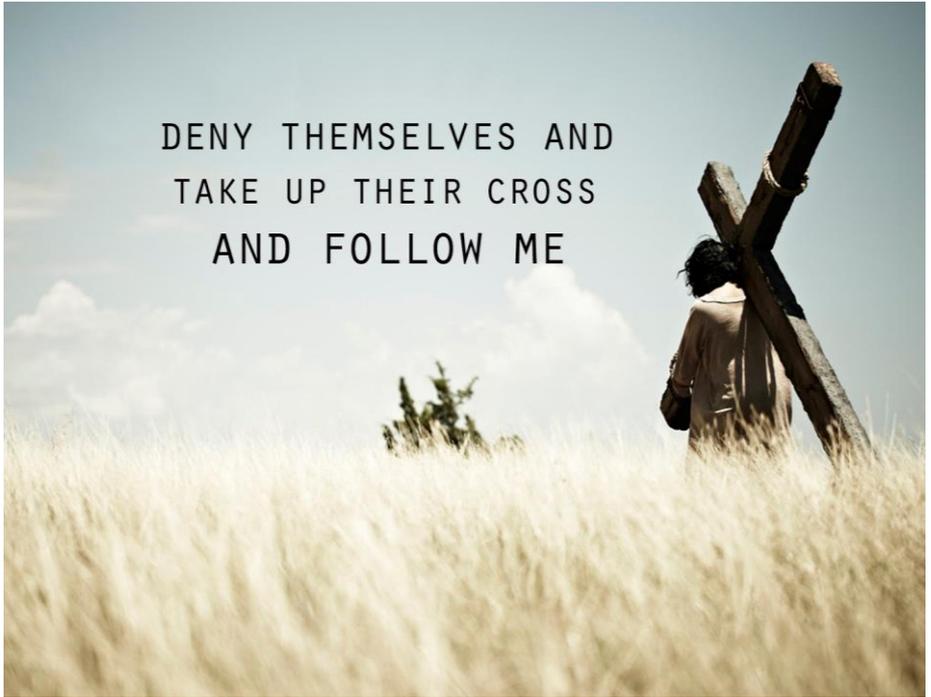


Come and Follow Jesus

Luke 14 +0 18

DENY THEMSELVES AND
TAKE UP THEIR CROSS
AND FOLLOW ME



August 2018

Day 1

What should people do on Sundays? Why?

What should people not do on Sundays? Why?

Christians will sometimes debate what can be done on the Sabbath. Can we go out to eat, play a sport, do homework, work a job, do yard work and the list can go on. What is okay for us to do and what is okay for us not to do? There are things we are to do and not do because the Bible talks about honoring the Sabbath and keeping it holy. Jesus dealt with this question. Today we see his interaction with the Pharisees when it comes to the Sabbath. Ask God to grow you in your faith as you read his word.

Read Luke 14:1-6

The Pharisees were watching Jesus. What were they watching for? Why?

What does this show you about the Pharisees?

A man was brought to Jesus who was sick. What question does Jesus ask the Pharisees? What is the answer of the Pharisees?

Why do you think they responded the way they did?

He heals the man. What question does Jesus then ask them that has them remain silent? Why do you think they had not reply?

So we can do good works on the Sabbath. What kinds of things can you do to help people on the Sabbath?

PRAYER – Ask for open doors to help people on the Sabbath.

Day 2

What are ways in which people like to talk about and elevate themselves?

Why is it hard to think of others before ourselves?

I love baked goods. My wife is the best baker in the whole world. That is an exaggeration but it has to be true. When she makes brownies or cookies or even cake, I try to find the biggest piece or the one with the most frosting and take it for myself. After all, I am the dad and I deserve the biggest piece. I do a lot for the family. What am I doing there? I am elevating myself above all others in my family. I am being prideful. I am not considering others first. Today Jesus tells a parable about being humble. Ask God to teach you today.

Read Luke 14:7-11

What did Jesus observe in verse 7 that made him want to tell this parable? Why do you think that would be wrong?

Summarize the parable in verses 8 to 10 in your own words.

