

1 May 2007

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

God is so good to us as His children and we are so blessed to be able to study His Word openly and freely. I am glad that you have taken a set of these devotions for May and I pray they will be a blessing to you. If you know of anyone else who would use a set of these, please get some for them or tell them they can download them off the web site.

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

Gladly in His Service,

Dr. Jason B. Brittain

Tuesday May 1

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 1-2

Luke 22:54-71

Praise the Lord! We have been spending a little time each day in Psalms 119 in addition to what we have been covering from our New Testament Readings and I hope you are enjoying it. Psalms 119:30 says, **I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on Your laws.** The power of choice is an important thing. David was using His choice to choose the Word, and that was good.

In our reading from Luke, we see Peter denying that he knew the Lord three times. Look at how he felt in verse 62, **And he went outside and wept bitterly.** I am sure we have all felt this way when we have let the Lord down.

Look at some of the things Jesus went through in the next couple of verses, **The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating Him. They blindfolded Him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit You?" And they said many other insulting things to Him.** He didn't deserve any of these things. Jesus was completely innocent and yet He took all this abuse because He was dying for our sins! John 10:17-18 say, **The reason My Father loves Me is that I lay down My life - only to take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from My Father.**

Prayer: Lord, I want to choose You and the Word every time. I don't ever want to deny You. Help me to live out these choices that I am making and never turn back. I am so thankful that You willingly laid down Your life for me. Help me to live like You want and help me to represent You well all the time. I also pray for all my brothers and sisters who are starting these devotions today. Help them to do them every day this month. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday May 2

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 3-5

Luke 23:1-26

Praise the Lord! I want to cover some more on Psalms 119:30 today. It says, **I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on Your laws.** He had chosen the Word and He was setting His heart on it. You see, we will really pursue the things we set our hearts on. Since this is true, make sure you set your heart on the right things. Choose God and His Word every time!

Earlier we talked about a time when some people tried to trick Jesus with a question about paying taxes. Jesus said that we should pay taxes and respect those in authority AND we should respect God even more.

Well, in our reading for today, we can clearly see that the charges against Jesus were false. Look at verses 1-2, **Then the whole assembly rose and led Him off to Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king."**

They said two things here. First, that Jesus opposed paying taxes to Caesar and secondly that He claimed to be the Christ. We read that Jesus told people to pay taxes and as for His claim about being the Christ, He was the Christ! So, we can see that both of these charges were false. Jesus really was an innocent man.

Prayer: Lord, I want to set my heart to live for You and I don't ever want to pull back. Please help me to make this and other important decisions before the heat is on and then help me to remember them and live them out all the time. I also am so thankful that Jesus came and laid down His innocent life for me. Please help to grasp Your love more fully. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday May 3

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 6-7

Luke 23:27-38

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:31 says, **I hold fast to Your statutes, O LORD; do not let me be put to shame.** When we hold His Word fast, we won't be put to shame! Way too many people hold the Word for a while and then lose it. We need to get a hold of it and never quit believing what it says. Doing what it says is a really important part of this whole process. So, be a doer of the Word.

I have made the point many times that Jesus came into the world to seek and to save sinners. He knew that dying on the cross was the only way to pay for the sins of mankind and we are reading about Him doing exactly that in Luke.

In our reading for today, we see that there were two criminals crucified at the same time. One of them cried out to Jesus for help. Luke 23:42-43 say, **Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise."**

This man was saved and it is a wonderful illustration of what Jesus was doing for all of us on a much larger scale. Jesus paid the price for sins so all of us would have the opportunity to call on Him for salvation. Thank You Jesus for Your great sacrifice for us!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I love Your Word. Please help me to really hold fast to the things You are teaching me. I am also so thankful that You died on the cross for my sins. Please help me to be like the man we just read about. I know that I have no hope without You and I trust You for my salvation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday May 4

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 8-9

Luke 23:39-56

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:32 says, **I run in the path of Your commands, for You have set my heart free.** When we live for Jesus, we find freedom! John 8:31-32 say, **To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."** Keep living for Jesus and you will find even more freedom than you already have.

