



A  
Daily Devotion  
Reading of the Gospels  
For



And  
EASTER

March 25, 2019 - March 30, 2019

Days 17-22

Book 4 of 8

**Clark Memorial United Methodist Church**

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## The Gospel of Mark Mark 13-Mark 14

Some credit Thomas Jefferson with reportedly saying “Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.” In chapter 13 of Mark’s gospel, Jesus says vigilance is also an important part of our discipleship. He encourages us to be attentive, alert and observant so as to not be deceived by the ways of our world into thinking someone knows the day or the hour when Jesus will return to claim his kingdom here upon the earth. Jesus makes it clear that no one knows the time; not even Jesus himself. He also makes it clear, however, that those of us who follow him must be prepared because it can happen at any time. We must also be prepared for the things that life will throw our way to deceive us and to detract us.

In Chapter 14, Jesus celebrates his final Passover meal with his disciples, identifies Judas as his betrayer and foretells Peter’s lack of courage when confronted with questions of his relationship with Christ. It’s at this meal that Jesus takes elements of the Jewish Passover meal and redefines them for us as the essentials of our Sacrament of Holy Communion. Do we come to the table like Judas as betrayers of our Christ for our own purposes? Do we deny him like Peter; not once or twice but repeatedly? Do we like the other disciples run and hide at the first hint of trouble? Lent is an ideal time to ask ourselves these questions.

Be sure and read these chapters today. Consider reading Psalm 51 in Eugene Peterson’s *The Message* or in the *Common English Version* of the scriptures before your time of prayer.

***SUBMITTED BY Herbert Lester, Jr.***



Daily Lenten Readings

Day 18 Tue 3/26/19

## The Gospel of Luke Luke 1-Luke 3

*The love for this Church in receiving powerful encouragement from different members over the years makes anything you asked of me very easy because I am a member of our ministry team. I was just thinking what has God really created me to do? And, how can I show his love to others the way you show it to me? So restoring relationships with Christ Jesus for His glory in this world is a good start. Church, I am so very passionate that I have discover my purpose on this planet while sharing the gospel with all of you in any way I can.*

The author of the gospel of Luke was a Greek physician who was part of Paul's ministry team. He joined Paul in Troas (Acts 16:9-10), and visited him during Paul's time of imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28; 2 Timothy 4:11). Luke wrote his gospel record as part one of a two-part explanation of the message of Christ to a friend, Theophilus (Luke 1:1-4). He then concluded his explanation of God's ongoing work in the world with the book of Acts (Acts 1:1-2). Luke's writing is careful about detail, presents women in a very positive light (unusual in that day), and has a number of medical references-a reminder of his background as the "beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14).

I am thinking about God's handiwork that's going on at this Church serving the purpose of hope, help, healing and hospitality some may say we are taking foolish risks, endangering our safety and budget. If we can do something to fix a bad situation, we should trust God and do it. Honesty with respect for life is the driving force of this ministry team at the Church. Yes, I am grateful for the support with advice we give to each other. This has challenges me to live positively as one of the contributing members to minister in ways by watching others life here at the Church. They are filled with lessons that all of us should follow, focusing forward towards the greatest good.

Here's my suggestion for more people to get involved with ministry team at Church--lots of people are hurting and need some assistance and the pastor might love for you to join right on in using your gifts, talents and tithes. That's how we make a huge difference. Zechariah, though a righteous man, still needed to learn to trust God more. His inability to speak, a supernatural sign, undoubtedly increased his faith, causing him to believe that God's promise for a child would come to pass. For 40 days following the birth of a son (80 days following the birth of a daughter), a mother was considered unclean. So you can see why women are still dealing with unusual situations when it come to leadership in our day, but our God always has a plan and we haven't seen nothing yet. Women are you preparing the way for what is going to happen next? I am honored to know some phenomenal women who happen to be trailblazers. And, the question is not who's going to let me, but who's going to stop me? You were born to do this and don't let any body discourage you from moving forward in your quest for the best.

Prayer-Lord we know You care about every aspect of our lives. Bring us closer together as a Church so that we can do Your will and we will be careful to give You all the praise with honor.  
Amen.

**SUBMITTED BY Jethro B. Smith**



## Becoming a "Superstar"

### The Gospel of Luke

#### LUKE 4-LUKE 6

Superstar—wide recognition, exceptional talent, sought after for his service.

As I contemplated portion of scripture I chose, the word “superstar” stuck in my mind. Would he really have been a superstar: constantly in the public eye, privacy invaded, his words taken out of context, berated for his views, criticized for unpopular behavior or going against the grain.