What does Jesus say we should not do? Why?

What does Jesus say we should do? Why?

What point is Jesus making in verse 11 to close this parable?

Think about you, are you humble or someone who exalts themselves?
How can you be more humble?

PRAYER – Pray for humbleness and to consider others first.

Day 3

Have you ever received a gift from someone that you felt you needed to repay? What was the gift and why did you feel you needed to repay it?

When we get a good gift, we often wonder what is the catch. And if we don't think there is a catch there becomes a part of us that wants to pay the giver back because the gift is too good. I remember running a free car wash with the youth of our church. We had one man whose car we washed, dried and vacuumed. At the end he made the comment that there had to be catch, because in our culture and with teens, they don't do something for nothing. He felt he needed to give. And often many of us give a gift and our attitude is we want something in return. Jesus talks about this in his teaching today. Ask for a teachable heart.

Read Luke 14:12-14

Summarize in your own words this mini parable.

What do you think is the main idea of this story?

Why do you think the temptation for family and friends to pay you back is greater than the blind, lame and crippled?

What attitude did Jesus want the host to have when inviting people?

What attitude did Jesus want the people invited to have when they were asked to come to the banquet?

How can you take Jesus point in this parable and apply it to your life?

PRAYER – Ask God that you would minister to people with an attitude that does not expect anything in return.

Day 4

What are 3 excuses people make as to why they do not want to follow Jesus Christ?

1.

2.

3.

There are many excuses to why people do not want to follow Jesus. They don't believe the Bible is true. Why would you follow a man who died a criminal's death on the cross? I won't submit to a person who I cannot see or touch. The list goes on. At the heart of the rejection is sin. The middle letter of sin is "I". We don't want to submit because we don't want to be told what to believe or what to do. Our way of living is the best way. Today Jesus tells another parable about a banquet. Ask God to teach you and grow you as you study his word today.

Read Luke 14:15-24

Describe the first batch of guests the man invited to his banquet in verses 17 to 20. How did they react to the invitation?

What was the reaction of the man to their excuses? Why do you think he reacted in this way?

He has his servant go invite a new batch of people. Describe this second batch of people. How are they different from the first batch?

What does Jesus say about the first batch of people who were invited in verse 24? What is Jesus saying about salvation here?

Who are 3 people you know that make excuses as to why they don't follow Jesus? Write their excuse next to their name.

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Pray for the salvation of the above 3 people.

Day 5

What is something that you have done or will do that calls for great sacrifice? What will you have to sacrifice?

I enjoyed the movie *Deep Impact*. It is a movie about the end of the world due to an asteroid. A team aboard a space shuttle armed with a nuclear bomb realizes that the only way earth has a chance is if they fly their shuttle into the asteroid and detonate the bomb, blowing up the asteroid and killing all of them. They would sacrifice their lives so the world could live. It was a great cost to them and to their families. They do it and save the world. As Christians we are called to sacrifice everything to serve the Lord. What cost are you willing to pay to serve the Lord. Ask God to help you wrestle with this question as you read the Bible today.

Read Luke 14:25-27

What does Jesus say about following Jesus in verse 26?

What does he mean by hate in this verse?

What are ways in which your family can distract you from following Jesus Christ?

Jesus says we need to bear our own cross, patterned after Christ. What does that even look like, to bear our cross?

If you don't bear your cross, what does Jesus say about you? How serious is Jesus, that following him will cost you?

What is something you need to give up so that you can be following Jesus all the way? What will be hard in giving that up?

PRAYER – Pray about the last question you answered.

Day 6

If you want to buy a car, what kinds of plans do you need to make and follow through to be able to buy that car?

To make a big purchase like a car, house, or a ring to put on a girl's finger calls for great sacrifice. Maybe you need to get a second job. Some people will not do entertaining things because they want to save their money for that purchase. These are just some of the sacrifices that people will make. The cost of following Jesus Christ is great. We have to give up our own lives in order to follow him. It is not easy. Today we look at the second part of the cost of following Christ. Ask God to help you consider the cost of following him as you read the Bible today.

