

JESUS' WORDS

A 31 DAY POETRY
DEVOTIONAL
on the
SERMON ON THE
MOUNT

MEDITATE ON THE
TEACHINGS OF OUR KING



Jesus' Words

One of the longest teachings we have recorded of Jesus is the sermon of the mount. Jesus, our Lord and saviour, the one who we are to model our lives after, the one who was part of the creation being formed starts to teach truths of how to live in His kingdom and gives us practical guiding principles on how to follow Him in our lives.

I hope that these devotions will help you to meditate on the golden words of the one whom our lives are devoted to, and that as you learn and put them into practice, that your relationship with the Lord will deepen and your life continue to be transformed by King Jesus.

How to get the most out of this devotional

The poetry is there to help us remember a concept and possibly to bring clarity to some of the verses. The main emphasis though remains the verses themselves and the truths held in them.

The aim is not to read each day and think, “nice poem”, but for the poem to help you meditate on the verse and then with God’s help to put it into practice.

For each day to be as meaningful as it can, I suggest the following:

Pray- Before you start reading, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you through this time. Ask that you would meet with the Lord in this time and that the Holy Spirit would bring clarity and reveal what He desires to you.

Read- Read the verses at the top through slowly, thinking on them as you read.

Read- Read through the poem.

Ponder- Read the questions and think through your answers. If you have a journal record your answers.

Active- Read through the truths and ask God to help you think on what you can do that day to put one of the truths into practice in your life. If you have a journal, record some thoughts.

Pray- Pray the prayer given and let that be from the heart.

DON'T STOP- The prayer is not the end, but should be a catalyst for you to then pray personally what is on your heart to the Lord. After reading and praying the prayer provided each day, use some time to pray what is on your heart and spend some time talking to God.

DON'T STOP 2- After you are done praying spend some time just being in God’s presence and being still there. God might echo a line you read or something in the scripture during this time, or place things on your mind to pray about. He might also just let you enjoy His presence.

After this enjoy the day ahead and try to think back on what you read once or twice during the day, and when you do, pray and ask God to help you put that into practice in your life and feel free to use that time to mention anything to God about your day so far.

Enjoy.

DAY 1

Text

Read Matthew 5:3-4

*The broken in spirit are blessed
This is what Jesus confessed
Not because of an earthly view
But because the kingdom of heaven to them is due*

*Those who are sad and who mourn a loss
Are blessed in that they will be comforted day and night
Their weeping and feeling of wind-blown dross
Will be softened as the Spirit holds them tight*

*May those whose spirits are in shatters
See the eternal life that matters
As a sign of their hope
While the Spirit comforts those who with loss grope*

Think Deeper

- 1- Are you or someone you know broken in Spirit?
- 2- Are you or someone you know experiencing a loss or going through a period of sadness?
- 3- Where is your/their hope?

Truth

When we feel defeated or utterly low, may our hope be in our eternity and God's kingdom and not on how others view us or our success in this world. We can keep going and pushing forward, for our eternity (if we are in Christ) is secure and stable, not dependant on our emotions or situation.

Pray

Father God, may you give hope to me/ to those I know that are struggling right now. Comfort and strengthen them/me Lord and may our value and our eyes be on your kingdom and our eternity more than what is happening in the here and now. May I know your peace by your Holy Spirit in Jesus name, Amen.

DAY 2

Text

Read Matthew 5:5-6

2

*Blessed are the gentle and meek
For hurting or malice towards another is not what they seek
They will inherit the earth not by force or at another's expense
But they will have a mind where humility and putting others first makes sense*

*The meek are no door mat but have a gentle strength
The righteous do not lie flat but pursue the way things should be done
They endure to do what is right at great length
Just as the patience of the meek with others won't succumb*

*The righteous will not by worldly items be filled
Nor deep inside and in their conscience will they be billed
They will aim to do what is true and right
in the eyes of their almighty God's sight*

Think Deeper

- 1- When you correct or speak to people, do you try to break them down, embarrass them or hurt them?
- 2- How can you be more gentle in dealing with people?
- 3- Are you currently aiming to do all things in the right manner? What aren't you doing in the right manner?

Truth

Our aim should not be to overpower others and rise to the top by breaking others down. We are to care for and bear with those around us and pursue handling every situation the right way and by doing the right thing in God's eyes.

Pray

God please help me to be more gentle in dealing with and talking to others. Help me have the courage to always do what is right in your eyes, in Jesus name, Amen

DAY 3

Text

Read Matthew 5:7-8

*Blessed are those who give people another chance
Who don't look to execute the wrong or make judgement as first glance
They are able to pardon, not resenting or holding a grudge
But extending kindness, mercy and not being a harsh judge*

*For God will give mercy to them just as they have to others
As they freely have pardoned their sisters and brothers
Better off are those who do things from a pure sincere heart
Not planning their benefit in every deed from the start*

*Seeing God, what a privilege to be had
This is in store for those whose hearts are pure
Whose motives are clean and true and sure
Being able to gaze at the Saviour secure and glad*

Think Deeper

- 1- Are you more inclined to want to condemn someone or give mercy?
- 2- How can you in small ways start to be more merciful?
- 3- Are your intentions always pure and for the other persons benefit?

Truth

Yes there are consequences for actions that are needed and good, but to pardon someone and extend mercy should be part of who we are. Proverbs 19:11 mentions how it is wise and beneficial to overlook an offence and be slow to anger. Justice is good, but let us first in wisdom be a people who give second chances.

Pray

Lord would you forgive me for being too harsh or quick to condemn people. Help me to be merciful as I seek your mercy for my many offences. Help me to be an honest and sincere person with pure motives, in Jesus name, Amen.