I just realized that I wrote yesterday's devotion from the verses we have for today. So, let me write today's comments from yesterday's reading and I hope this isn't too confusing for anyone.

Yesterday, we talked about Jesus forgiving the thief on the cross. For today, look at what Jesus said before this in Luke 23:34, **Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up His clothes by casting lots.**

Jesus was asking the Father to forgive those who were crucifying Him. Can't you see the love of God in this? These people were utterly and completely lost without God's forgiveness and Jesus was extending it to them. Again I want to say: Thank You Jesus for Your sacrifice for us!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want all the freedom You have for me. Please help me to know Your Word and help me to continue in it. I also thank You again for dying on the cross for my sins. If I ever doubt how much You love me, help me to remember what You have already done for me on the cross. I also ask You to bless all the people You have brought into my life to teach me the Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday May 5

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 10-11

Luke 24:1-35

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:33 says, **Teach me, O LORD, to follow Your decrees; then I will keep them to the end.** We need to ask God to teach us His ways and then we need to be committed to living them out to the very end!

Luke 24:9-12 say, **When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.**

They could not find Jesus because He had been raised from the dead! The resurrection of Jesus is one of the main things that sets Christianity apart from all other religions.

In these verses, we see that the disciples had a hard time believing He was alive, but He got them through their doubt. We are reading about these things after the fact so we shouldn't be too hard on them. The fact is that Jesus was raised from the dead, they did end up believing, and they were witnesses of these things.

Prayer: Lord, I ask You to continue to teach me Your ways and help me to hold on to them to the very end. I am glad that You are alive and I know that You want to live Your life out through me. Help me to know more of what all this means and help me to be a consistent witness to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday May 6

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 12-13

Luke 24:36-53

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:34 says, **Give me understanding, and I will keep Your law and obey it with all my heart.** When God gives us understanding, we need to be committed to obeying what He says with all our heart. A halfhearted commitment won't be enough. Go all the way for Him.

We have made it to the end of the Gospel of Luke and we will be starting John tomorrow. Each of the Gospels tell the story a little differently but they all are accurate.

Look at how Luke ends, **When He had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up his hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into Heaven. Then they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.**

Their first reaction to all these things was to go and PRAISE GOD! The more we really let God work in our lives the more likely we will be to do the same thing. When God saves you, it should help you praise Him. When God helps you, it should help you to praise Him.

Prayer: Lord, I love You. Please help me to have more understanding and help me to be sold out to You forever! I want to obey You with all my heart. I also ask You to help me to remember to praise You more for all the wonderful things You do in my life and please bless Church today. Help us to be there ready and willing to praise You for all Your goodness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday May 7

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 14-15

John 1:1-28

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:35 says, **Direct me in the path of Your commands, for there I find delight.** I wonder what we find delight in. David found delight when God showed him how to live. If we found more delight in this, we would probably do better and we would have more opportunities to delight.

John 1:1-5 say, **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

It's all about Jesus and His coming into the world to show us God's ways. He created everything and He came to redeem it all back.

I can't go past this without talking about Jesus being the Word. He is the Word and we learn about Him through the Word. When you read the Word, look to learn about Jesus. Even if you are reading the Old Testament, it is still all about Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much. Please help me to delight in You and help me to delight in the Word since You are the Word. I don't want to miss anything You have for me. Help me to remember that everything You do is always right and everything You ask me to do is also right. I really do want to live for You and I want to represent You well to every person I meet. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday May 8

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 16-18

John 1:29-51

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:36 says, **Turn my heart toward Your statutes and not toward selfish gain.** This is interesting. David loved God and wanted to live for Him. In this verse, he asks God to turn his heart toward the Word. I think I am going to start praying that for myself. I know it would be a good thing and it must be alright for me to pray since David prayed it.

Look at what John 1:29 says, **The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"** John the Baptist had some amazing revelation here.

He knew that Jesus was the Lamb of God and he knew that Jesus came to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world. Both of these things were amazing things for him to know.

Later in our reading, Jesus called some disciples to follow Him and they left everything and followed Him. They must have had some revelation about Him too. I am so glad that I have received some revelation about Jesus, and I know that you have too, but there is always more. The more we live for Him and study His Word, we will find Him showing us more and more. That is part of the wonderful work He is doing in our lives.