Read Luke 14:28-33

What two pictures does Jesus give in considering the cost? What does Jesus say about each picture?

1. Verses 28 to 30 –

2. Verses 31 to 32 –

In the first picture what would be the result of not considering the cost and starting something they cannot finish? Why would people react that way?

In the second picture what is the “good” result of considering the cost before taking action?

What important truth does Jesus give to us who follow him in verse 33? Why is this a hard truth?

What ways have you considered the cost? What ways are you not sacrificing to follow Jesus?

PRAYER – Ask for help to follow him, giving up all to do it.

Day 7

What do you use salt for?

Think about what you just said about salt. How are Christians like salt?

Salt is useful in so many ways. It adds taste to bland food. It speeds up water in the boiling process. It preserves food. These are just a few of its uses. I hope you can see the parallels to us as Christians. As followers of Jesus we bring taste into people's lives in that they see Christ in us and want what we have. We preserve in the sense that we share Christ, the only hope people can have, and if they come to know Jesus then they are saved. As Christians we are salt. Ask God to help you see that and understand what it means as you read and study.

Read Luke 14:34-35

What is Jesus point through his question in verse 34?

What do we need to do with salt that is no longer useful in verse 35?

Now Jesus is not talking about salt but about us as Christians. What does Jesus want us to do?

What does this say about people who say they are “Christians” and yet are not useful?

IN what ways do you struggle to be like salt?

PRAYER – Ask God to make you useful, like salt.

Day 8

What is something of value to you that you have lost? What lengths did you go to find it?

In *Toy Story 2* Woody is taken by Al from Al's Toy Barn. He is lost to his friends. They are determined to find Woody and bring him back home. They travel all the way to Al's apartment, ride the dangerous elevator, brake in through the heating duct, drive a car to the airport and ride conveyer belts all to save Woody. They went to great lengths, risking their very lives to find their buddy Woody. The next few days we look at the "lost" parables of Luke. Ask God to instruct your heart in his truths today.

Read Luke 15:1-7

What was the complaint of the Jewish leaders in verse 1?

What are they showing about who the Messiah should be with in their complaint?

What extent is the shepherd willing to go to find the lost sheep? Why is that a big deal?

What does the shepherd do when he finds the lost sheep? Why would he want to involve so many other people in this rejoicing?

In verse 7 what are we told the beings in heaven rejoice over? Why is that a very encouraging thing to you?

So who are 3 people you can pray for to come to faith so that heaven will rejoice over them?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER - Pray for the salvation of the 3 people you wrote down above.

Day 9

What is your most valued possession? Why is it so valuable? What would you do to protect that possession?

In the first *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie, the crew of the Black Pearl are under a curse because of gold they had stolen and then spent. In order to lift the curse, they need to find all the lost gold they stole. They search high and low to find every last piece of their gold. It is literally life for them. This is our attitude towards valuable possessions. We protect it any cost and if it were lost we would do anything to find it. Today we look at the 2nd “lost” parable Jesus told. Ask God to convict you of his truths as you read them today.

Read Luke 15:8-10

What is lost here? What extremes does the woman go to find that which is lost?

What do you think is going through her mind and heart as she searches?

How does the woman react to finding her coin? Why does she react so strongly to something so small?

What parallel does he make with Christians in verse 10?

Again, like yesterday, how is this a very encouraging verse when you think about your own faith and walk with the Lord?

Take a minute and write down specific sins you repented of and God forgave you?

PRAYER – There was rejoicing over that! Give thanks to God.

Day 10

Who is the closest person to you? What would you do if that relationship was ever broken?

In the movie *Lion* a man who was adopted from India because he fell asleep on a train and did not know where his home was. While with his adopted family he had visions of his mother and the place they lived. The search began to figure out where he was from, what village he was raised in and if his mother was still alive. He spent much money, time and sacrifice to find his mother. He eventually finds her and is reunited to her. Today we start to look at the last “lost” parable, the one about the lost son. Ask God to encourage you in your walk with the Lord as you read the Bible today.

Read Luke 15:11-24

Describe the life of the younger son: his attitudes, actions, relationship with his father.

