

Read the New Testament in a Year

(Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer)

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February 23rd. Mark 4:1-20.

Reflect: How deeply rooted is God's Word in your life? Which cares of this world tend to block out the Word so you no longer listen to it or allow it to direct your life? *Prayer: "Lord, make my heart receptive to your life-giving Word. Amen."*

February 24th. - Mark 4:21-41.

Reflect: How do you react when Jesus seems to be asleep when you need him the most? How does this story of Jesus calming the storm encourage you in times like this? *Prayer: "Lord, help me to trust in you, no matter how big the waves get! Amen."*

February 25th. - Mark 5:1-20.

Reflect: Mission work doesn't just occur in foreign lands, Jesus calls us all to, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you." *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to tell those around me about your mercy. Amen."*

February 26th. - Mark 5:21-43.

Reflect: When facing death (either our own or that of a loved one) Jesus' words here are spoken also for us: "Don't be afraid; just believe." Jesus is the Lord of life! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to not be afraid of death, but to trust in you. Amen."*

February 27th. - Mark 6:1-29.

Reflect: Is it easier to witness at home (to your family and friends) or to those who don't know you so well? Why is that? How could you be more effective at home? *Prayer: "Lord, you understand my struggles in witnessing. Please help me! Amen."*

February 28th. - Mark 6:30-56.

Reflect: More often than not we would prefer to send people away to buy their own food. How do you react when Jesus suggests that you should feed (help) them? *Prayer: "Lord, give me your compassion for lost sheep and people in need. Amen."*

February 1st. - Matthew 21:1-22.

Reflect: If Jesus were to visit your Church, what tables would he turn over? How would people react? What would Jesus over turn (change) in your life? Why? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, forgive, heal, renew and bless me. Amen."*

February 2nd. - Matthew 21:23-46.

Reflect: Can you think of a time when you said to Jesus, "Yes, I will do it." But you didn't? There's still time to be like the first son in the parable, so why not do it today?! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to do your will, both willingly and faithfully. Amen."*

February 3rd. - Matthew 22:1-22.

Reflect: None of us deserve to attend God's wedding banquet. We are invited by God's grace. God even provides the wedding clothes (Jesus' righteousness) for us to wear! *Prayer: "Father, help me to respond to your call with faith in Jesus. Amen."*

February 4th. - Matthew 22:23-46.

Reflect: Loving God totally and loving others as ourselves, sums up the Law. We sinners are incapable of such perfect love. Thank God, we live by God's forgiveness! *Prayer: "Jesus, my Saviour, fill me with your love. Amen."*

February 5th. - Matthew 23:1-22.

Reflect: Do you practice what you preach? Are you making it harder or easier for others to come to Jesus and believe in him? Think of a few specific examples. *Prayer: "Lord, help me to be a servant and a blessing to others. Amen."*

February 6th. - Matthew 23:23-39.

Reflect: How would Jesus rate your justice, mercy and faithfulness? How beautiful are you on the inside? How willing are you to let Jesus gather you under his wings? *Prayer: "Lord, please forgive my many failings and increase my faith in you! Amen."*

February 7th. - Matthew 24:1-28.

Reflect: If you knew for sure that the world was going to end tomorrow, what changes would you make in your life today? These changes are what being "ready" is all about! *Prayer: "Lord, help me to be ready for your return at all times. Amen."*

February 8th. - Matthew 24:29-51.

Reflect: Watching and waiting requires faithfulness and wisdom. How would you rate your present state of readiness for Christ's return? *Prayer: "Lord, help me remain faithful to you as I wait for your return. Amen."*

February 9th. - Matthew 25:1-30.

Reflect: What talents has Jesus entrusted to you? How faithfully are you using these gifts? What new ways could you use your resources and abilities to glorify God? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to faithfully use my talents in your service. Amen."*

February 10th. - Matthew 25:31-46.

Reflect: When was the last time you fed the hungry; befriended a stranger; clothed the poor; cared for the sick; or visited someone in prison? Are you more sheep or goat? *Prayer: "Lord, help me to serve you through caring for people in need. Amen."*

February 11th. - Matthew 26:1-25.

Reflect: How have you shown Jesus that you love him this past week? Could some of your actions this past week been less than loyal to Jesus? Even a betrayal of Jesus? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may my heart always be true to you! Amen."*

February 12th. - Matthew 26:26-46.

Reflect: Every time we go to Holy Communion we share in Jesus' body and blood "poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Poured out for YOU! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for the precious gift of your Supper! Amen."*

February 13th. - Matthew 26:47-75.

Reflect: All that happened to Jesus, went according to God's plan to save us. Jesus knew what was going to happen, but still went through with it, for YOU! *Prayer: "Lord, thank you for all that you went through for MY sake. Amen."*

February 14th. - Matthew 27:1-26.

Reflect: How was Judas' remorse very different from true repentance? Remorse leads to despair (death), but repentance leads to trust in Jesus' forgiveness (life). *Prayer: "Lord, when I fail, help me turn to you in repentance and faith. Amen."*

February 15th. - Matthew 27:27-44.

Reflect: How do you feel inside when you read how badly Jesus was treated? How does your heart respond when you remember that he went through this because of YOUR sin? *Prayer: "Lord, words can not express the debt of gratitude I owe you! Amen."*

February 16th. - Matthew 27:45-66.

Reflect: Jesus had always been at one with his Father, but on the cross he felt forsaken. Jesus was rejected and condemned so that WE might be accepted and forgiven by God! *Prayer: "Lord, you gave yourself for me, now I give myself to you. Amen."*

February 17th. - Matthew 28:1-20.

Reflect: Jesus' resurrection was not merely the reversal of his death, it was the death of death (the basis of our future resurrection!) and the reason Jesus can be with us always. *Prayer: "Risen Lord, help me to remember that you are always with me. Amen."*

February 18th. - Mark 1:1-20.

Reflect: Jesus' message and call is still the same today: "Repent and believe the good news!" and "Come with me, and I will teach you to catch people." *Prayer: "Lord, help me to follow you and successfully fish for people. Amen."*

February 19th. - Mark 1:21-45.

Reflect: Jesus not only preached the good news, he demonstrated it by bringing healing and freedom. How can your witness to Christ be better backed up with the way you live? *Prayer: "Lord, help me to spread your love by my witness and actions. Amen."*

February 20th. - Mark 2:1-28.

Reflect: Who needs you to carry them to Jesus so they might be healed and forgiven? Remember that Jesus calls the most unlikely people (like Levi) to follow him! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to bring those in need to you for healing. Amen."*

February 21st. - Mark 3:1-19.

Reflect: The evil spirits were smart enough to recognise Jesus when he came, but the religious leaders rejected him! What about you? How keen are you to follow him? *Prayer: "Jesus, you are the Son of God and I trust in you to save me! Amen."*

February 22nd. - Mark 3:20-35.

Reflect: The unforgivable sin is to reject the Holy Spirit and the faith in Jesus he wishes to give us. Without that we stand condemned with no hope at all! *Prayer: "Jesus, fill me with your Spirit and increase my faith in you. Amen."*