse 24, **Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"** We have all probably been in this place. We knew we needed to believe and we did, but at the same time we were battling with unbelief!

Well, this man honestly told Jesus where he was and Jesus helped him! Oh, I hope you can grasp this. He had some belief, he also had some unbelief, and he did the best thing he could have done. He told Jesus and he let Jesus help him.

In case someone is missing my point, here it is. We need to be honest with Jesus and let Him help us. He helped this man and He will help us. In this case, Jesus healed the son. Don't you think that helped this man to believe more? I am sure it did and I bet both of them became followers of Jesus from that day forward.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for the work You are doing in my life. Please help me learn from others who know more than I know and help me to be willing to share what I do know with others. I also ask You to help me to believe You and Your Word more. I do believe and yet I know that I need to believe even more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday March 3

Scripture Reading: Numbers 30-31

Mark 9:30-50

Praise the Lord! In Titus, Paul now has some advice for younger men. Titus 2:6 says, **Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.** Have you ever felt like you needed more self-control? Well, ask God to help you and He will. He is the source of everything good that we need and He really is willing to help us.

Look at what Jesus said in Mark 9:50, **Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other.** In several other places, Jesus said that we are the salt of the earth. In this verse He is basically saying that we can be salt and yet not do any good if we have lost our saltiness. You see, there are some people who are saved but you would never know it by looking at their lives. Because they live that way, they don't have any good impact on those around them.

The part of this verse that stood out to me today is the last part where Jesus said, **AND BE AT PEACE WITH EACH OTHER.** You see, when we live at peace with each other, we show that we are really Christians. Or I could put it this way: when we live at peace, we allow our lives to be salt. Listen to what Romans 12:18 says, **If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.** Doing this is part of being a good witness!

Prayer: Lord, I love You, I really do want to learn Your ways and I want to put them into practice in my life. Please help me to have more self-control and help me to live at peace with others. I want to be a good witness for You and I know that living my life like You want is part of that. Help me to be salt and light to those around me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday March 4

Scripture Reading: Numbers 32-33

Mark 10:1-31

Praise the Lord! In yesterday's devotion, I wrote to you about letting our lives be a good example for others to see. In Titus 2:7, Paul makes the same point, **In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness.** You may not know it, but there are people watching how you live. When we live right, we show them that being a Christian is the best way to live and that will help them to be drawn to Jesus.

Can you imagine how busy Jesus must have been during His ministry here on the earth? When we read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John they tell us some of what He did in only three and a half years.

Now, even though He was that busy, He always took time to minister to people. In Mark 10:13-16 we see that He took time to minister to little children. The disciples evidently thought He was too busy for that, but He had His priorities right.

Mark 10:16 says, **And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.** Don't ever get so busy that you don't have time to bless people and don't forget the children! You might even have a chance to put this into action at Church today. Don't miss it!

Prayer: Lord, I really do want to live for You and I want my life to be a good example for others. Help me today and every day to see the opportunities I have to minister to and to bless others. Help me to see those I can bless today and help me to live like You did. I want to do this for those I can bless, for those who are watching my life and for myself. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday March 5

Scripture Reading: Numbers 34-36

Mark 10:32-52

Praise the Lord! Titus 2:8 tells us some more of how we should live. It says, **and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.** When we live right, others won't have any real basis to speak against how we live. They might be able to make something up but at least we won't be a easy target for them.

Mark 10:42-44 say, **Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all."** The ways of God's Kingdom are very different than the ways of the world.

If you want to be great in God's Kingdom, you need to be a servant and meet other people's needs. I know this seems strange to many people but looking at the next verse can help you to understand this. It says, **For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.** When we serve others we are being like Jesus. He is the King of the Kingdom and being like Him is the way to be great.

Prayer: Lord, I want to live a good life because it is right and because it will be a witness to those around me. Help me to know how You really want me to live and then help me to do what You want. I also ask You to help me to remember that being a servant is being like You. Help me to remember that and help me to serve others more often. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday March 6

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 1-2

Mark 11:1-19

Praise the Lord! Titus 2:9 says, **Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them.** Now, this is not an endorsement of slavery, but it is showing that being a Christian should affect our lives no matter what we face. To put it plainly, we should be better people because we are Christians.