How do we see from this part of the story that the father loved his son, both at the beginning and the end?

What did it take for the son to really appreciate his father? What was he willing to do to be back in his father's house?

How do we see the Father knew his son would come back home one day?

How do you see your story in the story of the younger son?

PRAYER - Thank God for his love, for finding and saving you.

Day 11

What are ways in which you have been jealous? How do you show your jealousy?

We struggle with sin and because of that struggle we often can find ourselves being jealous of others. What kinds of things are we jealous of? Money, material possessions, vacations, schools, victories on the sports field, clothes, technology, video games, etc., etc., etc. There are lot of things we can be jealous about with the people around us. Have you ever been jealous of someone who lived a wicked life and then came to faith in Christ? Were you jealous that God would forgive such a horrible person? Or were you jealous that you don't have a testimony as "good" as theirs? Yesterday we started looking at the parable of the lost son by looking at the younger son. Today we turn our attention to the older son. Ask God to show you how you are like the older son as you read today.

Read Luke 15:25-32

How would you describe the older son based on what we read about him?

How does the older son that he hated his father as much as his younger brother in the beginning of the story?

Why did he think he deserved a young goat to celebrate with his friends?
How does this sound like Christians you may know?

How does the father show he deeply loves this son too?

What are ways in which you can be like the older son?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you love him and all the things he does.

Day 12

What are 3 things people gain dishonestly? What do they do to gain it in a dishonest way?

Some people cheat on their taxes in that they don't write the right numbers down or they don't claim everything they are to claim so that they can get more money from the government. Or you have a person who goes into a store, they don't have enough money for that candy bar with tax, so they just take the candy bar and slip it into their pocket. Or take the person who cheats at board games by taking extra moves, cards or not explaining the rules clearly so they can win. These are all ways in which we are dishonest to gain something for ourselves. Today Jesus tells one of the oddest parables to illustrate a spiritual truth. Ask God to help you wrestle with his truths and apply them to your life.

Read Luke 16:1-13

Describe the dishonest manager in this parable. What is he like? What does he do? Why?

The rich man is just as bad. What kind of person is based on what we are told about him in this parable?

Jesus is not saying be unfaithful and dishonest, but he is saying we need to try to learn and grow in our faith by whatever means we can, small and large. What kinds of shrewd things should we be doing so we can grow in our faith?

What important truth does Jesus then give to his disciples and the religious leaders in verse 13?

What ways do you worship money and possessions more than God?

PRAYER – Pray about your love of money and possessions.

Day 13

What kinds of things are taught and supported among men that are an abomination to God? Write down as many as you can think of.

That could be quite a long list. Here is a few that pop into my mind: abortion, same sex marriage, divorce, tearing down a person's character to get ahead, cheating, laziness, thinking you can be a Christian and not have to go to church and the list goes on and on and on. These are all things that you can find people in our world believing. They not only believe it but they also go out and preach it as their gospel truth. They are all an abomination in God's eyes because they go against his word. Ask God to challenge you in your faith as you read Luke today.

Read Luke 16:14-17

According to verses 14 and 15, what kind of men were the Pharisees?

What does it mean that God knows the heart? How is that a scary thought?

So if God knows the heart, how should that challenge how we live out our life and our faith?

What characteristics do we see about the Bible in verses 16 and 17?

Before Jesus came, God's followers had the Law, but Christ fulfilled the law and now it is about being saved by faith through grace. The phrase "everyone forces his way into it" is the idea that people now saw that they did not have to be perfect but trust Christ and they really wanted that faith that was by grace through faith in Christ. Why do you think people would jump from having to work for salvation to trusting in Jesus?

Be honest, is your faith by what you do, or truly trusting in Christ? Explain.

PRAYER – Think about that last answer and let that guide your prayer.

Day 14

What are the first 3 things that come to mind when you think of divorce?
After you put those down write next to them why that came to mind.

1.

2.

3.