Prayer: Lord, I want to ask You to turn my heart toward your statutes. I know I will do better as You help me. I also thank You so much for all that You have shown me about Jesus and I ask You to teach me even more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday May 9

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 19-20

John 2

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:37 says, **Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to Your Word.** Our whole life is wrapped up in Jesus and His Word. David prayed that God would preserve his life according to the Word. Look at what Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, **Man does not live on bread alone, but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God.**

The first miracle Jesus did was changing water into wine. He took something very common and ordinary (water) and turned it into some special and extraordinary (the best wine at the wedding).

Here's the really good news. He is doing the same thing with our lives. We weren't anything special without Jesus and now that He is working in our lives, we are children of the most High God!

After this, we read about Jesus going into the temple and cleaning it out. Without pushing this too far, let me remind you that Paul wrote that we are the temple of God today. So, we need to let Jesus come into our lives and clean out anything that He doesn't want there. Believe me, His will is always right and we are always better off without the things that He wants us to get rid of.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your Word. Please help me to have all the life and life in abundance that You have for me. I also want You to continue Your good work in me. Help me to know if there are things that You want to clean out of my life and help me to willingly yield to You and Your Word every time. I really do want You to rule and reign in every area of my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday May 10

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 21-22

John 3:1-21

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:38 says, **Fulfill Your promise to Your servant, so that You may be feared.** This is kind of a strange statement, don't you think? I looked up the word "fear" here and it means reverence. So, David was saying that God keeping His promises would help Him to be revered more and I guess that makes sense.

John 3:16 is probably the best-known Scripture in the whole Bible. It says, **For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.** I wish more of the people who know what this verse says would do their part to have the eternal life promised here. God does love us and He did give Jesus. Now we need to accept Jesus into our lives to be saved!

Look at verses 19-21, **This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.** We need to come to the light, love the light and live as children of light.

Prayer: Lord, I want to be like David and pray that You will fulfill Your promises in my life so others can revere You more. I also am so thankful for the salvation You have provided for me. Help me to live like a Christian really should. Help me to know if there are any areas of my life where I am allowing darkness in and help me to change and accept only light. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday May 11

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 1-3

John 3:22-36

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:39 says, **Take away the disgrace I dread, for Your laws are good.** Because David was living totally for God there were times he faced disgrace. Now, I don't mean he was disgraced with God, because He wasn't, but there were some people who thought David was off track. When that happened, David just kept living for God and doing what God's Word said. Because he kept on track, he ended up on top and we will too.

In our reading from John 3, we can see some things about John the Baptist. Look at what he said in verse 30, **He must become greater; I must become less.** This is such a wonderful statement and it is how we really do need to live.

We need to let Jesus increase in our lives. We do that by accepting Him and His will. Look at what Paul said about this same process in Galatians 2:20, **I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

Now, this doesn't mean that Paul and his personality were totally gone, but everything had been submitted to the Lordship of Jesus. The more we let Him rule and reign in our lives the better we will do, and we will find real life and life in abundance.

Prayer: Lord, I know that Your ways are always right and I want to commit myself to living totally for You right now. I really do want to submit my will to Your will. Help me to remember this commitment when I start to forget. I also want You to rule and reign over every part of this weekend. Help me to live like a Christian should. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday May 12

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 4-5

John 4:1-30

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:40 says, **How I long for your precepts! Preserve my life in Your righteousness.** We will really pursue the things we long for. David longed for the Word and that is what God satisfied him with. This is also the process that kept David safe and helped him to live in the righteousness God wanted. Now, that doesn't mean David never blew it. He did, but then he would return to God, be forgiven and go on living for Him.

Jesus met with a woman from Samaria in our reading for today. If you look closely, you will see that He revealed more and more to her along the way. Let me show you what I mean.