DAY 4

Text

Read Matthew 5:9-10 and Psalm 133

*Although in this world we are taught to fight
 God desires us to make peace
 God desires that we do what is right
 That we strive to make senseless fighting cease*

*Instead of looking for controversy, quarrels and tension points
 We are to see where we can help bring peace
 Where we can to tense situations bring ease
 Looking to bring unity especially between believers, like oil on the head anoints*

*In pursuing the kingdom of heaven we need to follow His ways
 Not to be unjust, crooked, false or deceitful in even one of our days
 To do in all our actions what God would deem right
 No matter if it is harder or there is opposition that wants to fight*

Think Deeper

- 1- Are you known as an argumentative person?
- 2- How can you be a peacemaker at home/work/school?
- 3- Do you always do what is easiest, or do you look to do what is right?
- 4- What persecution might you need to be ready for as you stand for and do what is right in God's eyes?

Truth

We are to stand for and do what is right in God's eyes even if people mock us and stand against us, but we are not to be a people always looking for a fight and creating tension needlessly. We should be known for our reasonableness and not for being quarrelsome, we should be known for standing firm and living out the right way in all situations and not for compromising on our integrity.

Pray

Lord help me not get caught up in my own fights and pursuits, but help me to be a person of peace that lives your ways.

DAY 5

Text

Read Matthew 5:11-12

*As we aim to live as Jesus did and follow in His ways and speech
To follow what He modelled and also what He did teach
We are to know that others will speak out against us
They will go against what we say and do and put up a fuss*

*They will insult us and think we are a disgrace
Eager to silence us and pursue our demise
So do not let this come as a surprise
They will speak evil behind our backs and to our face
All because we aim to live out the receiving of His grace*

*For this we though are better off
Just as the prophets who were before
For great is our reward in heaven
We live with our focus on what is in store*

Think Deeper

- 1- Have you ever been mocked or treated badly for doing what God wanted you to do in a situation?
- 2- Is standing for God and what He desires the right thing to do?
- 3- What can we look forward to one day in living for God and what He desires?

Truth

We need to know that in living for God and in following His ways, people will come against us and at times we will be treated unfairly by others because of our walk with the Lord. We should not get discouraged but rather be encouraged that we are doing as God desires and that our reward is in heaven.

Pray

Lord would you help me not to get discouraged or compromise on my walk with you and what you desire when people come against me because of my walk with you and because I am aiming to live the way you desire. Give me courage and may my eyes be on you, with my heart secure in that my reward is in you and in heaven.

DAY 6

Text

Read Matthew 5:13-16

*In your time on this earth
From the time of your re-birth
You are called to be different and stay true
To be adding goodness and value*

*If we think we believe and yet our lives are the same as all other people
We have lost this walk's meaning and our faith is nil
We are not set apart for God, to then conform again to this world's ways
We are made to stand out, to shine bright in a dark world that from God strays*

*In our walk with our Lord that we love and know
We will shine through good works that will naturally flow
And the aim of these works is not that of our fame
But that they come to glorify His Holy name*

Think Deeper

- 1- Can people see a difference in your life from that of those living in this world that do not know Jesus?
- 2- What good works is God calling you to do today and this week?
- 3- What is the motivation behind these good works?

Truth

As we follow God, He will call and challenge us to love others through treating them well and through doing good works for those around us and to those around us. We are not to do this to be seen by others and make a show of our good works, but if people do see what we are doing it is not for our recognition but to give God glory and so that they may know it is from Him and that He has sent or used us.

Pray

Lord I thank you that I can be used by you, and that you have certain good works that you are wanting me to do. Give me the courage to be kind and gentle and loving to others, while doing loving gestures to people so that you may be glorified. Keep my heart attuned to you and may you get the glory in all of this. Protect me from being shy to live out what you say, from self-righteousness and pride in it all. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 7

Text

Read Matthew 5:17-20 and Exodus 20:1-17

*Jesus came not to throw away what God requires through the law
But to fulfil the righteous requirements needed, living perfectly with no flaw*

*Jesus came not to disregard what the prophets said
But He fulfilled being the Saviour they spoke of by the life He led*

*With this fulfilled He still calls us to teach and to do
The commandments God gave that are still for me and for you
Whether we do and teach or disregard and discourage these is vital
For it determines if Least or Greatest in the Kingdom will be our title*

*To enter the Kingdom of heaven in the first place
We are not to be a fake religious pretender
There is only one whom we are to follow in this race
To Jesus we need to surrender*

Think Deeper

- 1- Have you surrendered your life to Christ in believing in Him?
- 2- Are you aiming to follow Jesus' ways?
- 3- Do you ever like the Pharisees and Scribes get caught up in basing your walk with the Lord on religious rules and on your good works and good religious deeds?
- 4- Are you alert to doing and teaching God's commandments to others? Which Commandment do you need to focus on most?

Truth

We need to remember that the only way to the Father and His kingdom is through Jesus. We must not be a religious, prideful people who know a lot about God and do things for Him, but our hearts are far from Him and a personal relationship with Him doesn't exist. In following Jesus we must know that He fulfils what the law required of us, but that we are not to disregard the commandments He gave but aim to do them and teach others to do them as well.

Pray

Lord please help me to never lose sight of you in my relationship with you and never to make it all about doing the right religious things. Thank you that in you the requirements and duties of the law are fulfilled and met. Help me to value, do and teach your commandments and not disregard them, In Jesus name, Amen.