The image that comes most to mind when I think of divorce is how much it messes up the children in the family. I remember having friends who were shuffled back and forth between parents always packing and unpacking. I had some friends whose parents would talk horribly about each other and try to turn their children against the other parent. Some of those friends had such a bad view of marriage and relationships that they vowed they would never get married. Then you have some extreme situations of children who get into drugs, drinking, bullying, depression and never trusting people. This is just one aspect of consequences of divorce. It is ugly and horrible. Jesus taught on divorce. Today we see one verse he shared in light of the Pharisees who had become loose in some of their teachings. Ask God to enlighten your heart today.

Read Luke 16:18

Summarize in your own words what Jesus is saying about divorce here.

Look up the following verses and write why God takes marriage seriously:

1. Genesis 2:24 –
2. Matthew 19:6 –
3. Ephesians 5:22-24 –

Now Jesus knew the Pharisees heart, that they wanted to support divorce in Luke which is why he strongly says divorce is bad. Read Matthew 19:7-9. What does Jesus say about divorce in these verses?

Why is it important to read all these verses together?

How does the study of God's word today challenge you as you think about marriage and divorce?

PRAYER – Pray for a divorced family you know and pray for God to strengthen the marriage of a couple you know.

Day 15

What are some reasons you don't hear too many sermons or Bible studies on hell and why it can be so controversial?

1.

2.

3.

Probably the number one reason people don't like the thought of hell, Christian and non-Christian, is how can a God that is so good send people to a place of eternal darkness and fire for all of eternity without any chance of getting out of it or at least being annihilated and ceasing to exist. It is hard for people to reason through this and yet this is the reality of hell. One of God's attributes is he is a God of judgment and wrath. We see that repeatedly throughout the Bible. That brings us to our parable today. Ask God to convince you of his truths today.

Read Luke 16:19-31

What do we see about the rich man from this story? Who is he? What is he like?

Answer the same questions about Lazarus.

What is hell like?

How do we see where you end up after death is permanent? Why is this hard for people to read and believe?

What request does the rich man ask of Abraham and Lazarus? What is Abraham's response to his request?

What does this show you about the hardness of men's hearts?

Who are 3 people you can pray salvation for today?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PRAYER – Pray for the above 3 people.

Day 16

Who are 2 people who have tempted you to sin? Next to each name write how they tempted you to sin.

1.

2.

How have you tempted someone to sin? Think of two examples.

1.

2.

I have been tempted to sin. Friends tempted me to drink, throw snowballs at cars, cheat on a test, lie to my parents about things I was doing and the list goes on. Some of them I resisted the temptation. Some I gave in to. I have tempted people to sin. I encouraged a girlfriend to go against her parents' wishes, asked people to lie, cheat and gossip. Some resisted and others gave in to what I said to them. These are things we need to take seriously. Today we see in God's word that He takes them seriously. Ask God to help you evaluate your own heart as you read today.

Read Luke 17:1-4

What does God say about those who tempt people in verses 1 and 2?

Why should that make us think about what we encourage others to do?

What does Jesus say about rebuking and forgiveness in verses 3 and 4?

There is no limit on how many times we forgive someone. Why can this be a hard teaching for some to accept?

Yet put it in perspective. How many times does God forgive you? How should that challenge you in how you forgive others?

PRAYER – Ask forgiveness for your sin; ask help to forgive someone who has hurt you deeply – to be ready to forgive when they ask you.

Day 17

How would you describe someone who has a lot of faith?

How would you describe someone who lacks faith?

Luke Skywalker in the original *Star Wars* movies, was a person who exhibited a real lack of faith at first and then much faith later on. As he was training to be a Jedi with Yoda, there were many times when he said that it was impossible for him to move objects and make any real kind of difference. He said this with much whining and pouting. Then later on as he faces Darth Vader he is so confident he can turn him to the good side that he surrenders himself and throws aside his light saber. SPOILER ALERT: He had faith he could turn his dad back and he does. Today we look at two verses about faith. Ask God to grow your faith as you read from Luke today.

Read Luke 17:5-6

What plea do the disciples make of Jesus?

Think of all they have seen and heard, why do you think they ask for this?

What does Jesus say to them about faith in verse 6?