When Jesus went into Jerusalem, He cleaned out the temple because people were using it for all kinds of things it was not intended for. This is a picture of the work He wants to do in our lives. Paul tells us later in the New Testament that we are the temple of God now and Jesus wants our lives set apart for Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 says, **May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.** God wants you sanctified (set apart for His use) spirit, soul and body. That means He wants to rule and reign in every part of your life. By the way, the next verse says, **The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it.** He started His work in our lives and He is going to get the job done. We need to yield to Him and His will and we will see that His ways really are best.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that You are working in my life. I want to live like a Christian should with nothing held back. Please help me to know that Your ways are right and help me to quickly yield to Your Lordship. I want to be set apart for You and Your work spirit, soul and body. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday March 7

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 3-4

Mark 11:20-33

Praise the Lord! Titus 2:10 continues to tell us to live for God. It says, **and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.** The way we live our lives should make Jesus attractive to those who don't know Him.

In our reading from Mark 11, we have one of the most used sections of verses on faith in the whole Bible. You can read it on your own, but when Jesus started talking to the disciples about faith the first thing He talked to them about was their WORDS. You see, your words show what you have faith in and your words will build your future. Mark 11:23 says, **I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.**

The next thing Jesus talked to them about was FORGIVENESS! Mark 11:25 says, **And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.** We have been forgiven so much by God and now we have to forgive others! To do anything less than this shows that we don't have faith.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I love it when You speak to me from the Word. Please help me to know if You are speaking to me today about the words I speak or my need to forgive others. If you are, please don't let me miss these lessons because I want my faith to operate like You want. I want my life to be attractive to others so they can be drawn to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday March 8

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 5-7

Mark 12:1-27

Praise the Lord! Titus 2:11 says, **For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.** God has extended His grace to all men. Some people choose to reject it and because of that choice they are lost, but it is not God's fault. He sent Jesus to be salvation to all who will receive Him and let Him be their Lord.

In our reading from Mark 12, some Pharisees came and tried to trap Jesus with a hard question. I love reading things like this because I know that Jesus is going to win every time.

In this case, they asked Him about paying taxes. He basically said we should pay taxes because it is the right thing to do but He also pointed out something much more important. We need to give our lives to God!

Look at verses 16-17, **They brought the coin, and He asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at Him.** Money has the image of the government on it and so we should pay taxes. We have the image of God on our lives so we should give them to God!

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your grace and I am thankful that You have provided salvation for me. Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross for my sins and thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to draw me to You and Your ways. Please help me to give You every aspect of my life. I know that living for You is the very best life there is and I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday March 9

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 8-10

Mark 12:28-44

Praise the Lord! Titus 2:12 is talking about grace and it says, **It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.** I sure know a lot of people who would do better if they would say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, don't you? As you think about people who need to do this, don't forget to check your own life.

Jesus came to reveal the Father and His ways to mankind and to die on the cross so we could be in God's family. A teacher of the law came and asked Jesus about the greatest commandment and look at what He said in Mark 12:29-31: **"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."**

When we love God and love people, we will be living like God wants us to live. I know that some people make living for God very complicated, but Jesus came to make it simple and easy to understand. Now I do have to point out that we can't do these two things without His help. So, we need to give our lives to Him and then let Him help us to live like He wants.

Prayer: Lord, please help me to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions. I am also thankful for the reminder today that loving You and others is how I can fulfill all that You call me to do. Help me to see how these things tie together. As I say "No" to things I should say "No" to, I can say "Yes" to the things You want. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday March 10

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 11-13

Mark 13:1-13

Praise the Lord! Titus 2:13 says, **while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.** Jesus is coming back and that is called a glorious appearing here. We need to believe that He is coming and we need to live for Him every day. When we do that, we will be ready whenever He comes.

In Mark 13, Jesus is talking about the end of the ages and there are things for us to learn from what He said. You see, some people are convinced that we are in the end of the ages and others aren't. Either way, I always look for what we can learn from the Word.

Mark 13:5 says, **Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you."** This is a warning that applies to all people at all times. We can be safe when we stay close to Jesus, keep studying His Word and live like He wants.

The first part of verse 9 says, **You must be on your guard.** Again, this surely applies to us whether we are in the end times or not.