DAY 8

Text

Read Matthew 5:21-26

*Murder as sinful and wrong by those present was heard
But there are three other matters subject to judgement by Jesus' word
Firstly we can be under judgement if we get angry with our brother
Secondly in the faith we can be under a godly verdict if we insult one another
And if we call someone a fool, hell's fire as our possible sentence is the third*

*Before we come before the Lord
He desires with other believers that there be no infraction
We are to reconcile and be of one accord
And then go to God knowing we have been right in our reaction*

*In all our dealings we are to reconcile matters as quickly as we can
Before anything progresses to legal action
For if it does you will be liable and could even be imprisoned by man
Until you pay or serve all that is owed to the judge's satisfaction
In all this "Love your neighbour" is clearly the overarching plan*

Think Deeper

- 1- How do you treat other people?
- 2- Which believers do you need to resolve conflict with?
- 3- What can you do to show more love in action and word to others this week?

Truth

We as Christians are to honour others with our words and our actions. We are not to be careless and inconsiderate with either of these and we should seek to value those around us by showing them sincere concern and care.

Pray

Lord I pray that you will help me to take stock of my words, help me to be an encourager and someone who speaks the truth in love, not someone who breaks others down and is judgemental and critical. Help me to deal with wrongs and indifference as quickly as possible and may my dealings with others please you as I then come to honour you with gifts and all of who I am. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 9

Text

Read Matthew 5:27-30 and Philippians 4:8

*We are not to commit adultery, but where does it start
Jesus is aiming at our thoughts, our desire, at our heart
The deep desire of another in a sexual manner is lust
To treat this desire as serious as adultery is a must*

*Satan aims for us to fall deeply into this
And it should not be taken lightly
Patterns of sin will lead us away and into the abyss
On our minds and hearts it comes slowly then grips tightly*

*We are to be free of this to pursue our heavenly home
To discipline our body to be with the one on the throne
We will need to regularly go through our thoughts with a fine comb
To think more purely and leave images and ungodly thoughts alone*

Think Deeper

- 1- Are you aware of sinful thoughts that you entertain?
- 2- Are you careful about not watching or looking at things that will cause you to be tempted?
- 3- How can you start to view the opposite gender in a more honourable way?
- 4- How can you think less on lustful thoughts and fill your mind with godly thoughts?

Truth

We are not to commit adultery. Further than this we are to check our hearts for the wrongful desire of lust that was often the spark for those that have committed adultery. God is concerned about the root of sexual impurity being not only in our actions but in our thoughts and hearts. We need to take it seriously and change our thinking and put things in place to help us not think this way. Watching what we look at and think on and taking every thought captive to not think deeply on lustful thoughts and being accountable to another trusted godly friend of the same gender are great starts.

Pray

Lord I pray that you help me be mindful and Holy Spirit that you make me alert as to what I am thinking throughout the day. Help me not to have wondering eyes and may my thoughts be pure and focused on you and things of your word, in Jesus name, Amen

DAY 10

Text

10

Read Matthew 5:31-32 and 1 Corinthians 7:1-16

*A lot of marriages in the world end in divorce
And normally there is not a large amount of remorse
People treat the sacred act of marriage loosely
Where our God condemns divorce openly and profusely*

*Marriage is not something to be easily ended
There is very little biblical validation
Only an affair where after the relationship can't be mended
Can suffice for a divorce to be the end situation*

*We are also not at will to remarry
It is adultery to marry a divorced person
Unless there is valid biblical reason that can carry
And there is no chance at reconciliation*

Think Deeper

- 1- Do you place a high value on marriage?
- 2- Is your mind-set on marriage, "how can I make this work?" rather than "What is too much work?"
- 3- Are you aware of the magnitude with which God views marriage?

Truth

Marriage is a commitment and a promise that God desires us to remain in and walk in together. We must therefore be prayerful and sure before committing to marry someone. Have the standard of marrying a sincere believer who lives out their walk with Jesus. If you are in a rocky marriage do all you can to make it work including prayer and counselling. If there are major red flags within your marriage, chat to godly couples and a biblically sound pastor to get advice on how to proceed biblically and if marital unfaithfulness or abuse is involved on if divorce should be considered.

Pray

Lord I pray that you will help me not only to view marriage as a sacred act with you involved, but also to put effort and energy into my marriage/future marriage. Give me wisdom in my romantic relationship to honour you in all decisions. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 11**Text*****Read Matthew 5:33-37***

*In order for others to believe something we have said
 We might make a promise upon our own head
 We try giving credibility to our words by validating our claim
 We do this by swearing on heaven or earth or even our Lords name*

*This is where Jesus draws our attention
 Saying more than a yes or no is misplaced intention
 We are not to make a promise or a vow
 To get someone to believe us in the now
 Rather one can a simple “yes” or “no” with sincere intent mention*

*If a promise or vow to the Lord you have made
 We are then to follow through on what was pledged
 But even to the Lord, Jesus doesn’t want any oaths hedged
 Be a person true to your word and trust will in this be laid*

Think Deeper

- 1- Do you make promises/vows/oaths on other things to make people believe you?
- 2- Do you follow through on what you say?
- 3- Do people trust what you say?

Truth

In your immaturity you might have made promises to the Lord. In His grace I believe at times He can excuse us of these promises made if we repent to Him for them and ask to be released from them. Jesus is teaching us to be honest and trustworthy in what we say, and to keep what we say simple, anything more brings temptation to over talk, overcommit and overcomplicate.