Now think about a mustard seed, why is it important Jesus uses this seed as in illustration of faith?

Jesus point is that if we have a little faith we can do great things like uproot a tree with our words. Most of us can't do that, what does that say about our faith?

What are the struggles you have when it comes to your faith? List them.

PRAYER – Ask God to increase your faith, to help you in your struggles with faith.

Day 18

What are ways in which people expect rewards or thanks for things they should be doing? Try to think of 2 things.

1.

2.

This can be a pretty long list. Maybe it is that child who passes a test and asks his parents for a reward or thanks. What? You should be passing the test because it is good for you. Or a son or daughter who cleans their room and comes and asks for a reward or thanks. What? This is part of your responsibility of contributing to this family and taking care of your things. These are just a couple of examples. Jesus teaches on this topic when it comes to our faith today. Ask God to help you examine your own heart and attitudes as you read the Bible today.

Read Luke 17:7-10

What do we see about the role of the servant in verses 7 and 8?

How do we see in these verses that there is a difference between the servant and the master?

What point is Jesus making in his question in verse 9?

Then Jesus gets to his point when it comes to those who follow God in verse 10. What does he say?

How are we unworthy servants? Look back to the previous verses?

So does God thank us for reading our Bibles, praying, sharing the Gospel, being kind to each other, serving using our gifts? Explain your answer.

How does this section make you think about your attitudes towards God?

PRAYER – Thank God for his grace and a willingness to serve Him.

Day 19

If you were dying of some horrific disease and someone healed you, what kinds of things would you say and do? Why?

If we were healed, we would have a new lease on life. For most of us we would be excited, ready to go and do all the things we could not do before. We would be reenergized. For many of us we would not be able to say thank you enough to the person who had healed us, heaping praise and thanks upon them. After all, if it wasn't for them we would be dead. This is a picture of our faith, of what God did for us in bringing us from death to life. We get a little picture of this in the healing Jesus performs in our passage today. Ask God to apply His word to your heart.

Read Luke 17:11-19

Describe the scene in verses 11 to 13 in your own words.

What is it about leprosy that had these men standing at a distance?

How does Jesus show compassion for these men in verse 14?

Only one man came back to Jesus. Why do you think 9 just left?

Why does Jesus point out that the one man who returned was a Samaritan? Why is that important?

How did this man show true faith?

How are you like the lepers when it comes to your faith? Are you like the 9 who left or the one who returned to Christ? Explain.

PRAYER – Give thanks for salvation; pray for “weak” Christians you know.

Day 20

What is something you expect will happen in your lifetime? How will you know that which you expect is happening?

When you start to have children you know the day is coming when your child is going to want to drive and date and go to college among other things. Once they hit the teenage years, you can see each of those things coming closer and closer. Then you celebrate the 16th birthday and now you know it is inching closer. You wait to hear the words, “can I go for my permit test?” or “Can I got out with Jenny this weekend?” or “I want to go visit Covenant on one of their visit days.” Then when they actually get that paper, or go on that date or are on that college campus, you know that what you expected is coming to pass. Jesus teachings about this very idea when it comes to His kingdom today. Ask to understand and apply God’s word today.

Read Luke 17:20-21

What is something that the Pharisees expected would happen?

What are you think they expected God’s kingdom to come?

What does Jesus say to them about their expectations? Why would this be a shock to the Pharisees?

How had the Pharisees missed what they were expecting to happen according to verse 21?

How was the kingdom of God already in the midst of the Pharisees?

They missed the Messiah because they wanted freedom from Rome. They had expectations that were wrong. God was in their midst. His kingdom had come. What are some expectations you have of God that you need to probably rethink? Why?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you look to Him and not yourself in all things.

Day 21

How will you know that Jesus has come back? What do you expect to see and hear? Write down your thoughts.

Jesus has promised that he is coming back. He is going to gather his people to himself and bring them into his heavenly kingdom. That is a promise we can hold to and believe in. Do you? People try to understand the end times. We see it in movies and tv, hear it in music, listen to Christians talk and teach about it. Today Jesus continues to talk about his kingdom coming, transitioning to the end times. Ask God to open your eyes to his truths and give you hope in his promises.