At first, I am sure she just thought Jesus was a man who was thirsty. By verse 19, her opinion had changed. It says, **"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that You are a prophet."**

Jesus kept working with her and by verses 25 & 26 she was ready to know that He was the Messiah, **The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am He."** Here's my point. Jesus was patient with her and He is patient with us. We just need to keep learning what He is showing us.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You have given me life and that I am preserved and kept safe in You. Please help me to keep learning the things You are teaching me. I know I have more to learn and I don't ever want to miss anything You are showing me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday May 13

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 6-8

John 4:31-54

Praise the Lord! (I really mean that! Take some time and Praise Him right now. It will be a good warm up for Church.) Psalms 119:41 says, **May Your unfailing love come to me, O LORD, Your salvation according to Your promise.** Thank God for His unfailing love! It is that love that brings His salvation and all the other promises to us. Don't ever think you have earned anything because of your goodness. It is all about Jesus, His love and what He has done for us on the cross.

Yesterday, we started covering the story of the woman from Samaria and I pointed out that Jesus patiently worked with her teaching her more and more truth. She ultimately realized that He was the Messiah and in today's reading we see that she went into her town and told everyone about Jesus.

Verse 39 says, **Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."** Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus and look at what verse 42 says, **They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."** The whole town was saved because Jesus was patient with this woman and she was willing to tell others about Him.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your unfailing love, Your salvation, Your promises and the fact that You have saved me! Please help me to be willing to tell others about how wonderful You are and please bless Church today. Help everyone there to experience Your love more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday May 14

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 9-11

John 5:1-24

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:41-42 say, **May Your unfailing love come to me, O LORD, Your salvation according to Your promise; then I will answer the one who taunts me, for I trust in Your Word.** Because we know Jesus and His love, we can always have an answer for those who challenge us. They might not understand or accept what we say but we can always tell them about the love of God and pray for them to be saved.

In John 5, Jesus met a man who had been lame for 38 years and look at what He asked him in verse 6, **When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, He asked him, "Do you want to get well?"** Does that sound like a strange question to you? Well, I want you to know that some people don't want to be healed.

Anyway, look at the next couple of verses, **"Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath.** First of all, this man said he didn't have anyone to help him get healed and so Jesus became his man and healed him!

Prayer: Lord, I want my life to be so closely knit to You and Your Word that I only have Your Word to speak to people. I am also thankful that You are still helping people to be healed today. Please help me to turn to You first when I need healing. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday May 15

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 12-14

John 5:25-47

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:43 says, **Do not snatch the Word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in Your laws.** Don't worry about God taking His Word out of your mouth. He is the One trying to get it in your mouth. Also, keep all your hope and confidence in Him and His Word and you will have them in the right place.

John 5:39-40 say, **You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me to have life.**

Studying the Scriptures is a good thing to do, but these people were missing the fact that they were pointing to Jesus! You see, if a person knows a lot about the Scriptures but doesn't know Jesus, they have missed the most important part.

When Jesus said these people refused to come to Him and have life, the word "life" is the Greek word "Zoe." Zoe is the life of God lived out through believers. The Zoe life of God brings us all that He has for us. It is salvation, forgiveness, healing, provision and everything else God has for us. So, we do need to study the Scriptures and we need to let them bring us closer to Jesus and all that He has for us.

Prayer: Lord, I am glad that You are helping me to know Your ways. Help me to know Your Word and help it to be what I speak. I also want all the life and life in abundance You have for me. Help me to learn as I read Your Word AND help me to let what I learn change my life for the better. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday May 16

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 15-17

John 6:1-21

Praise the Lord! In Psalms 119:44, David said, **I will always obey Your law, for ever and ever.** What a wonderful commitment! David was going to obey God forever! We need to commit ourselves to God and never quit on that commitment!

Jesus is so wonderful. In our reading for today, there was a huge crowd of about 20,000 people and they were hungry so He fed them. He was always meeting needs and this is one great example of that.

Look at what verses 5 & 6 say, **When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward Him, He said to Phillip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what He was going to do.** Listen to verse 6 from the Message Version, **He said this to stretch Phillip's faith. He already knew what He was going to do.**

This version said that Jesus asked Phillip this question to "stretch his faith!" Does that sound like a bad thing to you? I think it was a good thing. You see, we all need to live by faith and the more we learn how to do that the better off we will be. So, I started off by saying Jesus was meeting a need here, and that certainly happened when He fed the huge crowd, but He was also meeting some needs in the disciples.