By this definition, was Jesus a “superstar” in his day? Yes, he was widely recognized throughout the regions where he preached; he was considered to have exceptional talent, and he was much sought after for his service. But was this how he defined himself?

His definition:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me.*

*He has sent me to preach the good news to the poor,*

*to proclaim release to the prisoners and*

*recovery of sight to the blind,*

*to liberate the oppressed*

*and to proclaim the year of the Lords favor.*

A very different interpretation:

Wide recognition: intentionally placing himself in the public for a single purpose—to spread a message of love and forgiveness, for a way of life that would bring joy, peace and hope according to the one who sent him. To be an example of how God loves unconditionally.

*continued on next page...*

**SUBMITTED BY Grace Brady**



Daily Lenten Readings

Day 20 Thur 3/28/19

**Becoming a "Superstar"**  
The Gospel of LUKE  
*Luke 4-Luke 6*

*...continued*

*Exceptional talent:* understanding the source of his talent and honoring that source. A way of speaking with knowledge and authority; providing healing to broken bodies and spirits; understanding without judgement, guiding without derision. Teaching a way of life that helped one to bear daily burdens.

*Sought for his service:* once recognized for what he could do, many came to him to hear, learn, for healing, for answers to life questions.

By todays standards he would not be considered a superstar:

- No home, though he had a home base
- No public or private transportation
- Travel in out of the way places—where the “common” people lived
- Speaking with commoners
- A lifestyle without luxuries
- An entourage of believers and seekers
- Knew when and how to retreat for rest and rejuvenation
- Criticized/disparaged by the formal leaders

But he has become a superstar in that his way of life, his teachings and his words continue to live and thrive 2,000 years later.

Is he a superstar in your life?

***SUBMITTED BY Grace Brady***



Daily Lenten Readings

Day 21 Fri 3/29/19

## The Gospel of Luke Luke 7-Luke 9

For Luke, everything in Jesus' ministry points towards Jerusalem and the culmination of His ministry. On the way, in these three chapters, Jesus heals the servant of a Roman servant and is amazed by the soldier's faith, he heals Jairus' daughter and a widow who touches the hem of his garment. He calms a storm on the sea of Galilee and uses a little boys lunch of 2 fish and 5 loaves to feed over 5,000 men plus women and children, with 12 baskets of left overs! He takes Peter, James and John with him on a mountain spiritual retreat and encounters Moses and Elijah while they are there. The point here is that journeying through life with Jesus is a glorious adventure. Not that there will not be difficulties and challenges along the way; including some good Fridays. But, God is in the resurrection business and not the burial business. Our journeys may take us through Good Friday, but Sunday morning is always on the horizon.

Read these Chapters today. Reflect on your own experiences and how God has entered your life in surprising and joyous ways! Make today a day of thanksgiving for all that God has done and a day of anticipation all the marvelous things God has yet to do!

***SUBMITTED BY Herbert Lester, Jr.***



## **The Rocks Cry Out!**

### The Gospel of Luke Luke 10-Luke 12

Not too long ago, someone told me it was not politically correct to talk about my faith to people. Not too long after that another person in a very different setting said the same thing. Then, couple of Sundays ago, The Wired Word, the online resource my Sunday School class uses, was about how millennials don't feel the need to evangelize.

Soon after the Lenten Season began, I was reminded, no, told, that all the scriptures had not been 'claimed' for our Lenten Meditations. I went to the sign up sheet and randomly (I thought) chose the above selection, Luke 10-12.

Turns out my selections were not random after all. Chapter 12v8 says, "And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God." Luke 11:33 talks about light which reminded me of one of my favorite verses, Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." My scriptures were not random but God chosen!

Yes, sometimes God does speak in a still small voice. (1 Kings 1:12) but sometimes he puts his Word right in your face!

One more affirming scripture: Luke 19:40 "He answered, I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out!" So "the rocks will never cry out in my place," not as long as I'm clothed and in my right mind!

All praises, all thanksgiving, and all trust are yours, dear God!

Prayer:

Lord, help us to always have the courage to share with others the love, joy, and peace that come with knowing You as our Lord and Savior. Amen

***SUBMITTED BY Lynn Moore***

Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season

**Lent** is a solemn religious observance in the liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday.

**This book of Meditations** is a means of studying and sharing God's word as it was designed by the pastor to read the four books of the Gospels-Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The Devotional Readings will be published in eight booklets. Copies may be requested from the church office or sent electronically.

Rev. Dr. Herbert Lester, Jr., Senior Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Williams, Associate Pastor  
Wanda Clay, Witness Chair and Editor



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Book 4 of 8



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Witness  
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