Pray

Lord I pray that you will help me not to make rash commitments or promises and to simply let my yes be yes and my no be no and may I follow through on what I simply commit to. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DAY 12

Text

Read Matthew 5:38-42

12

*If someone has done something wrong to you
Getting back at them seems the fair thing to do
But Jesus says we are not against bad people to stand
We are even to turn the cheek when they slap you with their hand*

*This is different to standing for a righteous cause or deed
It is when something is directly done to us and we our case want to plead
This is what Jesus is asking us to lay aside
Not standing up for our own rights and our own pride*

*Showing a different attitude of grace and of being kind
Going the extra mile and of others not being blind
Giving to those who beg and lending to those who ask
Being selfless and not self-consumed is our biggest task*

Think Deeper

- 1- Why is this concept so hard to digest?
- 2- In your thoughts and actions how much more do you consider yourself than others?
- 3- Are you willing to do unfair tasks or be treated wrongly in order for God to get glory?

Truth

God does desire that we stand for righteousness and for those who can't stand up for themselves and are being treated unfairly, but Jesus pinpoints one of our major obstacles, pride. We are quick to defend our rights and look after ourselves first, when God desires that we lay our pride aside and even endure in being wronged and excel in unfair tasks to show that we are the salt and light. Our lives are not about ourselves, and Jesus won't always put us in wronged situations, but if we are, can we lay aside our pride to shine Jesus and prove our lives have Him governing over it, not ourselves. Lending to those in need, going the extra mile and giving all need to be practiced with wisdom. God is wanting us to shift our mindsets to a priority of His kingdom principles and values and the value of others.

Pray

Lord I ask that you will help me to lay down my pride. Would you help me to not be so self-consumed that I don't have a heart to help those in need or I lose opportunities to be your salt and light. Give me wisdom with giving so that I am not manipulated or put family responsibilities at risk, but give me a heart for others and a humble heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 13

Text

Read Matthew 5:43-48

*Loving our neighbour is a plausible task
But loving our enemies is quite an ask
We are to wish them well and want to show care
As well as pray for the ones that cause us despair*

*Showing love to those who pursue us and want us destroyed
Truly shows that we are children from God above
Acts of love to all are therefore to be employed
As we show both the righteous and the wicked love*

*God is perfect through and through
And we are called to be perfect too
In His perfection He shows love to all
And with His help we have the same call*

Think Deeper

- 1- What are the challenges of loving others?
- 2- What good can you pray for those that are against you?
- 3- What loving acts can you do sincerely for those with whom you struggle?

Truth

God in His perfection shows love to both those who follow Him and those who aren't His followers. He loved us even when we were sinners. Obviously God doesn't agree with people's sin and desires for them to come to seek and know Him to be saved, as He has a love for them and desires for them to respond to Him. We too are called to love not only those who are easy to love, but to pray for and show love to our enemies and those we struggle with.

Pray

Lord please help me to see how you loved me as sinner, and still love me, and also Lord how you show love to all. With this as my example, help me to show love to those against me and that I struggle with. Lord I pray for those against me now, that you would help them to come to know you and would you help them with their struggles in life at the moment, provide for them and bless them Lord I pray, in Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 14

Text

Read Matthew 6:1-4

14

*In Christ, giving to the needy is seen as a norm
Money, food or a blanket to keep them warm
But as we practise these good deeds
We are to be careful how our heart leads*

*We are to do these acts not to be seen
But perform them in secret
No one needs to know what we have done or where we have been
Not to know if we've given a lot or a bit*

*For if it's done for peoples praise to attract
That will be our reward
But if we are sincere in each giving and each act
That will please and be seen by our Lord*

Think Deeper

- 1- When last did you give something or do something for those in need?
- 2- What is your motivation behind giving or helping?
- 3- How can you keep a right heart in caring for others?

Truth

As we seek God, a genuine concern and care should start to develop for the needy. When we give to those in need, don't boast about it or do it to be seen, do it because God desires you to, and because you care for the one in need. If others see and you have not done it publically, then that is okay, but if our intention was to be seen then our hearts are in the wrong place. Ask God to help you see others as He does and for your heart to be open to the needy for His glory.

Pray

Lord help me to have a heart of compassion that is wise yet generous. Help me to have the right motivation in giving and help me to do it as best as I can in secret. May I honour the needy and may I honour you, Lord. Help purify my intentions Lord and help me give for your glory, in Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 15

Text

Read Matthew 6:5-8

*Talking to God is such a privilege and pleasure
Our motive and manner however will determine our treasure
It is not something to try and earn human credit or acclaim
If you are praying to be seen or heard then it's for your own fame*

*When we speak with our Heavenly Father it is personal
Going to our room and closing the door to communicate and being still
Praying in secret to our Father who in secret is
Being rewarded not by other ears hearing but sincerely His*

*When we pray we are not giving a long winded speech
Empty phrases or much talk won't God beseech
For our Father knows what you need before you even ask
Sit privately, speak and listen sincerely, prayer is not a task*

Think Deeper

- 1- Where do you go to pray for segments of time?
- 2- Is your prayer life personal? Why would you say that?
- 3- How can you get your prayers to be more sincere and real, than just meaningless phrases?

Truth

God is real and all powerful and all knowing. With this in mind we can talk with Him not needing to say many words in hope that He hears us because we have many words. We are privately and personally to communicate with God and He will then hear and reward us in this. If we are praying to be heard or seen by others, then again our heart is wrong.

Pray

Lord help me to set aside time to personally talk to and listen to you. Help me grow my prayer life in order to build my relationship with you. May I not try and seem spiritual but may I engage with you regularly and connect with you sincerely, in Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 16

Text

Read Matthew 6:9

*God is our Father, our Dad
And He is worthy to be praised
He protects, guides and is good not bad
He desires that we by Him as children are raised
When we speak to Him we are to know who He is
Our creator and that as His children we are His
His Word shows His might and deeds in every story
He is the only one worthy to be given glory*

*Heaven is where He resides
He reigns from on high
In believers He also abides
He is omnipresent on earth and in the sky*

Think Deeper

- 1- What do you understand by God as Father?
- 2- How often do you give God praise for who He is?
- 3- How can you give God glory more?