So, I guess I have two things for today. Know that every part of the Word speaks to you personally and make sure you DO the things God speaks to you. That is how to be safe no matter when we live.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so glad that You are returning. I know that living for You is always the right way to live and it is surely the way to be ready for Your return. Please continue to teach me Your ways and help me to yield to Your ways quickly and completely. I also ask You to bless my Pastor today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday March 11

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 14-16

Mark 13:14-37

Praise the Lord! Titus 2:14 is talking about Jesus and it says, **Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.** I might have to spend two days on this verse because it is so good! Jesus gave His life for us and that is why we can be His people. He paid the price for our sins and now we can be forgiven and adopted into the family of God! Praise the Lord!

Mark 13:32 says, **No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.** Some people act like they know when Jesus is going to return but this verse says they don't. So, I assume they don't really know.

Since this is true, we need to live for God all the time. The next verse says, **Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.** When we are on our guard and being alert, we will be ready!

Verse 37 says, **What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'** If we are watching and living for Him, we will be living like He wants and that is how to be ready. Sections of Scriptures like this are why it is a good thing that You are being in God's Word every day. This habit really will help you to be ready all the time.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for the good work You are doing in my life. Thank You for paying the price for my salvation. I know that I could have never been good enough to be saved without Your help. I also want to commit myself to living for You every day and then I know I will be ready for Your return. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday March 12

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 17-19

Mark 14:1-25

Praise the Lord! Titus 2:14 says, **Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.** I told you we were going to spend two days on this verse. Jesus is so wonderful! Notice that He gave His life so we could be redeemed and so we would be eager to do what is good. I hope that is how you live. If you do live that way, you will find many good things to do.

In Mark 14, a woman came to Jesus and anointed Him with expensive perfume. Look at how some of the people there reacted to her. Verses 4-5 say, **Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.**

Isn't this an interesting reaction? I think it is safe to say that this woman loved Jesus deeply and she was being extravagant in demonstrating her love. Because of those things, these people rebuked her harshly!

Jesus accepted her love and her gift. Let me make a quick point and then we will pray. If you encounter someone who loves Jesus and who is showing that love, leave him or her alone. If you don't you might find yourself rebuking someone that Jesus accepts.

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that You have saved me and I want to be eager to do all that You have saved me to do. Help me to love You and help me to never be harsh with those who seem to love You more than I do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday March 13

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 20-22

Mark 14:26-50

Praise the Lord! Titus 2:15 says, **These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.** When we have opportunities to share, we should share the Word. When we do that, we will always be on track and we will be sharing things that will really help people.

Look at Mark 14:26, **When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.** I bet Jesus had a wonderful singing voice, don't you? Everything else He did was wonderful so I bet His voice was too.

Now look at Mark 14:50, **Then everyone deserted Him and fled.** When I cover the section that talks about Peter deserting the Lord I usually focus on Peter's denial because it is talked about more, but this verse shows us that all the disciples deserted Jesus.

When I write to you about Peter I usually make the point that Jesus knew he was going to desert him and yet He loved him anyway. Well, the same point applies to all the disciples. Jesus knew they were going to desert Him and yet He loved them anyway. Aren't you glad that Jesus never changes? He really does know us and He even knows when we are going to fail AND He still loves us!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for all the things You teach me from the Word. Please help me to be willing to share what I learn with others. I also am so thankful that You never give up on me. Please help me to have a greater revelation of Your love and help me to live like You want. I love You and I really do want to live for You more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday March 14

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 23-25

Mark 14:51-72

Praise the Lord! Titus 3:1 says, **Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good.** Praise the Lord for reminders. You see, we all learn things and then we need to be reminded because it is possible to slip from what we know if we aren't careful. This helps me to feel good about all the reminders I give you in these devotions.

When Jesus went to the cross, He did it for us. He was totally innocent. As a matter of fact, He was sinless. Listen to what Hebrews 4:15 says about Jesus, **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.**

So, we are reading about an innocent man and yet He was found guilty. He was found guilty because it was God's will for Jesus to die for our sins. Verse 64 says, **You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think? They all condemned Him as worthy of death.** Jesus had not blasphemed. Blasphemy is claiming to be God when you are not God. Jesus was God and so it was impossible for Him to blaspheme. Anyway, just remember that He took all that punishment for sin, but not for His own sin. He did it for us because He loves us that much.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I love everything You show me from the Word. Please help me to remember the things I learn, and as I need reminders please give them to me. I am so thankful that Jesus came and died on the cross for my sins. Please help me to know how completely He paid the price for all of my sins and help me to live like You want. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday March 15

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 26-27

Mark 15:1-26

Praise the Lord! I want to spend another day on Titus 3:1. It says, **Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good.** Yesterday, we talked about our need for reminders. Today I want to point out that this verse tells us **TO BE READY TO DO WHATEVER IS GOOD.** So, when you see something good that needs to be done you can know that, according to this verse, you should do it.

