

Day 1

Braden Curalli

Read

Mark 10:17-22

17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. 19 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” 20 He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” 21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” 22 When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Think

It is easy to think of ourselves as sinners and begin to define ourselves by how we have messed up in our past. When we look in the mirror we see a sinner staring back. We see our flaws, our disorders and our addictions. I want to highlight one small part of this passage. In verse 21 we read, “looking at him, loved him.” This passage shows us that when Jesus looks at us He does not see our sin first, He loves us first. While the reality of Jesus' call is incredibly hard and uncomfortable, the love of Jesus outweighs any challenge. Jesus defines you as someone who is pursued. Pursued by Jesus each and every day.

Your faith is defined by a Cross not a Fall.

Reflect

If you are struggling with a disorder, remember these words, “looking at you, loved you.”

If you are filled with doubt, remember these words, “looking at you, loved you.”

If you are stuck in insecurity, remember these words, “looking at you, loved you.”

If you are lost in sin, remember these words, “looking at you, loved you.”

If you are stuck in temptation, remember these words, “looking at you, loved you.”

If you are lost in addiction, remember these words, “looking at you, loved you.”

If you are unsure if you believe, remember these words, “looking at you, loved you.”

Pray

O Lord,

I'm hurting. I'm broken.

Help me to remember what defines me.

Remind me that when you look at me, you love me first.

Help me to look at others and love them first.

Fill me with your love so that I may overflow.

Day 2

Marty Miranda

Read

Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Think

When God showed up in Abraham's life and told him he would bless him and make his name great, Abraham dropped his own plans for his life and signed up for a trip without knowing the destination!

Why would Abraham do this? Because Abraham was persuaded by the God who has it all together and all figured out.

He obeyed God and went out in faith without knowing where he was going, because he was fully convinced that God would lead and guide him.

Reflect

Life is hard right now. Our world is full of unrest and unknowns. You may be worried about your future or wondering what God has in store for you. In all these things, you can, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." - Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust God. He is with you. He is enough. He is the goal. He has a plan for you. He will lead you, He will guide you.

Pray

God, thank you that you are with me, you are enough and you are the goal. You have a plan and you will lead me. I trust you with all my heart. Direct my steps toward your best for my life and the world around me. In Jesus name, Amen.

Day 3

Chrissy HCC

Read- *James 1:19-21* “19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.”

Think- It is hard to be slow to speak when you feel very passionate about something or when you are hurt or frustrated. The reality is however, that our initial feelings about something tend to be misleading. Just like James is saying in this passage we have to rid ourselves of our sinful nature, greed, judgement, harshness. We have to choose to be humble before God and accept what he says as truth and respond from that place.

Reflect- Have you found yourself feeling like you need to tell someone off? Make your point heard? What if instead you took the perspective of Christ and became humble enough to give up your own wants and desires and comforts to listen to someone else. Instead of making yourself understood, seek to understand someone else.

Pray- Jesus you gave your life so that all may receive the love of God. Not just the people who are “right” or “good” but for everyone. Help me to be slow to speak and slow to anger and instead allow your Holy Spirit to refresh me and give me compassion for everyone I come in contact with.

Day 4

Dan Self - WCC

Read

“Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord;
may your love and faithfulness always protect me.
For troubles without number surround me;
my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.
They are more than the hairs of my head,
and my heart fails within me.
Be pleased to save me, Lord;
come quickly, Lord, to help me.”

Think

- Have you ever considered that righteous people in the Bible cry out to God in protest of the evil in their world?
- What is happening in your world that you know is not God’s will? Divorce, death, poverty, depression- think hard.
- Do you believe that God is saddened by these things, too?

Reflect

God is the giver of all good things, and he wants good things for his children. I find such comfort in Psalms like these that *protest* the evil in the world. Sometimes we just accept evil and hardship as a part of life, but there is a distinct pattern of righteous people in the Bible crying out to God- “God, do something about this!” It’s scary to think about protesting something happening in our world to God, but what if our reaction to evil- by protesting it in prayer to God- unites us with the heart of our good God who is saddened and disgusted by the evil and hardship in the world?

Pray

God, you alone are good, and from you all good things flow. I am living in a world that is far from good, and I see this lack of goodness everywhere (be specific, here). I refuse to accept that this is what you want for me or for your world, because the truth I read about in your Word paints a different picture of you. So God, I ask and plead and pray that you would conquer the evil in my life. Repair relationships, heal sickness, defeat the enemy. You are the primary source of goodness in my life and in this world, and I ask that you draw me closer to you and align my thoughts with yours.

Day 5

Garrett Carr - WCC

Read

Psalm 118:8-9, 24, ESV *"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

Think

It's really easy for us to forget that the Lord is actually breathing life into each and every day. We believe that He is intimately involved in His creation. This Psalm wants to point us back to that. If you can, I encourage you to read the whole thing. There is a new joy found in remembering how close God is to us each and every day. In this time of being home so much, it can feel like joy is just being sucked out of us. The lack of activity can be exhausting. It can be a dark time for some of you where your thoughts and fears seem louder than ever. Especially in times like these, we have to look for simple ways to reflect on Jesus, allowing the joy of knowing Him to fill us up.

Reflect

Whenever you're reading this, take a second to thank God for this day. It's a phrase that we usually breeze through in our prayers, "Thank you for this day", but actually meditate on it for a minute or two. Thank him for the rest that you got the night before or the food that you have/had to eat this morning. Each and every day is filled with so much unknown for us, but we can remember that God has formed this day and, therefore, is with us. By doing this, He will fill us with more joy. Secondly, look for one way to change up your routine. If you've been on your phone a ton, go for a walk around the neighborhood and listen to worship music. If you've been watching a ton of Netflix, maybe play a board game with your siblings. Instead of getting stuck in a routine to simply pass the day away, make one intentional choice to be with God or others around you.

Pray

Jesus, thank you that you have formed this day. Thank you for knowing my life in an intimate way. I know that you have given me each day to come close to you and to come close to the people around me. Help me today to feel comfort where I am feeling discouraged. Help me to feel energy where I am feeling lethargic or tired. I ask specifically for you to fill me with joy; that I would not take today for granted, but that I would have hope and trust in you.