Truth

God is our heavenly Father and is powerful, awesome and good. As His children we can address God personally as Father. We also see how God is to be praised and we can use different measures to motivate that praise. Seeing God's acts in the Bible, thinking on who God is and what He has done, and even Jesus' death on the cross for us shows us that He is so worthy to be praised. We are to praise Him verbally but also with our lives we are to live each day in honour of Him and His name.

Pray

Father God, I thank you that I get to call you Father/Dad. May I come to know you more as my dad. Would you remind me of all that you do and have done in my life and all that you do in the world, that I may constantly give you praise for what you do and who you are. Today Lord, I give you glory for being almighty yet personal, I praise you for being an intimate God who is so powerful, In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 17

Text

Read Matthew 6:10

*God rules and reigns
From His King position
Here he sustains
His ways and His mission*

*This we need to pray
That God's will and way
Take place in our lives
And the earth where we stay
As in heaven it already thrives*

Think Deeper

- 1- What would God fully reigning in your life look like?
- 2- What is God's will? Is it different to our will?
- 3- How do you build God's kingdom and not your own in everyday living?
- 4- In wanting God's kingdom to reign on earth, what can you positively pray for the community and those around you?

Truth

In our conversations with God, we are to be asking for His will to take place (what He desires to happen), and for His authority and rule and kingship to come and take place on earth as it already does in Heaven. This is not praying our will or desires and asking God to bless our plans, but praying His will and governance over our lives and our earth. The truth is God's kingship and reign is perfectly taking place in Heaven and it is being perfectly run. This is what we pray for our earth as well.

Pray

Father God, I pray that you would help me to be mindful of you and your plans and desires. Lord would you rule in my life above my plans and would your governance and kingship come just as it is already active in Heaven. Reveal your plans and your ways, and help me to follow, and help others to follow, in Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 18

Text

Read Matthew 6:11

18

*Asking our Father for our basic need
Is part of our interaction
The motive is not wealth or greed
But asking for provision satisfaction*

*This is not a shopping list
Or a demand with a clenched fist
But a humble request each day
As we speak in a conversational way
Placing our plea before our Father*

*We also ask not for an overflow
What is needed for this day alone is our request
Placing our need before you is best
What we lack, Lord you know*

Think Deeper

- 1- What is it that you need from the Lord today?
- 2- Can you see from the passage how this is a daily conversation and request?
- 3- Can you trust the Lord to provide for what you sincerely need today?

Truth

Even in the midst of asking God for our desperate needs, we see how we are to ask each day for just what we need for that day. This is not because God can't grant more if He wants to, but it is to remind us that we are to bring our needs to God each day in constant conversation with Him. Not only will God provide perspective and give peace, but He will strengthen our walk with Him and provide what we need for that day.

Pray

Father God, I ask that I may always see you as Father and want to talk with you each day. Help me seek you daily and help me daily speak to you and bring my requests to you. May I also see your hand in my life daily as I aim to devote each day to you and may I thank you for that Lord. Lord you know my needs, today and just for today I ask that you give me _____ that I need for today Lord. May I be aware of you today and still speak with you throughout the day. I will bring my needs just for tomorrow to you again tomorrow Lord. In Jesus name I ask, Amen.

DAY 19

Text

**Read Matthew 6:12; Matthew 6:14-15;
Matthew 18:21-35**

*Being aware of how we God have wronged
In our journey with Him is key
We are to confess it to Him openly and free
Not leave the transgression prolonged
But address it quickly between God and me*

*Regular confession keeps the relationship good
No clutter or hindrance in the way
God can hear me and hearing from Him won't be misunderstood
Then ask God for help not again to stray
With His help to walk according to what He does say*

*Not only asking for God's forgiveness
But we are also to forgive
Modelled after our Lord we are to live
Lest He not cover your wrongfulness*

Think Deeper

- 1- Do you reflect and confess your sins to God regularly?
- 2- Have you forgiven everyone who has wronged you before?
- 3- Do you see how God forgives us, as we forgive others?

Truth

In our times with God, we are to have a time of confession where we ask God for forgiveness for the things we have done that have displeased Him and things we have done against His ways. We are to know though that according to this passage, we will only be forgiven as we forgive others the wrongs that they have committed against us. This does not mean we need to be best friends with the person, but we must bear no grudge and hold nothing against them for what they did to us. This isn't always easy, but when we see what God has forgiven us for (all our sins), it enables us with His help to forgive others for what they have done to us.

Pray

Gracious Father, I thank you that you are so willing to forgive me, if I sincerely come to you and ask for forgiveness. Help me then with your help to not continue in those patterns of sin. Today Lord I ask that you forgive me for _____, Lord I also ask that you help me forgive those who have wronged me. Lord, may I not hold a grudge but forgive others as you have forgiven me. Give me grace to let it go and give me wisdom in dealing with those who have wronged me going forward, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Read Matthew 6:13 and 1 Corinthians 10:13

*In our following of your leading
Keep us from temptation's road
This is what our heart is pleading
That we wouldn't at all be seeding
Actions that in your will don't abide*

*Keep us from evil, the bad and the wrong
May we have the control to follow your Spirit's way out
That we may escape and not be too long
In a place where sin is up and about*

Think Deeper

- 1- What temptations do you struggle with?
- 2- How can you remove yourself from situations that will bring about these temptations?
- 3- Do you ask God for a way out when faced with temptation?