Yesterday, we talked about Jesus going to the cross for our sins. For today, look at Mark 15:15, **Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified.**

Pilate had said several times that Jesus was innocent and yet this verse said he turned Him over to be crucified **WANTING TO SATISFY THE CROWD.** Pilate was more interested in what people thought than in what was right.

Listen to how the Apostle Paul lived in 1 Thessalonians 2:4, **On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.** He wanted God's approval more than anything else and we need to live that way too.

Prayer: Lord, I do want to be ready to do whatever is good. Please help me to remember that I prayed this when I see something good that needs to be done. I don't want to stand there as a **HEARER** of Your Word. I want to get busy and **DO** what You have spoken to me from the Word. I also want to please You more than anyone or anything else. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday March 16

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 28

Mark 15:27-47

Praise the Lord! In Titus 3:2, Paul is telling us how to live and he reminds us, **to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.** We need to speak well of others and that will help us to live peaceable lives and that is part of what God wants. We also need to have humility rather than pride. Remember that everything good in your life is a product of Jesus and His work. That will help you to be humble.

Mark 15:31-32 say, **In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked Him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but He can't save Himself! Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with Him also heaped insults on Him.**

Jesus could not come down from the cross and save Himself because He was on the cross saving us. Personally, I don't believe they would have believed in Him if He had come down from the cross. After all, they didn't believe in Him after He came back from the dead, and that was surely a bigger miracle than what they were asking for here. This verse also says they heaped insults upon Him. We were the ones who deserved to die for our sins and we should have been insulted for how we used to live, but He bore all those things for us.

Prayer: Lord, I love You. Please help me to know how You want me to live and then help me to live that way. I am very aware that I need Your help for all these things and I humbly ask You for Your help. I also ask You to help me to know more of what You bore for me on the cross. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday March 17

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 29-30

Mark 16

Praise the Lord! Titus 3:3 says, **At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.** Do you remember what life was like before you were saved? It was the pits and we should thank God that He has saved us and set our lives in order.

Jesus rose from the dead! The resurrection of Jesus is so important. It is what sets Christianity apart from all other religions. Jesus came and died on the cross for our sins but death, hell and the grave could not hold Him because He was a sinless sacrifice.

He is alive and He is alive in our lives. Now He wants to use us in the ministry. Look at Mark 16:15-18, **He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."** The resurrected Lord Jesus Christ wants to use you!

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You saved me and I don't ever want to look back. I remember what it was like before You saved me and I don't ever want to return to that! Please help me to be available for You and all the works that You have for me to do. I trust You to take care of me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday March 18

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 31-32

Luke 1:1-23

Praise the Lord! Titus 3:4 says, **But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared. . .** We will get the context of what is being talked about here tomorrow but don't miss what this verse mentions. God has kindness and love for us! Aren't you glad that He is kind and loving? We would be lost if He didn't have those things for us.

Look at the first couple of verses of Luke, **Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the Word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.**

There were evidently many people writing about Jesus and His life. Luke wanted to make sure the real story was told accurately, so he researched Jesus and His life. Then he wrote his gospel. He even made the effort to talk to eyewitnesses to get their stories. All of this adds to our confidence that the Word is true and accurate. I know I probably don't need to make this point for you because You are a believer, but it is still nice to know that Luke wrote an accurate account.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your kindness and Your love. I would literally be lost without You and I thank You for Your love. Please help me to really believe the Word. I know that You protected it and preserved it so I could know You and Your ways. I want to base my life on Your Word more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday March 19

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 33-34

Luke 1:24-56

Praise the Lord! Titus 3:4-5 say, **But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.** Thank God for His mercy! We were not good enough to be saved, but He had mercy on us.

In our reading from Luke, we have quite a few details about the birth of Jesus. We know what happened to Mary and her cousin Elizabeth. This ties in to what we talked about yesterday. Luke said he went and talked to eyewitnesses, and I am sure that is how he got some of these details.

