

Devotions

Questions Jesus Asked

Fine tuning your hearing from the Lord

Scriptures are from the Amplified Version Bible
Other versions will be noted

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These devotions are not only daily inspirations through the scriptures, but also an exercise in hearing the voice of God. When you enter your devotion time, do not jump right into reading the day's devotion. Instead, get quiet and wait until you sense you are with Him. When you do sense Him, wait to be released before you move into the devotion. This is your special time for a two-way exchange with the Lord and you are in a holy place. Do not doubt He is with you and He wants to speak to you. When it is time to ask Him questions - ask, believe and listen! If you hear nothing, try asking a different question and again listen. If you still struggle with this, then take up a pen and write out your question, writing right into the answer. Your pen will flow and you will be writing His thoughts - His answer. May you be blessed, touched and inspired. Amen.

More devotions at www.newwingsinnerhealing.org

Day 1

Jesus Asks: What do you want?

Read John 1:35-42

John 1:38 *And Jesus turned and saw them **following** Him, and asked them, "What do you want?" They answered Him, "Rabbi (which translated means **Teacher**), where are You **staying**?"*

Ponder:

Jesus wanted to know the heart, the hunger and the intent of commitment in those seeking to follow him. Therefore, he asks them, "What do you want?" What about us? What do we want in this following Jesus we are doing? Can we give voice to our hearts hunger and do we see how deep our commitment is or isn't? Jesus still wants to know what it is we are after, what it is we want - with Him. Consider this in your time with Him today. Consider allowing a deeper intimacy with the Lord. What do you want?

Question to you:

These men were looking for the Messiah. In verse 38, there are three words that allude to what these men wanted. (Bolded words). What are the three words and their implication?

Ask Him and Listen:

Lord, what do you want me to personally know or consider regarding how I should **follow** you better?

Lord, what do you want me to personally know or consider regarding how I am to be **taught** by you?

Lord, what do you want me to personally know or consider regarding my **abiding** in you?

Pray

Father, I want what you want. Today you have shown me that you want me to follow better by _____ . Help me to do that. I want to be a good disciple.

Father, put in me a teachable spirit. Today you have spoken to me how to be taught better by you. You have told me _____. With your help I will do that. Thank you.

And Father, I choose today, to abide more in you. I know this starts by being at your feet. Draw me into deeper fellowship with you. I receive your personal word to me today about abiding in you. You have told me _____. Lord, I will do that as I commit to seek you more, listen to you more and abide in you more. Give me a seekers heart. Thank you for speaking to me today. I will hold it all precious. Amen.

Day 2

Jesus Asks: What is that to you and to Me?

Read: John 2: 1-12

John 2:1-5 *On the third day there was a wedding at Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. When the wine was all gone, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no more wine." Jesus said to her, "[Dear] woman, what is that to you and to Me? My time [to act and to be revealed] has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."*

Ponder

Mary petitions the Lord like we often petition him, "Do something." By Jesus' answer, we would think He was not going to give what she asks. "It is not my time," He tells her. Were there other times, before this wedding, that Mary knew Jesus could help, but it wasn't his time so she put off asking? But this day, at this wedding, she asks and she expects him to do that something, and He does it! Now, today and forever, it is His time. And our time! It is always our time to pray and expect and we can believe that He will act and reveal His love and care to us and our situation.

Today, are you seeing someone with a need, whose wine has ran out? Maybe the love and passion in someone's marriage, or someone's passion for God has waned. Maybe someone is down and they need a visit or someone is financially hurting. Who comes to your mind? What is the first step to take in helping them?

Question:

If you were one of the servants who was told to pour water into the empty vessels, what attitude would you have had?

How easily do you say, "Whatever you say, Lord, I will do it"?

Ask Him and Listen:

Jesus, you said to your mother that it wasn't your time, yet you went ahead and did what she asked of you. Why?

Lord, per this example of the servants filling empty vessels with water so you can produce wine, what is that which I am to pour into an empty vessel and who is the vessel?

Pray

Lord Jesus, I pray for _____ today, and their need for _____. I ask that you _____. Thank you. I thank you, Lord that it is always your time for us; that what concerns us also concerns you. Continue to show me the needs of others that I can pray for them and also when you ask of me to do something regarding their need, I can do it – in this way I can fill vessels with water so you can turn it into wine. I acknowledge it is always time to ask, and that there will be no wine if we do not ask. Mary asked and her faith assured her you would answer for she prepared for the answer as soon as she asked. (Whatever He says to you, do it.) Father, I ask you to replenish your children, fill us up, and bring new life to our destitute situations. Father as I pray for others, I see I too enjoy your wine poured for me. May I be ever asking and anticipating the best wine. Amen.

Day 3

Jesus Asks: If I told you earthly things and you did not believe, how will you believe me and trust me if I tell you heavenly things?

Read: John 3: 1-21

John 3:3 *Jesus answered him, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless a person is born again [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified], he cannot [ever] see and experience the kingdom of God."*

John 3:11 *I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, We speak only of what we know [we know absolutely what we are talking about]; we have actually seen what we are testifying to [we were eyewitnesses of it]. And still you do not receive our testimony [you reject and refuse our evidence—that of Myself and of all those who are born of the Spirit].*

Ponder:

It is by the Spirit we are born again. It is by the Spirit that we get an understanding that the mind alone cannot give us. Jesus' explanation of the Spirit and being born again at first boggled Nicodemus. Jesus makes his case (John 3:1-21): You've seen miracles, Nicodemus, and you now seek more understanding. This is good, but you must be born again, born of the Spirit, to understand the more you are seeking.

Jesus continues, speaking of the invisible Spirit and explains that like the wind that is also invisible but yet can be observed, so too the Spirit can be observed. Do you take notice daily of the Holy Spirit? Is the third person of the trinity as real to you as the Father and the Son is? Observe and receive today.

Question:

Jesus gives testimony to the Holy Spirit, the unseen presence of God. When was a time the Spirit was seen by you, though invisible, that you can testify to?