Truth

We will find ourselves sinning less by removing ourselves from where the temptation is in the first place. If we can be alert to God's leading, we won't be walking into temptation as much and will avoid sinning. When faced with temptation, we are to ask for the Holy Spirit to help us and show us a way out. Then we are to look for this way out and be strong enough, have self-control and want to do what God desires enough to then not give in and to resist and deny the temptation and if need be walk away from the situation.

Pray

Father God, I ask that you would guide and lead me Lord. Help me to be aware of your Holy Spirit's leading and may I be wise and avoid situations that would cause me to be tempted to sin. Lord, when I find myself being tempted, help me Holy Spirit by showing me a way out, that I may like Jesus be able to resist and honour you. I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 21

Text

Read Matthew 6:16-18

*To fast is to go without food for a day or a meal
It is either to honour God or to seek His hand
To bring a situation to Him, whether for us or our land
We see this is a regular action and not up to how you feel
It is also done to draw us closer to Him whom we know is real*

*It is not just a time of going without food
We are in this time, Him to seek
If it is for others to see us, this won't be any good
Their attention will be our reward's peak*

*We are rather to keep it hidden from others
Not public to see but under the covers
For fasting done for the Lord and Him alone
Will allow Him to meet us or intervene from His throne*

Think Deeper

- 1- How often do you fast?
- 2- In fasting what should your motivation be?
- 3- How are you to present yourself to others while fasting?

Truth

This passage starts with the word “when”, showing that this should be something Christians do. It should not be when we feel like it, but it should be a regular practice. With this in mind, it is wise to consider any medical conditions before committing to a fast, or a longer fast. When we fast, we do it not to be seen as religious by others, but to sincerely seek God more closely and in situations where we need God's guidance and intervention in. It is not a way to twist God's arm, but to seek His best way forward even if it's not what we want, we are seeing what should happen from His view and will see His hand if it is His will.

Pray

Father God, help me to start the discipline of fasting. May it not be for others to see how holy I am, but for me to draw even closer to you in our relationship. Lord if there are big decisions to be made or desperate circumstances to face may I fast to see how you desire me to handle these challenges. Lord may I see your hand and where needed your intervention in these situations. In Jesus' name I ask, Amen.

Read Matthew 6:19-21

*Where we build up value and treasure
Will be the place we have the most pleasure
A place where we desire to be and build up without measure
This is a place we will value above all
It will be our focus, our first port of call*

*That is why our treasure should not be on this earth
For all things on earth are subject to loss and decay
The changing point should be that of our rebirth
Where we view what is treasure in a brand new way
We now see what will endure and what will fade away*

*Eternal gain is our valued prize
We know our works for our Father will have a reward
And on that day when we will rise
A treasure that cannot be taken or eroded will be given by our Lord*

Think Deeper

- 1- What do you value most?
- 2- Based on how you allocate your time and effort, is God seen as a treasure?
- 3- How can you start putting more time into a lasting treasure?

Truth

We often get trapped into making our life revolve around building wealth on this earth. We need to make sure God is in first place in our lives, and be pursuing Him and things of Him above earthly things. It does not mean we are not wise and don't invest or plan well financially on earth, but it isn't to be our life's focus or be a higher priority than our walk with the Lord and what He desires. Our earthly possessions are also to be under His guidance.

Pray

Lord, help me not to let building wealth in this world be my life's aim. May I see you for who you are and know you are more valuable. May I pursue you and the things of you. May I be wise but not let money be above you. May my heart be devoted to you, in Jesus' name I ask, Amen.

DAY 23

Text

Read Matthew 6:22-24

*The eye of the body sees what is right
But if our eyes are rooted in a wicked heart
That looks to “gain” and “wrong” from the start
Then they are darkened and have lost true sight*

*Money in and of itself is not bad
The love of it is however is detrimental
How we can idolise money is so sad
Doing whatever is needed to keep our account full*

*We cannot have a balance of God and money first
We will serve one and see the other as cursed
Either we live for money or live for God
When we see the light the choice is not hard*

Think Deeper

- 1- Are all your money related matters truthful and above board?
- 2- Is money what you live for?
- 3- How do you view money?

Truth

We aim to make a living to provide for things on earth, but when our focus and heart is set on money and the things of this earth, darkness grips our souls. We will use any means to please or appease a master, and when that master is money we view things from a dark perspective and can't expect to be seeing things morally or rightly. We need to be careful not to be led astray. We work with and use money and are wise with it, but it is not to be our life's goal and focus, God is. We can only see this in the right perspective when we see it from a position of light in Jesus.

Pray

Father help me to see that all on this earth is yours and that my fill is found in you and not in worldly pursuits. Help me to constantly view my money and handle it under your guidance and Lordship, whether it is a little or a lot. Help me not to be enslaved by and live for wealth in the here and now. Keep my morals and manner of doing things pure, keep my eyes fixed on you and may I be with you to then have this view. In Jesus' name I ask, Amen.

Read Matthew 6:25-34

*If it is God and not money that we serve
This should change our inner reaction
Our needs won't make our emotions swerve
Knowing that God to our needs brings satisfaction*

*If God provides for each bird and each flower
Surely we can depend on His provision and power
Not being overwhelmed as this adds not even to our life an hour
But to trust in God our rock and our strong tower*

*We need to therefore focus on each day's trouble
Not get ourselves into a future worry bubble
Seeking first God and all that He says, and His right ways
Letting them be in our lives in first place
For our needs will be provided when this in our heart stays*

Think Deeper

- 1- Do you like everything in your life to be in your control?
- 2- Do you trust your skills, your hard work, your money and your plans or do you trust God in tough times?
- 3- What does it mean to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness? Do we do this first?