When the Angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her of God's plan for her life, I am sure it was an almost unbelievable story. Look at Mary's response in Luke 1:38, **"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.** The King James Version says it this way, **And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her.**

We need to be like Mary and take God at His Word. He will never hurt us or lead us astray.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your mercy. I needed it when I was first saved and I still need it today. Please help me to base my whole life on Your Word. I know You always want my best and I choose to live for You. Help me to know Your Word and help me to put every bit of it into action in my life because I know that You really are looking out for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday March 20

Scripture Reading: Joshua 1-3

Luke 1:57-80

Praise the Lord! Titus 3:5-6 say, **He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior.** Praise the Lord for the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives. This verse says the Holy Spirit is given to us generously through Jesus our Savior. Let's accept what God has given us.

We are so blessed to be able to study God's Word like we do. In our reading for today, we have details about John the Baptist's birth. Again, I am sure Luke got these details by talking to those who were there when they happened.

Look at verses 57-58, **When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.**

Her neighbors and relatives rejoiced that something wonderful had happened to Elizabeth. If we would rejoice more when wonderful things happen to others we would always have more to rejoice about! I also believe rejoicing when other are blessed somehow releases more of God's blessings on our lives because it shows we are not selfish.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for the Holy Spirit and His work in my life. Holy Spirit, please continue to teach me God's ways and help me to really live them out. I also ask You to help me to rejoice when others are blessed more. I know that being thankful is a good thing and I want to be more thankful when others are blessed as much as I am when I get blessed. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday March 21

Scripture Reading: Joshua 4-6

Luke 2:1-24

Praise the Lord! Jesus saved us, **so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.** That is Titus 3:7. We are saved, justified and heirs! We have those things because God has grace for us and they will last for all eternity. Can you see why I say living for Jesus is the best life there is?

It is nice covering the Christmas story in March. You see, every day should be Christmas for us. After all, Christmas should be about the celebration of the coming of Jesus, and we should celebrate His coming into our lives every day!

Also, let's do a little math. If Jesus was born in December, then His conception took place in about March. So, if we want to be consistent, we should celebrate His conception this month.

In our reading for today, the Word tells us that the coming of Jesus brought Joy and Peace and I believe His coming into our lives should bring the same two things. Don't you have more Joy and Peace now that Jesus is in your life? We need to protect what He has given us and not let the devil or circumstances steal them from us. You really will do better if you celebrate Jesus and His presence in your life more.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for the good work You are doing in my life. Please teach me more of what it means to have You as my Lord and Savior. I know the verse we looked at said I am an heir and I want to know more about that. I also ask You to help me to hang on to the Joy and Peace that You have given me and I ask You to bless all my brothers and sisters who are doing these devotions. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday March 22

Scripture Reading: Joshua 7-8

Luke 2:25-52

Praise the Lord! Titus 3:8 says, **This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.** We know that all of the Word is trustworthy and yet Paul pointed out the trustworthiness of these things. Put Your trust in God's Word and keep it there and you won't be let down.

Look at Luke 2:52, **And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.** This is an interesting verse to think about. I am sure we all realize that Jesus grew physically, but the thought of Him growing in wisdom is intriguing.

You see, when Jesus came to the earth He laid aside so many things. Before He came, He was fully God. He was all-powerful and He knew everything. Now, as a human, He was limited. He had to grow up physically and He had to learn wisdom along the way.

He became a man so we could be saved and adopted into His family. I can't go on without reminding you that He did all these things because He loves us!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am thankful that all of Your Word is trustworthy. I want to base my whole life on the truths of Your Word. Help me to learn the things You are teaching me and help me to be a doer of Your Word. I also ask You to help me to grow in wisdom. I want to seek Your ways more diligently and I know that You will meet my desires when they are to know You and Your ways better. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday March 23

Scripture Reading: Joshua 9-10

Luke 3

Praise the Lord! I want to give you Titus 3:8 again. It says, **This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.** We need to DEVOTE OURSELVES TO DOING WHAT IS GOOD. The word devote here could have been translated, to practice. So, practice doing good today.

Look at the last verse of Luke 3, **the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.** This is the last verse in this long genealogy of Jesus and, as you can see, it goes all the way back to Adam.