Ask Him and Listen:

Lord, hearing your Holy Spirit speak into my spirit is a wonderful and encouraging way to begin my day. Holy Spirit, what are you giving me new understanding of today in this bible reading?

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you for the new birth and that you are a communicating God. I want to become more a spirit man, aware of heavenly truths and mysteries. I thank you that it is by your Spirit we have understanding. I do want to move more in the spirit, pray in the spirit and speak by the spirit. Lead me in your way, Lord. I will follow. Cause me to be fully a man/woman of the spirit. Amen.

Day 4

Jesus Asks: Will you give me a drink?

Read: John 4: 7-26 (NIV)

John 4: 7 *When a Samaritan woman came to draw water Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"*

John 4:9-10 *The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."*

Ponder

When we listen to the Holy Spirit, we might hear the Lord asking us some surprising questions. And if we listen and also ponder and ask some questions back, we may find more at the well than what we were expecting to get!

Questions:

Jesus exposed things in the Samaritan woman's life that may have caused her shame. But did the conversation make her feel condemned and shameful? Why or why not?

Jesus had water, living water, to give this woman, yet he asks her, "Will you give *me* a drink?" Read the full dialogue. Complete this sentence:

It seems that Jesus was wanting to get the Samaritan woman to _____.
(Think, talk, realize, ask?) What are your thoughts?

Ask Him and Listen:

Lord, the Samaritan woman needed what you had to give her - living water. What do you want me to ask of you today? Ask me a question that I may then ask of you. (Write out your dialogue here.)

Prayer:

Thank him for the insight given today. You know all about me and you know where you want to take me deeper with you. I thank you for revealing to me my heart, my mind, and the depth of my commitment. You have revealed to me _____, and I will _____. Thank you for your unconditional love and the hope you give me for all my tomorrows. Draw me to the well, Lord, that I may run to it daily and converse with you in a life changing way. Amen.

Day 5

Jesus Asks: Do you want to get well?

Read: John 5: 1-17

John 5:5-8 *There was a certain man there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus noticed him lying there [helpless], knowing that he had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to get well?" The invalid answered, "Sir, I have no one to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am coming [to get into it myself], someone else steps down ahead of me."*

John 5:15-17 *The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason the Jews began to persecute Jesus continually because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now [He has never ceased working], and I too am working."*

Ponder

A certain man who has been ill for 38 years! And nothing is working in this man's favor. He can never get into the pool before the others (The first in was healed), and no one had any regard or care for his situation. He knew well that it was every man for him self and that it was pretty much hopeless for him unless someone showed him mercy. Then that moment comes, Jesus is looking at him, and Jesus is seeing his predicament. This man, Jesus, gives him, the cripple, hope. But first, Jesus needs one thing from the man. And so Jesus asks...

Question:

An invalid for 38 years, by the pool of healing, hoping to be healed, and Jesus asks him, "Do you want to get well?" Was it not obvious to Jesus the answer to that question or is there something else going on? "Do you want to get well?" Why does Jesus ask this? What is Jesus after? Look at the man's answer. What confession did the man make that Jesus was wanting to hear?

Ask Him and Listen:

Where am I expecting others to help me instead of you, Lord? What do you say about this? Wait and listen.

Prayer:

Jesus, I acknowledge you as my source for my _____ (healing, solution, miracle or other). Forgive me for not bringing this to you earlier but trying in my own strength to fix things or wishing someone else would just fix it when they really can't. I realize you have been waiting for me to ask of you and that we "have not when we ask not". By faith, today, I receive from you the filling of my need. One touch from you is all I need, one glance from you upon my concerns. My own efforts are weak and fall short. I know you are the way to the miracle waiting me in the pool. Thank you for making a way to the presence through your death upon the cross. Thank you! Amen.

Day 6

Jesus Asks: Where will we buy bread for these people to eat?

Read: John 6: 1-14

John 6:5-7 *Jesus looked up and saw that a large crowd was coming toward Him, and He said to Philip, "Where will we buy bread for these people to eat?" But He said this to test Philip, because He knew what He was about to do. Philip answered, "Two hundred denarii (200 days' wages) worth of bread is not enough for each one to receive even a little."*

John 6:8-10 *One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are these for so many people?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down [to eat]." Now [the ground] there was [covered with] an abundance of grass, so the men sat down, about 5,000 in number.*

Ponder:

Jesus wants his disciples to think outside the box... to see possibilities according to the spirit rather than according to the physical or natural. So He asks THEM to figure out a way to feed 5000+ people. Phillip is overwhelmed and Andrew, tongue in cheek, points out the 5 loaves and 2 fish – not enough! Jesus jumps at that. Yes! Let's see something grow from "not enough" into "more than enough." Outside of the box, definitely!

Question:

Consider the thoughts of the disciples as they instructed 5000+ to sit down because they were going to feed them with a mere 5 loaves and 2 fish. What would you be thinking if you were Andrew or Philip?

Ask Him and Listen:

Lord, is there something you have asked of me, or that I need to see happen, which I have brushed off as impossible?

Pray:

Father, help me to think beyond the natural and into the spiritual where you make things happen, multiply, produce and bring life. Build my faith for that which man says is impossible. In the area of _____ I need my faith increased. I choose today to believe that you can do beyond what is humanly possible and you will bring something out of nothing and provide more than enough, far beyond my expectations. I ask for this miracle: _____.

And I thank you in advance, because if you can feed 5000 men with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, I know you can do this for me. I believe that with You all things are always possible. Amen.

Day 7

Jesus Asks: Does this cause you to stumble and take offense?

Read: John 6: 41-65

John 6:54-56 *The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood [believes in Me, accepts Me as Savior] has eternal life [that is, now possesses it], and I will raise him up [from the dead] on the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is true [spiritual] food, and My blood is true [spiritual] drink. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood [believes in Me, accepts Me as Savior] remains in Me, and I [in the same way remain] in him.*

John 6:60-63 *When many of His disciples heard this, they said, "This is a difficult and harsh and offensive statement. Who can [be expected to] listen to it?" ⁶¹ But Jesus, aware that His disciples were complaining about it, asked them, "Does this cause you to stumble and take offense? ⁶² What then [will you think] if you see the Son of Man ascending to [the realm] where He was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh conveys no benefit [it is of no account]. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life [providing eternal life].*

Ponder:

Those gathered around heard Jesus command that they "eat his flesh and drink his blood." This was an outrageous thought and against Jewish law to do such a thing. The problem here was that these men heard with their mind not their spirit and so of course, they rejected what they heard. Because they did not consider the flip side of the coin they missed the point – the spiritual implication/message behind Jesus' words.