Prayer: Lord, I commit myself to You and I am never going to turn back. I am going to live for You all my life and then for all of eternity. I also ask You to stretch my faith. I know that You only do good things and so I ask this knowing that it will be good for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday May 17

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 18-19

John 6:22-44

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:45 says, **I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out Your precepts.** Knowing God's ways and living them out always leads us to freedom. I like what David said about walking about in freedom. That means his life was right out there for people to see. He was free and he was letting his freedom be seen. Hopefully people will see how free we are in Jesus and want to give their lives to Him like we have.

In John 6, Jesus is making some claims that might not be familiar to us but the people of that day understood. When He claimed to be the bread of life, the people realized that He was referring to the time when God fed manna to the people in the wilderness.

Verses 32-33 say, **Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from Heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread from Heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world."** He was trying to get them to realize that He was the fulfillment of all that God had done in the Old Testament. He was trying to help them to start thinking with a New Testament mindset. Praise the Lord for the fact that we know Jesus and we know that He is the One who came to fulfill all that God plans.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I love Your Word. Please help me to have all the freedom that You have for me. I know that Your ways are always right and I want to yield to them all the time. I also thank You for the life I have in You. Help me to keep living for You and help me to be a good witness of what a real believer should be like. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday May 18

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 20-22

John 6:45-71

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:46 says, **I will speak of Your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame.** David was not ashamed to speak up for God! We need to be the same way. It doesn't matter if we have an opportunity to speak to kings or the down and out, we need to boldly proclaim Jesus and His goodness all the time.

In our reading for today, Jesus said that His followers needed to eat His flesh and drink His blood. This is definitely a reference to the Passover lamb in the Old Testament. Jesus was clearly claiming to be the Messiah of God who came to die for the sins of the world.

When He made these claims, some people wouldn't accept them. John 6:60 says, **On hearing it, many of His disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"** Jesus went on telling them the Truth and verse 66 says, **From this time many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him.**

So, at the beginning of John 6, Jesus had a crowd of over 20,000 people following Him and at the end of the chapter He only had a few left. So, here's a question for you; Was Jesus more successful or less successful at the end of John 6? That answer is: He was always successful because He was doing what God wanted Him to do!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so glad that I have given my life to You. Please help me to be bold enough to speak up for You all the time. I also want to know Your will for my life and I want to do it. Help me to know that is how I am successful no matter what others think. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday May 19

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 23-25

John 7:1-31

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:46-47 say, **I will speak of Your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame, for I delight in Your commands because I love them.** David could and would speak about God and His ways all the time because they were the things that he delighted in and he loved them. You see, you really will speak about the things that are most important to you. So, make sure you love the right things.

I am glad you are consistently studying God's Word every day. Doing this will help you in many ways. First of all, you are learning more of God's Word and that is always good. Then you are developing a good habit that will help you when you need other good ones.

In John 7, opposition to Jesus is starting to grow. Those who loved the darkness more than the light wanted to stop Jesus from His work. John 7:30 says, **At this they tried to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His time had not yet come.**

They wanted to arrest Jesus and yet they were not able to do that because God was the One who was in control. Jesus did come to die but He was going to die in God's timing not theirs.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to delight in Your Word even more. Help me to know that You are in control of my life and that I can trust You with every detail. I also want to remember that You are always caring for me and protecting me. Help me to thank You for Your protection when I see it and even when I don't recognize it happening. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday May 20

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 1-2

John 7:32-53

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:48 says, **I lift up my hands to Your commands, which I love, and I meditate on Your decrees.** Do you lift up your hands in worship to God? Is it very Scriptural and it is good for you. Even if I didn't understand it I would do it because I want to be a doer of the Word, but I do understand a little bit about it. For one thing, it is an act of surrender when I lift my hands to God.

John 7:37-39 say, **On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.**

We are so blessed to be living in the time when the Holy Spirit is available to us. He comes to live right inside us. He can and will teach us all that we need to know. Our part is rely on Him as we study. These verses tell us that the Holy Spirit should be a flow in our lives and out of our lives to others. So, let the Holy Spirit do His work in your life and it will end up being a blessing to you and to those you reach out to.

