

# Day 1

**Marty Miranda**

## **Read - Micah 6:8**

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

## **Think**

God's answer to the injustice, pain and evil in the world is found in this verse: Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. This is how we worship God and do what God requires of us. This means our worship of God is not only meant to be a benefit to us personally, but also our neighbor. Anytime we pursue one or two of these without the others, things go wrong. If we pursue Justice without showing mercy or humility, we aren't loving our neighbor. When we pursue mercy in humility, but ignore justice, we aren't loving our neighbor. When we live in justice, mercy and humility, we actively love our neighbor, and participate in what God asks of us. The world is hungry for justice today. To see the changes we want to see, we will need all three.

## **Reflect**

What does it look like to align your life to this verse?

How has God acted justly, shown mercy, and demonstrated humility?

How can you act justly, show mercy and walk in humility?

## **Pray**

God, thank you for your justice, mercy and humility that you've shown me through Jesus. Forgive me where I have gotten this wrong. Lead me and help me align my life with what you want for me, so i can act justly, show mercy, and walk in humility. Amen.

# Day 2

Josie Self

## Read

### ***Psalm 18:30-36 NLT***

*“God’s way is perfect. All the Lord’s promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection. For who is God except the Lord? Who but our God is a solid rock? God arms me with strength, and he makes my way perfect. He makes me as surefooted as a deer, enabling me to stand on mountain heights. He trains my hands for battle; he strengthens my arm to draw a bronze bow. You have given me your shield of victory. Your right hand supports me; your help has made me great. You have made a wide path for my feet to keep them from slipping.”*

## Think

Do you feel tired? Burnt out? Exhausted? David shared many of these same feelings as he was at the hand of his enemies, but God delivered him. It’s easy to feel, in our current season, like darkness is coming at us from all sides. We are surrounded by evil, fear, worry, and uncertainty about the future, but we also know that God’s way is flawless. We can trust in His word, we can take refuge in Him, and will be strengthened by God’s power.

## Reflect

The LORD is our sustainer and our helper. If you feel overwhelmed right now, know that God is extending His peace, His shield, His strength, and His help to you in this very moment. This Psalm says that God leads us on a wide path to keep our feet from slipping. We can let go of our fear and worry because God has got us no matter what. Spend some time journaling about how you’re feeling right now and surrender those things to God.

## Pray

LORD I need you. Your way and your word are perfect and trustworthy and I want to walk on the path that you have for me. I am tired, God, but I know that you will fill me with your strength. I am anxious, but I know that you will lift my head and my spirit. I don’t have to be scared because you are my protector, my helper, and my deliverer. Thank you for your mercy and your grace. Amen.

# Day 3

Dan Self

## Read

### *Daniel 7:13-14*

*"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He Approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."*

## Think

The prophet Daniel sees a vision of the end of all things. There are many other details in verses 1-12, but the climactic point of the whole vision is "the son of man" being given all power and all authority and the establishing of his kingdom which would last forever. This means that the only kingdom and the only power structure and the only values that will endure forever are the values of Christ. As followers of Christ we *should* be shocked and unsettled by the suffering in the world, but we should stand firm in Christ because we are confident in his return.

## Reflect

Jesus' kingdom is coming, and WE get to be part of bringing his kingdom to earth NOW! This should cause us to 1) Protest and be unhappy with the injustice in the world 2) Actively look for ways to extend Jesus' kingdom of peace and justice in our world today. We will not know how to make a difference in world-wide injustice if we fail to make a difference in daily, immediate injustices. Do your words advocate for others or create a margin? Do your actions elevate the low, or do your actions attempt to raise yourself up while allowing others to remain in oppression? These are questions Christ followers must ask.

## Pray

Jesus, send your kingdom soon. We need it. Creation needs it. We look forward to the day when your peace and your justice uphold the world, and we vow to take part in bringing your kingdom now. We repent of our indifference toward injustice, and we ask you to empower us through with Spirit to be your partners in building your kingdom.

# Day 4

Dayne Scanlon

## Read

Philippians 1:27 (NIV)

“27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel /”

## Think

As the body of Christ, and as followers of Jesus, we have been given the great and important responsibility of bearing the name of Christ. The implications of being a Christian means that whatever you do you do it in the name of Christ! When you are adopted into the family, your actions are a reflection of the family. This might sound like scary news, but it's actually great news! Paul's charge to the Philippian church is just to remind them that their actions no longer affect just them, but the church as a whole. This means that today, you have a huge opportunity to shine Jesus' light to those who do not yet know him, and you have the ability to begin healing where brokenness once was.

## Reflect

- Ask yourself, where in your life have you seen/experienced the church doing a good job of representing Christ with their actions? Now, ask yourself, where have you seen the church not do a good job of this.
- Understand that Jesus trusts you to bear his name, otherwise he wouldn't give it to you. Feeling the weight of that trust, how are your conversations affected? How are your actions affected? How is what you choose to post on social media affected?
- What does it mean to live “worthy” of this great calling in your life today?

## Pray

God, thank you for trusting me to bear the name of Jesus to those who do not yet know you. I pray that you would give me wisdom and courage to live worthy of this great calling. Holy spirit I invite you to intercede on my behalf where I fail to represent you in a way that is glorifying to you, and I ask for forgiveness of where I've failed to do this in the past.

God, you alone are king, you alone are good, and I commit this day to you!

AMEN

# Day 5

Laurie Schroeder HCC

## Read

### Romans 15:5-7

*<sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, <sup>6</sup> so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

## Think

Have you ever witnessed a group of Christians squabble over something using words laced with judgement and superiority? Did their argument give you a reason to praise God? Probably not. Paul's letter to the Romans addresses how their lack of unity and abounding judgment towards others in their church was destructive to their mission. They were focusing on side-issues instead of their main purpose: to help people see and praise God.

Think about some of the ways Jesus related to others: he touched the untouchables (Matthew 8:3); he spoke to and taught women against societal norms (Luke 8:1-3; 10:38-42); he had the audacity to travel through Samaria – an area filled with people the Jews hated (John 4:1-42); he valued children (Matthew 18:1-8) and cared for widows (Luke 7:11-17); throughout the Gospels he healed, fed, and taught those who sought him out. Jesus probably didn't 100% agree with their theology, politics, or philosophy. But he saw the intrinsic value of each person, because they were created by God. Our job is to do the same.

Because our world is damaged by sin, this can be hard. We have biases, scars, and training causing us to act certain ways. Having an attitude like Jesus is a long-term goal that we have to work with God to achieve. As we learn to love as Jesus loved, we can point people to how he transforms our hearts towards others. As a community, we can amplify those praises. "Look how God has brought together such an eclectic group of people." "See how God has taught us to care for each other regardless of \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank)."

## Reflect

- Since you began learning about Jesus, how has God changed who you value?
- Is there anyone or a group of people you struggle with valuing in the same way Jesus values them?
- What is one small way you can acknowledge that someone has value?

## Pray

- Ask God to give you the attitude of Jesus towards others – particularly those you thought about in the reflection section. Ask him to provide opportunities to share how he's changing who you value.
- Pray for everyone in your youth group. Ask God to bring praise to himself through a collective change in how each student and leader values one another.