Question:

Are there any commands Jesus makes in the bible for us to follow that you find outrageous or just difficult? (examples: Love your enemy. Count it all joy when you suffer. When someone strikes you, turn the other cheek. When someone takes your shirt, give him your coat.) Which bothers you? (Or used to bother you?)

Ask Him and Listen:

Jesus, your word says, (or you have spoken to me to) _____ and I can't wrap my head around this. I am asking for understanding of this command and I am asking why I can't surrender to this word. My ears are open, my spirit listening. What say ye, Lord?

Prayer:

Forgive me, Lord, for not pursuing to understand parts of scripture I find outrageous or difficult and instead determine to be impossible for me to follow or determine that it is too harsh and you didn't mean it like this. Forgive me for rejecting what I don't understand. Thank you that you promise to give me answers when I ask for wisdom or that you will lead me to someone or some source that can explain it. Teach me how to hear beyond my mind and to let your Spirit speak to my spirit. What I don't yet understand, I chose to accept anyway because if you say it then it is so. Give me an obedient heart to follow and obey even without understanding, because Father, you are wiser than I and wiser than any counsel of man. Amen.

Day 8

Jesus Asks: Do you want to leave me too, do you?

Read: John 6: 60-71

John 6:61-62 *But Jesus, aware that His disciples were complaining about it, asked them, “Does this cause you to stumble and take offense? ⁶² What then [will you think] if you see the Son of Man ascending to [the realm] where He was before?*

John 6: 66-67 *As a result of this many of His disciples abandoned Him, and no longer walked with Him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve [disciples], “You do not want to leave too, do you?”*

John 6:68-69 *Simon Peter answered, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You [alone] have the words of eternal life [you are our only hope]. ⁶⁹ We have believed and confidently trusted, and [even more] we have come to know [by personal observation and experience] that You are the Holy One of God [the Christ, the Son of the living God].”*

Ponder:

This question follows the teaching about eating his flesh and drinking his blood and is connected to the question, “Does this cause you to stumble?” Jesus’ choice of words – eating flesh and drinking blood - was offensive without a doubt. Some probably would say the twelve were crazy to follow such a man whose teachings were so offensive. What was Jesus doing? Was he intentionally weeding out the disciples? Maybe he was seeking to find those who would have a revelation like Peter did. Maybe.

Question:

“You are our only hope.” This is a key statement made by Simon Peter. When the world says it is ludicrous to follow Jesus, that it is a crutch they don’t need, or that you must be simple because you choose to believe a story about a cross and blood and rising from the dead, why do you stick with Jesus?

Ask Him and Listen:

Lord, I couldn’t answer the question. Why?

Lord, I could answer the question, but I ask, is there an area in me I need you to strengthen so my commitment would be more solid?

Lord, verse 62 seems out of place. Why are you referring to the ascension in this passage?

Pray

Forgive me for the times I might have abandoned you, secretly in my heart, because I didn’t like specifics of the gospel. Forgive me keeping silent at times when the gospel is talked about in a negative way, and for being ever embarrassed of the gospel message. Because I know and believe You are the Holy one of God, no other is worthy of my allegiance and faith more than you. Judas left you. Was it because he found the gospel offensive? May I never be a disciple that leaves you, so in the place where I am weak, please burn it out of me with fire. Give me experiences, even trials that will solidify my walk with you. Where else would I go, Lord, but to you! Amen.

Day 9

Jesus Asks: Why are you angry with me?

Read: John 7: 19-24

John 7:19 *“Did not Moses give you the Law? And yet not one of you keeps the Law. Why do you want to kill Me [for not keeping it]?”*

John: 7:23 *If, to avoid breaking the Law of Moses, a man undergoes circumcision on the Sabbath, why are you angry with Me for making a man’s whole body well on the Sabbath?*

John 7:24 *Do not judge by appearance [superficially and arrogantly], but judge fairly and righteously.”*

Ponder:

Jesus is being accused of working on the Sabbath by men who themselves work on the Sabbath. Good reasoning tells us they should be angry with themselves. However, it is Jesus they are angry with. Self-righteousness and their legalistic thinking have tipped the scales grotesquely; they are unable to love, unable to understand love or even unable to see love in action. And they are angry! Why? Could it be because Jesus is rocking their theological boat? It is hard to get out of a boat you have been in for a long time, even if the boat is a sinker. Stubbornness is written all over this story rather than the humility and love meant for the hearts of those we see are angry!

Questions:

The Pharisees judged Jesus unfairly for healing on the Sabbath. Ideally, how should they have responded?

When did you last feel angry towards someone in a religious discussion? If not you, have you ever witnessed someone else getting angry for theological reasons? How did it end?

Ask Him and Listen:

Lord, where am I being harsh and legalistic, even angry with others?

What is my sinking boat called?

What do you want me to do about this?

Prayer:

Lord, forgive me for the times I have been hard on others and failed to comprehend the law of love and exercise it. I have been stubborn at times when my theological boat was rocked. I want to do love better. Your gospel is a compassionate gospel not a judging gospel. I want to be like you, not religious, not legalistic, but compassionate. Transform me as I submit this to you and repent of my lack of love and humility. Amen

Day 10

Jesus Asks: Where are they? Did no one condemn you?