Prayer: Lord, I love You. Help me to worship You like You want. I even ask You to help me to raise my hands in worship to You more often. Please fill me with the Holy Spirit and continue to teach me Your ways. I also ask You to bless Church today. Help us to worship You like You deserve. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday May 21

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 3-5

John 8:1-20

Praise the Lord! I wanted to give you Psalms 119:48 again today, **I lift up my hands to Your commands, which I love, and I meditate on Your decrees.** Just like it is good for you to lift your hands in worship, it is also good for you to meditate on the Word. Joshua 1:8 says, **Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.**

Aren't you glad for Jesus' forgiveness? I am sure the woman who was caught in adultery was glad for it too. She was guilty under the law and forgiven in Jesus! This is exactly where we all are. If we were living under the law, every one of us would be judged guilty, but because we are in Jesus we are forgiven.

John 8:12 says, **When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."** When we gave our lives to Jesus, we came to the light and now we are supposed to walk in that light. This is what Jesus was talking about when He said to the woman, **"Go now and leave your life of sin."**

So, we need to come to Jesus and be saved. Then we need to leave our old ways and live for Him

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all that You are speaking to me. Please help me to meditate on Your Word more. I know that the more I learn the better I will do. I also want to thank You for forgiving me and setting me free from my past. Help me to embrace You and the Light more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday May 22

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 6-7

John 8:21-36

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:49 says, **Remember Your Word to Your servant, for You have given me hope.** We always have HOPE because we always have Jesus! Even if the devil could overcome us and kill us, we would immediately go to Heaven and be with Jesus forever. So, my Christian friend, rejoice today because you have HOPE!

When you gave your life to Jesus, it was the best decision you ever made. You were saved from your sins and headed to Heaven for all of eternity because of that choice.

Now having said that, giving your life to Jesus was also the start of His work in your life. Now we need to learn His ways and put them into action in our lives. Look at John 8:30-32, **Even as He spoke, many put their faith in Him. To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

They had put their faith in Jesus and they were saved. Now they needed to keep learning so they would be set free. This is the same process we are in today. We are saved, and thank God for that, but there is still work to be done so we can enjoy all the freedom God has for us.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. Help me to know that my eternal destiny is secure as I live for You. Also help me to know that I need to keep learning Your ways so I can have more freedom in my life right now. I want everything You have for me now and when I get to Heaven. I know that the more freedom I have in You, the better I will represent You to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday May 23

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 8-10

John 8:37-59

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:50 says, **My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.** No one likes to suffer and yet we all do at times. David knew that he still had comfort because God was preserving his life. When we keep our focus on God and His good work in our lives, we can endure anything with His help.

In John 8, some of the religious people were arguing with Jesus. Look at what He said in Verse 44, **You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**

This seems like a very harsh statement but it was the truth. If they had accepted the truth, they could have changed. Jesus said that all people have one of two fathers. God is their Father or the devil is their father. We can also see that being religious doesn't help unless someone comes to Jesus to be saved.

Praise the Lord for the fact that we have given our lives to Jesus. Now God is our Father and we are adopted into His family.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to keep my focus on You no matter what I face in life. Help me to really know that You are the One who preserves my life. I am also thankful that You are my Father. I know that I only have Your blessings in my life because of what Jesus did for me on the cross. Please help me to live like Your child should. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday May 24

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 11-13

John 9:1-23

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:51 says, **The arrogant mock me without restraint, but I do not turn from Your law.** There is a real test when someone mocks you. We need to keep our focus on Jesus and His work in our lives. If we start to focus on others or even the unjust things they are doing, we have blown it. Psalms 123:1 says, **I lift up my eyes to You, to You whose throne is in Heaven.**

Look at John 9:1-2, **As He went along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"** This man was born blind and the disciples wanted to debate whose fault it was. Jesus just wanted to meet his needs.

Verse 7 says, **"Go," He told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.** Jesus asked this man to step out in faith; he did and he was healed. This is the Gospel being lived out.

The Gospel is not a place for debating. It is a place for the works of God to be done. Later, Jesus met with the man and revealed Himself as the Messiah so he could be saved. Again, this is Jesus just getting the job done. He was blessing people wherever their needs were.