Truth

God doesn't call us to sit back and be lazy. He desires that we work and has created works for us to do, but at times we tend to put our trust and future in our own plans and provisions. We are to be alert to what we need to be doing and work well, but we are to know that even that work and all we have, comes from God in the first place. We are to seek God and His ways and desires for our lives and as we are led by Him we will not lack His provision for our needs. Don't be lazy, but don't trust in your reserves. Trust Him.

Pray

Lord we are in a world that is all about investing and saving, and then there are those that are lazy and do nothing. May I look to you with how my life functions, including in providing for family/bills/needs. Help me to be wise but Lord may I not trust in the worldly system, but in a God who controls all things. Forgive me for not trusting you and trying to do things myself. Help me to seek you more and to work at what you call me to do, knowing that my provision comes from you through work or another way, it comes from you as I follow you. Help me to trust you more and help me seek your kingdom more I ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 25

Text

Read Matthew 7:1-6

*Coming to a verdict on someone is what it is to judge
Concluding your weighing and having a choice on them
Using a measure and then with it you condemn
But the measure to them through which you did trudge
Will be used to hold you accountable without a slight budge*

*Therefore instead of looking at the faults of others first
Analyse your life and have a look personally inside
Your faults and flaws with God's help are primarily to be nursed
And the goal is to have your own sins subside*

*Once you are humble and look first to your own flaws
Then you can help someone else gently with their sins cause
But be careful to know if to speak into their life you have open doors
Lest they be not humble and their anger and aggression towards you soars*

Think Deeper

- 1- Do you find yourself criticizing people or making conclusions about them looking for faults?
- 2- Are you aware of your own flaws? What are they?
- 3- How do you know when you are in a position to provide help on sin matters to others?

Truth

This passage calls us not to be fault finders and critical of everyone else, because the same standard we use will be used to judge us and we won't be in a good standing. The heart of this is that we be humble, we are to be aware of our own faults and with God's help be dealing with them. Being aware of this will help us have a demeanour of really wanting to gently help others. We are then in a good place to help a fellow Christian with an issue we see they might be having. We do this humbly but also wisely as if we have no avenue to speak into the person's life or they are not open to correction and are prideful, we will be the victim of their lashing out in that moment. Be humble and guided by God in this.

Pray

Lord Jesus, would you help me not to be prideful and self-righteous. Lord may I not be a critical, fault finding person who sees others only for what they are doing wrong in my own eyes. Help me to come to you to examine my heart and see what faults I have, I desire that you will help me to overcome them in order to become more like Jesus. Help me to pray regularly that as I journey with you, you would give me the know how and power to overcome these in my own life. Then, Lord may I be alert to you and to where you show me to help others with things when they are not walking in line with you. May I do it humbly and only to those whom you show me that are humble to hear good advice, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Read Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13; Jeremiah 29:13

*To be approached is what God does desire
As we are encouraged of Him to inquire
For He delights in giving us good things that we require
As He is fully good not in part but in entire
Along with asking God to see to a need
He gives us the Holy Spirit who us through life will lead
The Spirit will counsel and empower us and will for us intercede
What a special good gift from God that we can for plead*

*Seeking Him, knocking on His door and asking Him to provide
All elements of not letting our relationship with Him subside
Taking steps deeper into where He does reside
Trusting Him and His provision is where we are to abide*

Think Deeper

- 1- What does being a child of God mean?
- 2- What is the heart behind this passage?
- 3- How can I seek Him, knock and ask more?

Truth

This is not saying that whatever you ask for you will automatically get. We see God gives us good gifts and often we ask for what we in our human minds think is good but it isn't. We can also ask for things with wrong motives. The heart of this passage is not asking God for whatever we want, but having a close relationship with God. In this seeking Him, knocking on His door and asking Him, there is a knowing as His child that we can ask for our needs to be seen to. In seeking God our priorities are adjusted and our perspective is changed and we then in regularly spending time with Him and wanting to glorify Him, will see our requests change. When we understand that we are not manipulating God but that He is our heavenly Father, then we can in this real authentic relationship dare to ask for God's goodness in all things.

Pray

Father God, help me to get to know you more, to seek you deeply and in this walk with you as my Father, may I then dare to ask you for things as I've got to know your heart and know your priorities more. Give me grace when I still pray selfish or naïve things, but thank you that you allow me to voice these in a process of growing with you. I do ask that you provide for my needs today again Lord, please provide for _____ and Lord I am also daring to ask that you would give me more of your Holy Spirit to guide me in your paths, in Jesus' name I ask, Amen.

DAY 27

Text

Read Matthew 7:12-14, James 1:2-4

*Easy is the way that will lead you astray
And wide is the gate that pulls you to the wrong fate*

*We are called to treat others as we want to be treated
To honour and place them on the seat we would want to be seated
We need to enter by the narrow gate and walk the hard way
For we know that it leads to life at the end of the day*

*We are not here to walk the path of least resistance
We are to walk the path that is worth it with all persistence
We are called to be different, called to push through
Let us walk after Jesus, love others well and be part of the few*

Think Deeper

- 1- What are some of the things that have been hard in being a Christian so far?
- 2- What are some possible things in the future that could be hard because you are a Christian?
- 3- Name 3 things you can do today and this week to treat others as you would want to be treated?

Truth

Our walk with God is not going to be easy; in fact it is quite clear that it will be hard. It doesn't mean it will always be hard, but it is against the ways of the world where we will be persecuted for the decisions we make because we are following Jesus. We are called to persevere because it is worth it. We have the privilege of having the Lord with us now and we have eternal life to look forward to. In this journey that is hard, we are called to treat others as we would want to be treated, not as we think they deserve, but we are to treat others in love.