John 8:3-11 *Now the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery. They made her stand in the center of the court,⁴ and they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the very act of adultery.⁵ Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women [to death]. So what do You say [to do with her—what is Your sentence]?”⁶ They said this to test Him, hoping that they would have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and began writing on the ground with His finger.⁷ However, when they persisted in questioning Him, He straightened up and said, “He who is without [any] sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”⁸ Then He stooped down again and started writing on the ground.⁹ They listened [to His reply], and they began to go out one by one, starting with the oldest ones, until He was left alone, with the woman [standing there before Him] in the center of the court.¹⁰ Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?”¹¹ She answered, “No one, Lord!” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you either. Go. From now on sin no more.”]*

Ponder:

Jesus was being set up when the scribes and Pharisees began questioning him over an adulteress woman. They were sure his answers would justify some stone throwing. However, Jesus took his time, giving no quick answer. He fiddled in the dirt, writing something, and in this and His verbal response, he successfully shifted the focus away from himself and the accused woman and right into the hearts of the very accusers. Amazing, how our Lord can do that!

Question:

We judge often. Yes, we do. So in the midst of your judging, what would make you throw down your stone and walk away?

What is the significance that the oldest were the first to walk away?

Ask Him and listen:

Am I judging someone right now and who?

What is the writing in the dirt for me?

Prayer

Lord, forgive me for casting stones, me a sinner. I have specifically cast stones at _____ for _____. I hear what you are saying to me about this and I am humbled. I repent. Bless that person I have judged and forgive me.

Lord, I know that some stones have been cast at me in the past. I choose now to forgive the person (_____) who has done so. We are all sinners, all in need of a savior, all in need of forgiveness and mercy. I choose to not condemn but to love. Those who are merciful shall receive mercy. Be merciful to me, Lord, a sinner, as I am merciful to others. Amen.

Day 11

Jesus asks: Do you believe in the Son of Man?

John 9:35-37 *Jesus heard that they had put him out [of the synagogue], and finding him, He asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “Who is He, Sir? Tell me so that I may believe in Him.” Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and [in fact] He is the one who is talking with you.”*

John 9:38 -39 *And he said, “Lord, I believe [in You and Your word]!” And he worshiped Him [with reverence and awe].³⁹ Then Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment [to separate those who believe in Me from those who reject Me—to declare judgment on those who choose to be separated from God], so that the sightless would see, and those who see would become blind.”*

Ponder:

Jesus asks, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” The healed cripple asks back, “Who is the Son of Man?” And the answer is, “It is Jesus, the one talking to you now!” At this moment, depending on his decision, this man who Jesus is talking with, would be either united with God for eternity, or be separated from God for eternity. This was his moment of decision.

In your pondering today, also consider that Jesus came back to the man a few days after healing him to make sure the man knew that He, Jesus, is the Son of God, the awaited Messiah. So Jesus also goes out of his way to find us and ask us a similar question so we too can choose to believe. Jesus is always asking us questions. May it be we take seriously what He asks us so we can give him an answer.

Question:

There were, no doubt, some prodding words to you by the Holy Spirit leading you to believe upon Jesus Christ. Maybe it was the same as given the man in John 9, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” Maybe it was “Does God really exist?” or “Will you make Jesus your Lord?” Think about the day He came looking for you. He came because He knew something about you that told him you needed to be asked now to make that most important decision. The cripple was being hounded and questioned by the enemies of God. What was being tossed around in your mind prior to believing in Jesus Christ?

Ask Him and Listen:

Jesus, I love that you pursue me to make sure I have every opportunity to get things right. What is your question to me today?

Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, that you went all out to save me, first on the cross, then by the prodding of the Holy Spirit. Today, your question to me is _____. And my answer is _____. Thank you for pursuing me and bringing me into a deeper faith. Because You continue to pursue and ask me prodding questions, I am blessed to further realize your goodness. Thank You that you make sure we connect, and re-connect throughout this journey. Amen.

Day 12

Jesus Asks: Are there not 12 hours in a day?

Read: John 11: 1-16

John 11:8-10 *"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours [of light] in the day? Anyone who walks in the daytime does not stumble, because he sees [by] the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because there is no light in him."*

John 11:16 *Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."*

John 9:4-5 *We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the world [giving guidance through My word and works]."*

John 8:12 *Once more Jesus addressed the crowd. He said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."*

Ponder

Jesus uses an analogy of daylight and darkness to explain how impossible it is for us to not be safe when we walk in the light (of Christ) and have the light (Jesus) in us. Faith says, "I will not perish unless the Father wills it." Therefore Jesus was at peace to go to Judea where they had previously attempted to stone Him. And he was in God's timing, not man's, having waited several days before traveling to Bethany. 12 hours of daylight – ample time because there is always a set time for the will of God to occur. Thomas, on the other hand, was sure they would die if they went, but to his honor, he was willing to go and yes die. He'd do this for Jesus. He was going to learn about the 12 hours of daylight!

Question:

Per the scriptures, what are the *benefits* of walking in the light?

What does it look like when a believer walks in the light?

Ask Him and Listen:

Lord, am I avoiding going or doing anything due to fear? What is it?

Lord, what do I need to grasp about the 12 hours of daylight? (What did Thomas need to know?)

Prayer:

Father, I admit that in certain situations I do tremble. There are things or people I avoid. I lose sight that you are in me and with me, and that I have words of life and the Spirit of Truth illuminating wherever I go. As I am in your will, and bearing your character, I need not fear but believe and rest and thus know your peace. I choose to embrace this peace that believes that truth that, until it is my time, nothing shall cause me to perish. Make me fearless in my following you. Help me to go when you lead. With this knowing, that I am indeed in your will, I will see amazing things happen as I allow you to work in my life and my situation. Make me to walk all 12 hours of daylight trusting you. Amen

Day 13

Jesus Asks: Where have you laid him?