Payer: Lord, I want to keep my focus on You all the time. When people accept me and love me, I want You to be first in my life. If people reject me and hate me, I still want You to be number One to me. I also want to help people to be blessed rather than arguing all the time. I know that You are still destroying the works of the devil and I want to help. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday May 25

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 14-16

John 9:24-41

Praise the Lord! I hope you are enjoying the little bit of time we are spending in Psalms 119 each day. Verse 52 says, **I remember Your ancient laws, O LORD, and I find comfort in them.** There is comfort in the Word. When you read His Word and feel comforted, embrace that feeling and don't argue with it. It is a blessing from God. So, don't talk yourself out of it.

Yesterday, we read about Jesus healing the man who was born blind and you would have thought that would be the end of the story but it wasn't. The Pharisees didn't want Jesus to get any credit for the healing so they were trying to discredit it.

They wanted to believe that the man was not really blind, but everyone knew the man and they knew he had been blind since birth. They also kept questioning him over and over. I guess they were hoping he would change his story or something.

Anyway, he had been blind and Jesus did heal him. At the end of the chapter we see Jesus seeking him out so he could believe in Him and be saved. You see, Jesus cared about his physical needs AND He cared about his spiritual needs. When Jesus finished, the man had all of his needs met because that was God's will.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for the comfort that You bring to my life. Help me to accept all the comfort You bring and don't let me talk myself out of it. I am also thankful for the reminder today that You want to meet all of my needs. I ask You to continue Your work and strengthen me spirit, soul and body. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Saturday May 26

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 17-19

John 10:1-21

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:53 says, **Indignation grips me because of the wicked, who have forsaken Your law.** David knew God's Word was always right and he became indignant with people who rejected it, but I don't think he was distracted by it. He just wanted them to know the truth. So, when he saw people rejecting it he felt bad for them, but he kept serving God.

The first 18 verses of John 10 are so wonderful and they are filled with great revelations straight from God. Verse 10 says, **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.** Verse 11 says, **I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.** I could go on and on but you have read these verses and you know they are wonderful.

Well, with that in mind look at verses 19 & 20, **At these words the Jews were again divided. Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to Him?"** Where could these thoughts come from? They came from the devil that is where. He is a liar, he always lies, and he was lying here. You see, Jesus came to spread the truth and the devil always spreads lies.

Prayer: Lord, I feel like David when I read about people who rejected the truth. I feel indignant that they could be so blind as to miss all the wonderful things Jesus said and then accuse Him of being demon-possessed. I feel the same way today when I see people doing things like this and yet I know that I should pray for them and hopefully they will see the light and be saved. So, help me to keep my trust in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sunday May 27

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 20-22

John 10:22-42

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:54 says, **Your decrees are the theme of my song wherever I lodge.** Do you ever have a song well up on the inside of you about how wonderful God is? Well, that should happen and you should go ahead and sing it when it is there. Don't worry about your voice or about the tune. It isn't about you. It is about worshiping God, being thankful and expressing those things.

There is a wonderful promise in John 10:27. It says, **My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.** Now, I know that some people read this and say, "I know this verse says I hear His voice but I don't."

Well, if a person doesn't ever hear His voice, they probably need to get saved. I didn't want that to sound quite as hard as it did but Jesus said that His sheep hear His voice. So, if we are His sheep then we hear His voice.

Let me give you an example. When you are tempted to do something wrong, whose voice do you think you hear telling you to do the right thing? It is His voice that you hear. So, for today I want to encourage you to stop saying things that contradict the Word. Say what the Word says and it will help you. Let's try it right now. Say this, "I belong to Jesus, I hear His voice and I follow Him!"