Pray

Father God would you help me to treat others the way I would want to be treated in each situation. Make me aware of others and may I not be selfish or self-consumed. I ask Lord that you will help me not to just take the easy way out when the world says I should, when the easy way is clearly wrong, but let me follow your example and your teachings and ways that are the narrow path, and may I persevere. Strengthen me and may I find joy in you as I journey this road, in Jesus' name I ask, Amen.

Text

**Read Matthew 7:15-20; Acts 17:10-15;
1 Thessalonians 5:19-22**

*As grapes aren't gathered from thorn bushes
So there is no fig that from a thistle through pushes
Trees cannot bear different fruit to what they are
So people by their fruit will show if they are close with the Lord or afar*

*We must beware of people's claims
Some of them have ulterior motives and aims
Like wolves in sheep's clothing
False prophets will try to deceive you
Their character you must into the light bring
Non good fruit bearing trees in the fire will be thrown into*

*So don't just believe what everyone will say
Watch and see their character and lives before you are led astray*

Think Deeper

- 1- When last did you check something someone said to you?
- 2- What could happen if you were led by a false prophet?
- 3- What fruit are we looking for in people, good and bad?

Truth

There are people who proclaim to be from God that aren't, and there are those speaking and teaching who are teaching lies and falsehood. We are called to test all things, so as the Bereans tested Paul's words so we should test what we hear and we should test the person we are hearing it from by watching their lives to see if they should be listened to.

Pray

Lord Jesus, thank you for your teachings and that you give us this wisdom to test who we are hearing from, that we may discern and know who to listen to. Help us see if people are sincerely following you and help us Holy Spirit to be alert to false teachings and false prophets, in Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 29

Text

Read Matthew 7:21-23

*One of the scariest statements from Jesus
Where people think they are right with God
And start to validate all their religious pieces
Before the truth from our Lord hits them hard*

*People who did things for God being called workers of lawlessness
“Depart from me” Jesus utters through
It won’t matter if you refer to Him as Lord or have any witnesses
His words remain “I never knew you”*

*A shocking reality that keeps us still
It’s not about lip service or doing what we think
It’s about doing the Fathers will
And Knowing Him regularly and personally having a link*

Think Deeper

- 1- What is a Christian to you?
- 2- How would you feel if those words were ever said to you by Jesus?
- 3- How do we develop knowing God more?

Truth

Our Christian walk is not rooted in being a good person or on merely doing things in God’s name or even in referring to Jesus as Lord. Our faith is dependent on a sincere relationship with Jesus. In this sincere relationship through prayer and reading His word, as well as silent prayer (being still in God’s presence) and fellowship with other believers, we will build our relationship with the Lord and He will reveal His will for us so that we may then walk in it. This is what God is after, and this is what brings joy, peace and fulfilment. We also see that to be with God in His kingdom, this is what is required.

Pray

Lord Jesus thank you that being a Christian is not about just blindly following rules, but about following you personally. Thank you that you have made this walk to be one of intimacy and joy and purpose. Help me to Know you, to spend time with you and engage with you, as well as being open to you engaging with me. May I not fall into a religious trap of performing traditional tasks and think that that is what this walk is about, in Jesus’ name I ask, Amen.

Read Matthew 7:24-27

*Building your house upon the sand
Is what it's like not to do Jesus' teaching
Your house will fall, it will not stand
And your calamity will be far reaching*

*We are called not to be foolish
We are called to be wise
Not to follow the world with a hope and a wish
But to trust and do what Jesus did advise*

*For His words are practical steps to live right, God honouring lives
Not putting into action these life giving words will surely lead to our demise
Of your choices now take stock
It's time to build your house upon the rock*

Think Deeper

- 1- What from Jesus teachings from the beginning of this book has stood out to you?
- 2- How have you already put Jesus' teachings into practice in your life?
- 3- Name two practical steps that you will do today to put more of Jesus' teachings into your life?

Truth

Jesus is the ultimate teacher and His words are life. We need to be wise and not only hear what He says, but take them to heart and put them into practice and incorporate them into our lives. When all is said and done and all fades away as the Lord decides our eternity, Jesus words will prove to have been the most valuable for our lives on earth now and for our eternity.

Pray

Lord Jesus help me to not only hear your words, but to put them into practice in my life. May I see the joy and wisdom in them now and rejoice in the future glory they hold. Thank you for your guidance and wisdom, help me Holy Spirit to live these teachings, in Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 31

Text

Read Matthew 7:28-29

*Teachers convey a truth that exists
But something that Jesus as a teacher assists
Is that He is the source of truth
He has authority, He is the proof*

*Taught words of God from God Himself
Words filled with life, words of such wealth
Privileged to hear words to follow the way
Let us obey His authority and what He did say*

Think Deeper

- 1- Why could Jesus speak with such authority?
- 2- What must it have been like to witness Jesus (God) speaking Gods truth?
- 3- How can you regularly remind yourself of these teachings? How will you put that into practice?

Truth

Jesus not only spoke as someone who had authority, He possessed that authority. This same Jesus that spoke these words was there and part of the process when through Gods words existence was spoken into being. With this in mind, we are to take note of who is saying these words (Jesus- God the Son) and the significance that pushes through into what He said. Jesus' words are the most valuable; we should make a practice of reading and hearing them regularly, but also we are now to do them.

Pray

Lord Jesus, thank you for directly speaking to us and giving us guidance. Help me value and appreciate your words above all others and help me to live by them, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Let us build our lives on the rock, let us
meditate on the words of our King, let us
put into practice and intertwine Jesus'
core teaching's into our lives