Read: John 11:33-44

John 11:33-35 *When Jesus saw her sobbing, and the Jews who had come with her also sobbing, He was deeply moved in spirit [to the point of anger at the sorrow caused by death] and was troubled,³⁴ and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said, "Lord, come and see."³⁵ Jesus wept.*

John 11:38-39 *Now Jesus, again sighing repeatedly and deeply disquieted, approached the tomb. It was a cave (a hole in the rock), and a boulder lay against [the entrance to close] it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone". Martha, the sister of the dead man, exclaimed, "But Lord, by this time he [is decaying and] throws off an offensive odor, for he has been dead four days!"*

John 11:43 *When He had said this, He shouted with a loud voice, Lazarus, come out!*

Isaiah 61:1 *The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, (NIV)*

Ponder

Jesus was moved in spirit. The Amplified Bible says He was sorrowed and angry due to the death and loss. The enemy brings death when he kills, steals and destroys things in our life. Death, by the way of the enemy, stinks and is cruel. Death by the enemy carries with it grave clothes that bind and oppress. Jesus wept. "Where have they laid him?" He asks. Might we put it this way: "Show me the tomb of death because I am going to conquer it. I am going to defeat the oppressive stench of the kingdom of darkness and instead release my aroma of life. You see, I am about to reveal *my* kingdom! I am also going to remove the grave clothes draped on my children and discard them forever, setting captives free by defeating the devil. I am going to make life possible for those who believe in me. Give me the Cross and it will be finished!" "Come out!" he shouted. "Be set free! I go to the Cross for you!"

Question:

What has been killed, stolen or destroyed in your life that needs resurrected? Name it.

Ask Him and Listen:

Jesus, what do I need to do, make right, or see more clearly in order to receive back the ground the enemy has taken from me? What did he show you?

Prayer:

I thank you, Lord, that through the power of the cross the enemy has already been defeated. I now repent of (or I see more clearly that) _____, which has given the enemy an open door in my life allowing him to steal and destroy and even kill. I receive your forgiveness and I now receive back two-fold all that has been taken from me. I take off any grave clothes I may have put on. I proclaim I am an aroma of Christ unto life as I walk in obedience. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Day 14

Jesus Asks: Whom do you want?

Read: John 18: 1-5

John 18:4-5 *Then Jesus, knowing all that was about to happen to Him, went to them and asked, "Whom do you want?" They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." Jesus said, "I am He." And Judas, who was betraying Him, was also standing with them.*

John 18:11 *So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword [back] in its sheath! Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"*

Titus 2:14 *who [willingly] gave Himself [to be crucified] on our behalf to redeem us and purchase our freedom from all wickedness, and to purify for Himself a chosen and very special people to be His own possession, who are enthusiastic for doing what is good.*

Ponder:

Jesus knew all that was about to happen. He knew the ones coming wanted him, yet again, he asks a question he already knows the answer to, "Whom do you want?" By asking the question, Jesus gave himself the opportunity to submit to what was coming. "I am He," he said, and He went willingly with those who came for him. Who do we want? Surely this is the kind of God, the kind of Lord that we want, for His love is so very great and his willingness to take our punishment is so amazing. *Amazing love, how can it be, that Christ my savior would die for me.*

Question:

If Jesus had put up a struggle with the ones who came for Him, if he had shouted to the disciples to draw their swords, what would that have implied to us?

Ask Him and Listen:

Lord, what mission are you calling me to today that I may lay myself down fully to do your will?

Prayer:

Father, I thank you for the goodness of your Son and His sacrifice for me. I thank you he was not dragged to the cross, angry with what was to be done to Him, but He was truly a lamb for me. I see that He was strengthened to follow His call. I need strengthened too, to be all you want me to be (A good mother, father, friend, disciple, employee, intercessor, sharer of the gospel...etc). I believe you care and you will equip and prepare me for everything you call me to do. Help me in the difficult times and may I not disappoint you and those depending on me. My mission you have for me is _____. I trust you will equip me and see me through. Amen.

Day 15

Jesus Asks: Who touched my Clothes?

Read: Mark 5:25-34

Luke 8:43-44 *And a woman who had [suffered from] a hemorrhage for twelve years [and had spent all her money on physicians], and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His outer robe, and immediately her bleeding stopped.*

Mark 5:30-32 *Immediately Jesus, recognizing in Himself that power had gone out from Him, turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched My clothes?" His disciples said to Him, "You see the crowd pressing in around You [from all sides], and You ask, 'Who touched Me?'" Still He kept looking around to see the woman who had done it.*

Luke 8:47-48 *When the woman saw that she had not escaped notice, she came up trembling and fell down before Him. She declared in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith [your personal trust and confidence in Me] has made you well. Go in peace (untroubled, undisturbed well-being)."*

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him, for whoever comes [near] to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He rewards those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him.*

Ponder

It says, "Still he kept looking around to see the woman who had done it." You see, the slightest effort we give to touch him he notices! Hebrews tells us that God rewards those who earnestly seek Him out. It was important to Jesus to know who touched Him and he wanted to see who it was – this one with pursuing faith. Yes, when we seek, it never goes unnoticed!

Question:

If this woman were to write down all she was feeling that day, pre-healing, what would she write?

What blessed this woman the most that day other than her healing? What would it be for you?

Ask Him and Listen:

Jesus, why was this woman trembling so (Luke 8:47)?

Pray:

Lord, you truly are a God who loves us and rewards us when we seek you. Through today's devotion I see that you are never too busy to keep this promise and everyone is important to you. I have sought you and you have rewarded me with _____. Thank you. I see you honored this woman, acknowledged her and gave her an intimate encounter with you. Of all the rewards you could give me when I seek you, I am most thankful for _____. Thank you that you care and keep your word. May I be a trembler at your feet. Amen.

Day 16

Jesus asks: Who are my mother and my brothers?

Mark 3:31-35 *Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called for Him. ³²A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, "Look! Your mother and Your brothers are outside asking for You." ³³And He replied, "Who are My mother and My brothers?" ³⁴Looking at those who were sitting in a circle around Him, He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! ³⁵For whoever does the will of God [by believing in Me, and following Me], he is My brother and sister and mother."*

Romans 12:10 *Be devoted to one another with [authentic] brotherly affection [as members of one family], give preference to one another in honor;*

Ponder

Is this not an honor to be called family by Jesus? Family is usually a person's most intimate circle. Here, Jesus is expressing His affection toward us who believe and second, he is affirming our status and relationship to Him and to the Father. What does this all imply and mean to you? Do you consider yourself family with other believers? Do you realize what being a son/daughter of God entails for you? What does being related mean?