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much and I am glad that You are working in my life. Help me to sing about Your goodness and help me to speak what Your Word says. I know that I need to renew my mind to Your Word, and when I do that I will say what Your Word says. Help me! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday May 28

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 23-25

John 11:1-17

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:55 says, **In the night I remember Your name, O LORD, and I will keep Your law.** David meditated on the Lord and the Word day and night. The more we fill our minds with God and His Word the better we will do. Psalms 1:2 says, **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night.**

John 11 tells us about the resurrection of Lazarus and we will spend the next three days on it. Let me start off by clearing something up. In the first part of the story, Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick. Verse 6 says, **Yet when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was two more days.** So, when Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick He stayed where He was two more days and then He went there. Now, look at verse 17, **On His arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.**

Here is why I am covering this. I have heard so many preachers say that Jesus heard Lazarus was sick and He stayed away until he died. That is not what happened. Jesus didn't go for two days and when He got there Lazarus had been dead four day. So, Jesus didn't delay until he died. Jesus went when God wanted Him to go and by then there were many people there to see the miracle of his resurrection.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I know that filling my mind with thoughts of You and Your Word is always the right thing to do. Please help me to meditate on You more. I am so thankful that You have power over everything including death. I trust You with every area of my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday Mar 29

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 26-27

John 11:18-46

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:55-56 say, **In the night I remember Your name, O LORD, and I will keep Your law. This has been my practice: I obey Your precepts.** David made a practice of these good things and that helped him to obey God's Word. You see, the more we fill our minds with the Word, the more we will obey Him. So, keep studying His Word every day and you are going to make it.

In John 11, we read about Jesus actually raising Lazarus from the dead. Look at verses 41-42, **So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank You that you have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that You sent Me."** There is something very interesting in this prayer. Jesus said that He had already prayed about Lazarus being raised from the dead and now He was just thanking God that He heard His prayer! He also said that He was praying this for those people who were listening.

Jesus had great confidence that God was going to answer His prayer. Do you have that much confidence? We should and we will as we meditate on His Word more. We will know what His will is and we will have confidence that He will do what He promises.

Prayer: Lord, I want to live for You more and more. Please help me to know what You want me to be doing and then help me to be doing those very things. I want to practice the things You want until they become a part of my life. I also ask You to teach me more about prayer. I want to pray Your will and I want to have more confidence that I will see the answers to my prayers. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday May 30

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 28-39

John 11:47-57

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:57 says, **You are my portion, O LORD; I have promised to obey Your words.** When we make promises to God, we need to keep them. David made a really good promise here and we know that he tried to keep that promise too.

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead you would have thought everyone would have realized that He was from God and believed everything else He said. That was not the case at all!

The religious people actually wanted to kill Jesus. John 11:48 says, **If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.** They were afraid everyone was going to follow Jesus so they decided the best thing would be to kill Him. Verse 53 says, **So from that day on they plotted to take His life.**

Isn't this amazing? They really weren't even disputing the fact that He had raised Lazarus from the dead. They just wanted to shut Him up. You see, when people reject God and the revelation He has given them, they will progressively get worse and worse. In this case, they ended up wanting to kill the One who was clearly giving life.

Prayer: Lord, I want to be like David. I promise to obey Your Word. Please continue to speak to me, teach me Your ways, and help me to obey. I also want to believe in every good thing You do. I don't want to be a doubter who is led astray. I want to be a believer who stays on track and never gets deceived. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday May 31

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 1-3

John 12:1-19

Praise the Lord! Psalms 119:58 says, **I have sought Your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to Your promise.** When we seek God with our whole heart, we will find Him! Not only will we find Him, we will also find grace. Not only will we find Him and His grace, we will also find that His promises are fulfilled in our lives. All that sounds pretty good to me. Let's seek Him with our whole heart!

Yesterday, we talked about the religious people wanting to kill Jesus to shut Him up. Now, look at what verse 10 says from our reading for today, **So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well.** They not only wanted to kill Jesus to shut Him up, they also wanted to get rid of the evidence and the living Lazarus was the evidence.

Why do you think they would want to get rid of Lazarus? The next verse tells us. It says, **for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in Him.** Because Lazarus was raised from the dead many people were putting their faith in Jesus, and these religious people couldn't have that happening because those who were following Jesus weren't following them any more. Here's what they should have done; they should have become followers of Jesus too!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for all the things You have spoken to me this month. Please help me to really live like You want and please continue to speak to me next month. I also want to seek You with all my heart and I want that to become a life-style for me. Help me to know if there are any areas in my life where I am holding back and help me to give in to You right now. In Jesus' Name, Amen.