What I want you to see is that Adam is called THE SON OF GOD. Here's my point; God has always wanted sons. That was His original plan with Adam and Eve and it is still His plan today.

Let me address the fact that I just called Eve a son of God. Galatians 3:26-28 say, **You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** In Christ, we are all sons of God.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I thank You for reminding me today that You want me to devote myself to doing good. Help me to know how to apply that in my life today. I also ask You to teach me more of how a son of God should live and help me to live that way. I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday March 24

Scripture Reading: Joshua 11-13

Luke 4:1-32

Praise the Lord! Titus 3:9 says, **But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.** If we would avoid the things God's Word tells us to avoid we would all do much better. We should also avoid things that are unprofitable. Believe me, God has many better things for you than those things.

When I cover Luke 4, I usually talk about the temptation of Jesus and point out that He defeated the devil with the Word and we should do the same thing.

Today I want us to look at Luke 4:28-30, **All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove Him out of the town, and took Him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. But He walked right through the crowd and went on His way.**

They were trying to kill Jesus but there was no way they could do that. Jesus came to die on the cross for our sins and the devil was not going to be able to kill Him before His time. You see, I know the devil was behind this because he only comes to steal, KILL and destroy. He was also the one who was trying to keep Jesus from fulfilling God's plan for His life.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to live my life in a way that is profitable for You. Help me to know if there are things that I am involved in that I should be avoiding and then help me to do that. I am also thankful that Jesus came and accomplished all of Your plan for Him and His life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday March 25

Scripture Reading: Joshua 14-15

Luke 4:33-44

Praise the Lord! Titus 3:10 says, **Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him.** There are people that I have had to avoid because they are divisive and I have found that God's Word is right. Now don't get me wrong, when they change I can be around them again, but until then I am going to do what the Word says.

In the first part of our reading for today, Jesus went to the synagogue and an evil spirit cried out. You see, Jesus had so much light that those in darkness couldn't stand it. When this happened, Jesus set the man free from the bondage the devil had put on him.

Look at Luke 4:43, **But He said, "I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."** There are a couple of things I want to comment on here.

First Jesus said He was preaching the GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM. The Kingdom is where Jesus rules and reigns as King, and when we live that way it is Good News!

My next comment is on the fact that Jesus was doing what He was sent to do. He knew God's will for His life and He was doing it. We need to live that way too.

Prayer: Lord, if there are people who are dragging me down and You want me to limit my time with them, please show me and help me to do what You want. I am also thankful that You always have Good News for me. Help me to learn Your ways and help me to put them into action in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday March 26

Scripture Reading: Joshua 16-18

Luke 5:1-16

Praise the Lord! Titus 3:10-11 say, **Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.** Now I think you can see why God says to have nothing to do with people like this. Until they change, we need to avoid them so they don't hurt our walk with the Lord.

Luke 5:12 says, **While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, You can make me clean."** There are a lot of people who think just like this man thought. They know that Jesus can heal them but they are not sure He is willing.

Well, look at what Jesus said to this man in the very next verse, **Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.** Jesus was willing to heal him and He is willing to heal you! Listen to what Peter said in Acts 10:34, **Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism."** God does not show favoritism. He wanted to heal that man and His will has not changed.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I really do want You to rule and reign in my life. Help me to be around people who will influence me for the good. Help me to know that You are able to heal and that You are willing to heal. I know that it is the devil that comes to steal, kill and destroy and that You came to give me life and life to the full. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday March 27

Scripture Reading: Joshua 19-20

Luke 5:17-39

Praise the Lord! In Titus 3:12, Paul gives some personal information to Titus. It says, **As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there.** I can see Paul's care in this verse. He was sending some people there to help them and he was planning to come personally when he could make the trip.

Jesus was always reaching out to people and sometimes this got Him into trouble. You see, some of the religious people thought certain people were beyond being helped.

In our reading for today, Jesus reached out to a tax collector and then had a meal at his house. The religious people were upset because they didn't think He should have been hanging around sinners. Look at Luke 5:30, **But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to His disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"**

Jesus let them know that they were the very people He came for in the next couple of verses. **Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."**

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You came to seek and to save sinners because I was one. I am also thankful for the example that a Godly person can spend time with sinners and not be pulled down by them. I want to be around people so I can influence them for good like Jesus did. Help me to be strong enough to do that. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday March 28

Scripture Reading: Joshua 21-22

Luke 6:1-26

Praise the Lord! Titus 3:13 says, **Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need.** Would you like to know what I see in this verse? I see Paul encouraging Titus and others to do something that was good for them. Giving is a good thing, and the more we do it the more we will be blessed!