Question

Like Jesus, believers have two families - their natural family and their spiritual family. Some are doubly blessed when their natural family is also their spiritual family. What are the blessings you enjoy from the spiritual family that you don't get from your natural family?

Ask Him and Listen:

Lord, am I failing to honor any of my brothers or sisters in the Lord, as I should? I want to repent and love them better.

Pray

Father, I am privileged to be called and counted as a child of God. And so I am! You love me with an incredible love. As I further grasp the family of God I am a member of, I realize that the brothers and sisters you have given me are a gift. I choose to be devoted to them and give preference to them by honoring them, for they are family. Help me Lord to do this as you intend me to do. Forgive me for the times I have spoken against or gossiped about a brother or sister. I would not do this against my natural brother or sister and so even more, I should not do it against my spiritual family. Thank you for your forgiveness. Bring me deeper into the awareness of this special family. Amen.

Day 17

Jesus asks: Do you bring in a lamp and put it under a basket or under a bed?

Read: Mark 4:1-25

Mark 4:21-22 *He said to them, "A lamp is not brought in to be put under a basket or under a bed, is it? Is it not [brought in] to be put on the lampstand? For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been kept secret, but that it would come to light [that is, things are hidden only temporarily, until the appropriate time comes for them to be known]."*

Psalm 18:28 *For You cause my lamp to be lighted and to shine; The Lord my God illumines my darkness.*

Ponder

God has put his light in us for many reasons. Yes, he wants us to be a light to a world that is ruled by darkness. Yes, He wants to shine through us and bring truth and hope to the lost and hurting. But the light is as much for us as it is for the world. Have you considered that, per this passage, that he also wants his light to continually expose any darkness yet living in us? If we put the lamp – the lamp he brought to us – under the bed, how will he transform us then? What is our responsibility in this?

Questions

In the natural, why would one put a lamp in such a silly place as under a bed or under a basket?

In the spiritual, why would you put the lamp of the Holy Spirit where it won't reveal things, hidden things?

Ask Him and Listen

Lord, I bring the lamp out so I may see what you want to reveal, and hear you speak to me. Shine your light into the deep places of my whole being because I give you permission to show me that which I have been hiding that you want to address today. (Pause and wait upon Him).

And He says, "*My child,* _____

Pray

Father, a light placed under something does no one any good. A light is meant to shine, reveal, expose and bring radiance. I do want to be transformed into your likeness so I submit to your light. You have revealed to me today that I am holding in my heart _____ (unforgiveness, anger, a hurt, etc.) towards (or about) _____. Please forgive me. I **release** to you what I am feeling about this. (Pour out your hurt to Him; or forgive someone and release them; or whatever he is asking you to deal with – deal with it).

Now, Holy Spirit, please come into this emptied place and fill me with _____ (love, peace, etc.). I arise having cast off the spiritual darkness you have revealed. I now walk in your light radiant as intended, because I have allowed your light to operate fully. May I daily keep your lamp upon the table, allowing all my hidden stuff to be exposed bit by bit so you can transform me. Lord, create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. (Psalm 51). Amen

Day 18

Jesus asks: What about you, who do you say I am?

Luke 9:18-20 *Now it happened that as Jesus was praying privately, the disciples were with Him, and He asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They answered, "John the Baptist, and some say, Elijah; but others, that one of the ancient prophets has come back to life." And He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter replied, "The Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed) of God!"*

Ponder

In the Bible there are many places where Jesus is described. In Matthew 3:11 John the Baptists tells those asking about Jesus, that Jesus "is a baptizer not with water, but with the Spirit and fire". In Luke 4:34, a demon has an answer: "I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" And in Revelation 1:8 Jesus himself tells us, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End." He also says is he the one "who is to come, the Almighty, Omnipotent and Ruler of all."

Looking further into the Word, we see that to some he was a temple destroyer, a blasphemer, a crazy person, just a son of a carpenter, a mere man from our town, a prophet, and a teacher. To still others he was a healer, someone who knew their heart and very thoughts, someone who had great compassion, love and wisdom. Good or bad, many had words to describe how they saw Jesus. Today, Jesus wants to know what you would say to the question, "Who do you say I am?"

Question:

What do unbelievers today say of Jesus?

Who do you say He is?

Has he become more to you over time? How so?

Ask Him and Listen:

Lord, this very day, which of your attributes do you want me to have a fresh revelation and understanding of?

Prayer:

Jesus, I confess you are God, the Holy One, and the Messiah. Because I have believed this, I now know you as savior and friend. Further and deeper, I also know you now as _____.

I thank you that there is a continual unveiling of who you are and I look forward to knowing you in a deeper way per revelation of the Holy Spirit. My heart with full conviction shouts out that You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You are Great and you are above all gods (Ps. 135:5). You are my strong tower and an ever-present help in trouble (Ps. 18:2). I give you all praise, glory and honor for You are the one and true living God, Jesus Christ, the anointed one, the Messiah! I ask, Lord, throughout this day, solidify the revelation you want me to have. Amen.

Day 19

Jesus asks: Are you still sleeping and resting?

Mark 14: 37-42 *Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "Are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"*

Ponder:

Jesus had asked the disciples to watch and pray while he himself went off to pray. Something was about to happen and Jesus wanted them *prayed up*. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will prod us to pray because something is coming. The Holy Spirit knows we need *prayed up*. The disciples had been alerted to "pray that you will not fall into temptation." The disciple maybe tried but found their eyes were so heavy that they fell asleep. Did Jesus really expect them to pray when they were this tired, when the flesh was so weak? Yes, for He prods them three times! Three times! Yet, they slept. If they had known what Jesus knew, what would they have done? Could they have overcome the flesh and rose up in spirit? Do we ever press that hard when the flesh is so weak? Sleeping and resting? There is a time to forsake what the body needs and that is when things are at hand.

Question:

The disciples were caught not *prayed up*. Peter cut off the ear of a soldier and the others too took up swords and eventually ran off in fear. What is your temptation when you aren't *prayed up*?