Read Luke 17:22-31

In verses 22 to 23 Jesus says his followers will long for his 2nd coming. How do we see in these two verses that they expect that day to come?

What does he caution them in these verses?

How does Jesus say he will come according to verse 24? Think about that picture, will we miss that day? Explain.

What did Jesus say to his disciples had to happen first in verse 25. How did we see that come to pass?

What two examples does Jesus use to show how people have rejected him? What does he say about them?

What challenge does Jesus give to us about his second coming in verses 30 and 31? What do we need to be ready to do?

PRAYER – Ask God to prepare your heart for Jesus 2nd coming.

Day 22

What are some of the biggest questions Christians have about the 2nd coming of Christ? Write a couple down.

It can be summed up with: what, when, where, who. What will it look like to hear the trumpets blare and to be caught up in their air? When will it be? Where will we meet Jesus in the air? Who will meet you Lord? Will my loved ones be meeting you? So many questions. We saw yesterday we will not miss Jesus 2nd coming. It will come like lightning across the sky. It will come with peels of thunder. Today Jesus further teaches on that day. Ask to wrestle with the truths God gives us in his word.

Read Luke 17:32-37

Lots wife died at Sodom and Gomorrah. What did she do? How did she show she trusted what she could see more than God?

What does Jesus show about how we are to live as Christians in verse 34? What does that look like?

In verses 34 and 35 we have the rapture described to us, when Christians are caught up with Jesus. How do we see that here?

What are we left to understand about the person who was left?

The disciples wanted to know where they would meet Jesus. What picture does he use? Why is that an effective picture?

Think about the person who disappears and the one left. Which one would you be? How do you know?

PRAYER – If you have doubts of your faith, ask for help so you can be assured that you do know and are walking with Jesus.

Day 23

Have you ever met a person who was persistent in wanting something from you? Who were they? What did they want? Did you give it to them? Explain why or why not?

In the movie *The Incredibles Dash*, the oldest son, is a speedster. As a boy who loves sports, he wants to compete. His mom does not let him because she knows he will be the best by a longshot and that his powers may be discovered, and that might mean the family has to relocate. He is persistent. He wants to run races, go on missions and he asks over and over again. By the end of the movie we see that his parents give in and he runs track. They tell him he can compete, but only if he wins by a little bit. We all know persistent people. Maybe you are one of those people. It is easy to give in to them, if anything to stop them from bothering us. Jesus tells a story of a persistent woman. Ask God to help you know what this means for your life as you read today.

Read Luke 18:1-8

Why was Jesus telling his disciples this parable according to verse 1?

What are ways people lose heart and stop praying?

Describe the widow in the parable. What does she want?

What is the judge like? Which characteristic jumps out to you? Why?

How is God similar to the “bad” judge? How is God different?

1. Similar –

2. Different –

How do we see in the last few verses that God does indeed love and care for his people? What is he looking for?

PRAYER – Be honest with God, cry out to him in what you are dealing with, feeling and what you want him to do in your life.

Day 24

What kinds of things does a “good” Christian do?

How do some people trust their “good” works more than they do faith?

There are people who though they don't admit it outwardly, believe that their good works make them more righteous. When a Christian goes through a hard time in their life and says, “Why have I done all these good things, it does not seem to matter.” This shows someone believing in works over faith. Or someone who gets involve in all these ministries of the church and says, “I want God to love and accept me which is why I do all these things.” This shows someone who believes their works over their faith. Today we look at this issue in the lives of two men. Ask God to show you which man you are most like as you read today.

Read Luke 18:9-14

According to verse 9, why does Jesus tell this story?

What kind of person is the Pharisee?

Who does the Pharisee compare himself when thinking about his righteousness? Who should he be comparing himself to?

What do we learn about the tax collector?

What does Jesus teach us through this story in verse 14?

So which are you like, the Pharisee or tax collector? Explain.

PRAYER – Ask for humbleness and to not compare yourself to others when it comes to your faith and spiritual growth.