Look at Luke 6:12, **One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.** Have you ever spent a whole night in prayer? Well, Jesus did and look at how blessed He was.

In the next verses we see that Jesus picked the twelve Apostles the very next day. Do you suppose His time in prayer helped Him to make the right choices? I am sure it did.

We are told that we can draw near to God and He will draw near to us and that was true for Jesus as well. I am sure He drew near to God that night and I am sure the time was well spent. I want to ask again, have you ever spent a whole night in prayer? Listen to what Hebrews 11:6 says, **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.**

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I know that drawing near to You is always the right thing to do. I also know that I do better when I have more help from You. Help me to earnestly seek You more. I also ask You to bless all my brothers and sisters who are doing these devotions. Help us all to keep growing in You and Your will. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday March 29

Scripture Reading: Joshua 23-24

Luke 6:27-49

Praise the Lord! Titus 3:14 says, **Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.** Have you ever thought about learning to devote yourself to doing good? That is what Paul told us to do in this verse.

God wants to rule over every area of our lives. Here's an example of what I mean. He wants us to love our enemies because He loves His enemies and He is in our lives. When we love others, we are being like Him.

Now, look at Luke 6:46, **Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?** Saying things is important but we also need to DO what He tells us.

When we do what He says, we will be safe. Verse 49 says, **But the one who hears My words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.** Hearing and doing is how we build our lives on the firm foundation of God's Word and it is how we have stability no matter what we face in life.

Prayer: Lord, I want to devote myself to DOING what is good. I am always glad when You show me something from the Word, but please help me to remember that just hearing isn't all that I need. Help me to be quick to DO what You say, and I am glad that I can know that I will have stability from You when I DO. I call you "Lord" and I want to back that up with how I live. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday March 30

Scripture Reading: Judges 1-2

Luke 7:1-30

Praise the Lord! I want to show you something else from Titus 3:14, **Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.** We need to devote ourselves to what is good and doing that will help us to LIVE PRODUCTIVE LIVES! I know You want to be productive for God and devoting yourself to doing good will help that to come about.

In our reading from Luke, a Centurion had a servant who was sick and he sent some people to Jesus asking that He would heal the servant. Jesus decided to go and heal the servant, but look at verse 7: **That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.**

Did you get that? He told Jesus that He didn't need to come personally. He just wanted Jesus to speak the Word and then he knew the servant would be healed! Oh, how I wish more people had this kind of faith in the Word. We are so blessed to be able to study the Word every day and we can put our faith in what it says just like this man did. If we will do that, we can have the same kinds of results this man did. Psalms 107:20 says, **He sent forth His Word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave.** Do you believe it?

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to live for You. I want my life to be productive in every way. I want to know Your Word better, I want to believe completely and I want to live it out all the time. Please help me to make these commitments at times like this AND help me to really follow up on them. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday March 31

Scripture Reading: Judges 3-5

Luke 7:31-50

Praise the Lord! Well, we have made it to the end of Titus and the last verse says, **Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.** I hope you have enjoyed the time we have spent in this book. It ends with GRACE!

In our reading, a woman who is described as sinful came and anointed Jesus' feet with perfume. A Pharisee who was there didn't think Jesus should have let her touch Him. Verse 39 says, **When the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, He would know who is touching Him and what kind of woman she is - that she is a sinner."**

Jesus pointed out that she had been forgiven much and so she loved much. We should all relate to the woman in this story. Haven't you been forgiven much? Well then, you should love much too.

Look at what Jesus said to her in verse 50, **Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."** Praise God! Now I really want to relate to her. Jesus said she was a person of faith, He said she was saved and He gave her peace! I would like a double portion of all those things for my life.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for Your grace. I know that I am saved by grace and I know that I still need Your grace to get by every day. I also am so thankful that You came to seek and to save those who are lost. Thank You for saving me and for giving me peace. I am so glad that I have given my life to You. It is the best decision I have ever made. In Jesus' Name, Amen.