Ask Him and Listen

Lord, what do I need to better understand about prayer so I will be a responder to your prodding?

Prayer:

Lord, I understand that prayer is important and not insignificant, especially when I am called (prodded) to arise and go to battle for something you want to burden me with. Truth is, I have ignored the prodding of the Holy Spirit to pray at times. Forgive me when I roll over and sleep more. I confess that I do not know what lies ahead but you do, so I will trust that when you are speaking to my heart to pray, there is good reason. Let me trust you so much, and your prodding, that I will not hesitate to respond and go to prayer. I trust you will give me the words, even groanings, to pray in the spirit. Jesus, how you prayed in the garden is my example, for there you poured out your heart and your spirit groaned. May I be free to pray like that. Thank you for asking me to co-labor with you by praying. I do choose to pray, going to battle for others or myself, because the enemy is approaching always! Impress upon me the importance of a devoted prayer life and my obedience to respond to the Holy Spirit. Then, I will be given rest. Amen.

Day 20

Jesus asks: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Mark 15: 34 *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*

Psalm 9:10 *Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.*

Hebrews 3:13 *But continually encourage one another every day, as long as it is called "Today" [and there is an opportunity], so that none of you will be hardened [into settled rebellion] by the deceitfulness of sin [its cleverness, delusive glamour, and sophistication].*

Ponder

The one who should be there to help in your darkest hour is not there. You are in pain and suffer, but the one who could give you some comfort, some help, looks away for they cannot bear to look at you so covered in sin, so impure, so wrong. You have been forsaken. Being forsaken and rejected hurts deeply. Jesus experienced it to the fullest when His own Father forsook Him. This is what Christ experienced for us all due to our sins!

Maybe you worry about being forsaken, rejected by others. Maybe, due to this, you in turn reject and forsake others to protect yourself. Just maybe. This, of course is the work of the devil who wants you isolated, bound and defeated. Jesus knows what it is to be forsaken. But this we now know -we are not forsaken and never will be by the Father. God's good and perfect will for us is that we not be isolated and alone, forsaken or betrayed, but we are meant to walk with our brothers and sisters, never forsaking them and they never forsaking us. And when another forsakes us, there He is, arms opened wide. This is love! Jesus, we receive this love!

Question

To be forsaken means to be deserted, abandoned, left or to have someone turn away from you entirely. Have you ever been forsaken for any reason? What was that like?

Ask him and Listen:

Lord, show me what the opposite of forsaking someone looks like. (What did He show you?)

Pray

Lord, I thank you that I have been pardoned and released from spiritual debt due to the powerful work of the cross, which was your suffering, being forsaken, and finally your death. I am grateful and in awe of you. As to being forsaken, today I want to admit that I have (or have been tempted to) forsaken a brother or sister for reasons I don't fully understand. I wanted to draw back from a good person and in so doing I hurt them. Forgive me for falling for the lie that this was a right thing to do. It is never right to forsake another and hurt them. And Lord, please heal me for the times I have been forsaken by others. I forgive them now. (Specifically _____). I want to do things right and speak out my support and love for my brothers and sisters, being for them and not against them, as you are for me and not against me. May grace and mercy always be the scepter I extend to others. Lord, teach me your way. Amen

Day 21
Jesus Asks: Why are you crying?

John 20:14-18 *After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? For whom are you looking?" Supposing that He was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you are the one who has carried Him away from here, tell me where you have put Him, and I will take Him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (Which means, Teacher).*

Mark 9:24 *Immediately the father of the boy cried out [with a desperate, piercing cry], saying, "I do believe; help [me overcome] my unbelief."*

Ponder

Jesus, a leader, a teacher and a friend to his followers, had been crucified. Now His grave had also been robbed, so it appeared. And Mary weeps! When one thinks all is lost and that the one they love has been violated, tears would be the norm. But there is a twist here. Mary thought the body was taken, but it had risen and was standing before her. Mary thought all was lost, but it wasn't, all was completed. She thought life would never be good again, but it would be, it was!

What do you cry, fret, worry, or lack faith (and invite unbelief) about? Look up and rejoice. Jesus has got it! He is a big God! Bigger than our problems of cancer, divorce, hurting relationships, a prodigal child and even death. Thanks be to God and His Son, there is life after trials, troubles, testing; there is life after death!

Question:

What are you crying about right now, lacking faith for, or only focusing on the problem about?

Ask Him and Listen

Lord, what do you want to tell me for the situation I am fretting over, wringing my hands about, or giving up on, so I can have hope and calm regarding it? Help my unbelief! I'm listening.

Pray

Lord, I put this situation of _____ before you. I am going to reject that lie that the problem is too big for you to fix. I am going to reject the lie that you won't do something to work this out. I am going to accept, receive and believe the truth that You are bigger than this problem that has caused me unbelief, fear or anxiety. I thank you that you are at work, you continue to work, and you will see things to completion. Thank you. When I believe in you, trust in you, I can have peace! I HAVE peace! Amen

Day 22

Jesus Asks: Because you have seen me do you now believe?

Read: John 20:19-29

John 20:24-25 *But Thomas, one of the twelve [disciples], who was called Didymus (the twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the marks of the nails, and put my finger into the nail prints, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe."*

John 20:28-29 *Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, do you now believe? Blessed [happy, spiritually secure, and favored by God] are they who did not see [Me] and yet believed [in Me]."*

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].*

Ponder

The 10 disciples had seen Jesus, his hands and his side. And He had breathed on them the Holy Spirit. Thomas had missed it, not being with them at that time. Thomas' response? I will not believe it; I must see it for myself! So a whole week goes by but then Thomas gets him moment and Jesus shows him His side and his hands. Now he believes. He saw and he believed, but much is to be said for believing without seeing. One way this can happen is by allowing your faith to be built up from the testimonies of others. Have you ever heard a testimony that was the very thing you needed in that hour so you could have faith for your own situation. There is power in the testimony! Thomas missed it.

Question

For a whole week Thomas was without belief that Jesus was alive. What if Thomas would have believed his friends? How would his week have been different?

Ask Him and Listen

Lord, what have I seen you do for others but still do not have the faith you will do it for me?