Day 25

What are some of the great characteristics of children, that we often lose as adults? Think of 2. Why is that great?

1.

2.

Children can remind us of some of the best qualities we lost as adults. They get excited about the simplest things. Often as adults, hardened by the realities of life, it takes a lot to get us excited about things in our lives and world. Children have a faith that is not there because it was proven to them, they just believe. That is why they will jump into the water when their parents are standing there. As adults we often overthink things before we make a move. We struggle with just having faith. We can admire these things in children. Today we look at Jesus interaction with children. Ask God to use this to challenge your faith today.

Read Luke 18:15-17

Why do you think the disciples rebuked the children for coming to Jesus?

What does this show about them?

What did Jesus say to his disciples in verse 16?

What does this show you about Jesus attitude towards children?

Jesus went a step further, how does he tell the adults that they need to be like children?

What does that even look like?

When it comes to your faith, how can you show more childlike faith?

PRAYER - Ask God for childlike faith, to trust him without proof.

Day 26

What are different ways people in our world believe that they can get eternal life?

How would you answer that question?

There is a question that many people ask to find out what people believe about how they can get eternal life. The question is, "if you were to die today and stand before God and he was to ask you why he should let you into heaven, what would you say?" How a person answers this question will show you if they are someone who truly believes in Christ alone for their salvation. How would you answer this question? Ask God to use the story of the rich young ruler to challenge your faith today.

Read Luke 18:18-30

In verses 18 to 21, what did man think he had to do to get eternal life?

What did Jesus say he needed to do in verse 22? What was his point?

The man was sad. What did he realize he had to do and believe to have “true” faith in Jesus Christ?

What does Jesus teach about wealth and salvation in verses 24 to 25?

The disciples are left thinking it is impossible to get to heaven. What does Jesus say about this comment in verses 26 to 30?

Following Jesus means being willing to sacrifice all to follow Him. Look at your life and attitudes, are you willing to give up all to follow Christ? Explain your answer.

PRAYER – Ask God to show you what you need to give up to follow him.

Day 27

What is the worst news that a loved one has ever given you? Why was that news bad for you?

Let us imagine being a part of a family. There is lots of news that can be given to us that is bad. You are moving because of a parent's job. One of your parents share that they have cancer and have only a certain amount of time to live. Dad lost his job and so you have to cut back on some things you do as a family. These are a few life altering "bad news" things that can be shared. How would you feel? How would you react? It would vary from person to person. Today we read about Jesus for the third time, he shares about his upcoming death. Ask God to encourage you and challenge you as you read and study Luke today.

Read Luke 18:31-34

What does Jesus mean that everything that was written about him will be accomplished in verse 31?

Read Isaiah 53:2-7. How do we see these things came to pass in the life of Jesus?

In Luke, what does Jesus say will happen to him in verses 32 to 33?

This was Jesus third time to tell these truths to his disciples, what do you think went through their hearts and minds as they headed to Jerusalem?

What do we see about the disciples in verse 34? Why do you think this happened?

What are things in the Bible that you have a hard time grasping? How have you tried to figure out what it means?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you understand the harder parts of His word.

Day 28

How would you react if someone with a permanent illness came to you to ask you to heal them? Why would this request be hard for you?

When I meet someone who has some pretty hard life circumstances I feel pretty powerless. I want to help them. I want to take them out of the horrible circumstances of their lives and give them a brand new start. I want to do this with that homeless person I have met on the streets of Harrisburg. I feel this way about that single mom who is bringing up their children, working a job, trying to make ends meet with no dad in the picture. I can't change the situation. I feel powerless. Jesus was and is different. He could change these situations in an instant and he did it for some people. Let us look at one of those type stories now. Ask God to encourage you in your faith as you study His word.

Read Luke 18:35-43

What characteristics do we see about the blind man?

What does the things he did and said show us about who he through Jesus was?

How did the crowd react to the man? Why?

How did Jesus have compassion on this man?

What did the man do as a result of Jesus healing him?

What did the people do as a result?

What are ways in which you are telling people about Jesus and all He has done for you?

PRAYER – Ask God to open up doors for you to share your faith.