Pray

Lord, when I see you at work in someone else's life, I see I can believe you will do the same for me. I can believe that their testimony reveals what you do and who you are, and that you are the same to all your children. Be it healing, provision, or a fresh encounter with your Holy Spirit, I choose to believe you want to bless me as you bless others. You love me, You know me and You have an appointment with me too. I will say, "You did it for them, You will do it for me!" Yes. So, faith, arise! I will stop focusing on the problem and instead focus on the promises and who you are! Amen.

Day 23

Jesus Asks: Haven't you any fish?

Read: John 21-4-11

John 21:5-6 *So Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish [to eat along with your bread]?" They answered, "No."⁶ And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat (starboard) and you will find some." So they cast [the net], and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great catch of fish.*

Mark 21:9-11 *So when they got out on the beach, they saw a charcoal fire set up and fish on it cooking, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three [of them]; and although there were so many, the net was not torn.*

Ponder

A net FULL of fish. Only Jesus could have done this and they knew it! Whatever we set about doing, with Jesus giving the commands and we following, the outcome will be more than we could even imagine. It is good to realize there is much we cannot do, but HE CAN and therefore, we CAN! No fish or lots of fish? Which would you chose?

Question

What are you doing that seems to have not found God's blessing?

What are you doing that you feel God IS blessing? What is the key?

Ask Him and Listen

Lord, what should I get from the fact you were already frying up some fish for breakfast?

Lord, what is the significance that the net was not torn?

What is the name of the net you have blessed me with, Lord?

Pray

Lord, you have a calling for each of us. Some things may look too big for us to go after and we may say to ourselves, "I can't." If you had asked these men to haul in 153 fish today in one net, one hauling, they would have probably said, "Lord, we surely can't." But look, they did! Nothing is impossible for You. Now Lord, I know you are talking here about being fishers of men and going after kingdoms. We have nets to use for this and you have shown me my net is _____. (a specific gifting, a willing spirit, faith). I desire to cast my net for you and the kingdom. You will show me how and where. Use me Lord, I want to say, "Yes! I have fish!" Amen.

Day 24

Jesus Asks: Do you love me?

Read: John 21:15-17

John 21:17 *He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me [with a deep, personal affection for Me, as for a close friend]?" Peter was grieved that He asked him the third time, "Do you [really] love Me [with a deep, personal affection, as for a close friend]?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You [with a deep, personal affection, as for a close friend]." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.*

Luke 22:31-32 *"Simon, Simon (Peter), listen! Satan has demanded permission to sift [all of] you like grain; but I have prayed [especially] for you [Peter], that your faith [and confidence in Me] may not fail; and you, once you have turned back again [to Me], strengthen and support your brothers [in the faith]."*

Ponder

The Devil had asked permission to sift the disciples like grain, and the permission was granted. We are told in detail how Peter failed the sifting. Jesus knew Peter would turn away but also that he would turn back. Jesus knows all things about us, doesn't He? Yes, Peter succumbed to the fear and intimidation from the enemy when he three times denied the Lord. Yet, here in John 21, Peter still has the faith, after all, Jesus had prayed for him (as he does for each of us). He had prayed that Peter would turn back and we see Peter did. But what is so very beautiful in this reinstatement of Peter, is that Jesus immediately commissions Peter to be a part of the mission of the gospel, it doesn't matter that he failed his recent testing. And Peter is told, "strengthen, support and feed my sheep!" What do you think happened in Peter's heart when Jesus said this after the third time?

Question

Ever do something you knew better not to do, but there it is, it just happened, and you messed up? Did anyone encourage you or did someone belittle you for it?

If you are told the same thing three times, what would you finally do?

Ask Him and Listen

Lord, I recall a time when I messed up when I _____. Lord I'd like to know, today, what are your thoughts about this and your thoughts toward me because of it?

Pray

Lord, I thank you for the times I have been humbled because I was able to find you yet loved me and will always love me. I want to learn, always learn, from my mess-ups. I know nothing I do ever surprises you, and I know you are always interceding for me. Thank you.

I also thank you for this example of your love for Peter, and his love for you. I thank you, Lord, that you use imperfect people, like Peter and like me. May I, too, encourage the brothers and sisters in the Lord, due to the things I have learned the hard way. Amen.

Day 25

Jesus Asks: What is that to you?

Read: John 21:20-22

John 21:22 *Jesus said to him, "If I want him to stay alive until I come [again], what is that to you? You follow Me!"*

Psalm 143:8 *Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.*

Ponder

Whatever our path is to be, it requires that we trust Him who we follow. Some of our brothers or sisters may be led to be ministers or missionaries. Some may have an easy life with little threats to their well-being. But others may suffer much and be imprisoned and beaten for their faith, even martyred. Some of God's children may be given beautiful houses, even a mansion, while others live in small and cramped homes. Some may travel around the world and others not travel at all. But what should that be to us? What happens when we question God about not doing the same for us as he does for someone else? Jesus warns us here in John 21 to not think like this, but to just follow Him! We are blessed when we have contentment, thankfulness and peace with his leading. "You, follow Me," He says.

Question

Be honest, have you ever envied a brother or sister for what the Lord was doing for them or in them and not in you? What would you say now about envying?

Ask Him and Listen

Lord, what do I need to lay down so I can follow you with single vision?

Pray

Father, I repent for coveting or envying the blessings I see you have given others. Specifically _____ . Forgive me because I have failed to believe and see you absolutely do bless me greatly. I will no longer complain about being an elbow and not a mouth, or a toe and not a finger. I will no longer look at the brother or sister on my right or on my left and count them more blessed or more loved. You have a way for me to go and I will follow. So make me more kingdom minded and less self-minded. I want to be fully committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ by truly following and not concerning myself with that which is not my business. Lord, I see you loved John the disciple, and you loved Peter the disciple. Because their trials and tribulations, and their personal revelations and blessings, were not identical does not mean you loved one more than the other. However you want to use me, Lord, here I am, I am yours. It is an honor to entrust my very life to you. Your way, your will. Amen.