

Read the New Testament in a Year

(Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer)

© Pastor Richard Haar

January 26th. - Matthew 17:1-27.

Reflect: Can you name a time in your life when God was especially close? In which areas of your life would you like to have more faith? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, increase my faith in you. Amen."*

January 27th. - Matthew 18:1-14.

Reflect: What things in your life need amputating? What is presently standing in the way of you growing more as a Christian? Get rid of it!! *Prayer: "Good Shepherd, thank you for bringing me back home. Amen."*

January 28th. - Matthew 18:15-35.

Reflect: When was the last time you forgave someone who had wronged you in a major way? Did you do it grudgingly or gladly? Why? *Prayer: "Lord, help me to forgive others, as you forgive me. Amen."*

January 29th. - Matthew 19:1-30.

Reflect: Jesus challenged this man where it hurt the most - in his wallet! Most Western Christians struggle with this exact issue. How about you? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, free me from the love of money. Please! Amen."*

January 30th. - Matthew 20:1-19.

Reflect: How do you feel about the first being last and the last being first? Honestly?!? Read this passage again focusing on God's generosity. *Prayer: "Lord, thank you for being so generous to me! Amen."*

January 31st. - Matthew 20:20-34.

Reflect: In what ways could you grow in serving others? How do you relate your service of others with Christ's service of you? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to grow in servanthood. Amen."*

January 1st. - Matthew 1:1-24.

Reflect: Matthew shows Jesus' family tree going all the way back to Abraham. Jesus was truly human! He was also "God with us!" *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for sharing my humanity! Amen."*

January 2nd. - Matthew 2:1-23.

Reflect: What is the "gold, incense and myrrh" in your life? How much of this (your time, money, energy) have you offered to Jesus? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to worship you with my whole life. Amen."*

January 3rd. - Matthew 3:1-17.

Reflect: John didn't mince words with the Pharisees and Sadducees. What would he tell you to repent of? How would you react? *Prayer: "Heavenly Father, produce in me the fruit of repentance. Amen."*

January 4th. - Matthew 4:1-25.

Reflect: What is your greatest temptation right now? What would help you the most to resist this temptation? Remember Christ is our victory! *Prayer: "Jesus, thank you for defeating Satan on my behalf. Amen."*

January 5th. - Matthew 5:1-26.

Reflect: Compare Jesus' description of what being "blessed" means with what most people think. The blessing is in God's promise to save! *Prayer: "Lord, help me to live as one of your blessed people. Amen."*

January 6th. - Matthew 5:27-48.

Reflect: The Pharisees thought they were good enough to earn a place in God's kingdom. Jesus showed them (and us) their need of forgiveness. *Prayer: "Lord, I can never be perfect. Please forgive me! Amen."*

January 7th. - Matthew 6:1-18.

Reflect: Jesus tells us to give, pray, and fast in secret. There is no room for "piously showing off" in the Christian life. Why not? *Prayer: "Lord, may all I do be done for YOUR glory. Amen."*

January 8th. - Matthew 6:19-34.

Reflect: What is your greatest treasure in life? Where does Jesus come in your

set of priorities? (Honestly!?!). What is Jesus saying to you here?
Prayer: "God, help me to gladly give you top priority in my life. Amen."

January 9th. - Matthew 7:1-29.

Reflect: Are you ever guilty of having a judgmental attitude? What can be done about it? How does this compare to God's attitude towards us?
Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to be more accepting of others. Amen."

January 10th. - Matthew 8:1-17.

Reflect: Jesus is the Great Healer. Do you believe he can still heal today? What would you have said if you were the leper? Or the Centurion? Or Peter?
Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for your help and healing. Amen."

January 11th. - Matthew 8:18-34.

Reflect: How much does it cost to follow Jesus? How much have you given up? How does this compare with the benefits of being a Christian?
Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may I always be glad to be your follower! Amen."

January 12th. - Matthew 9:1-17.

Reflect: The first step in becoming spiritually healthy is admitting you are sick and need help from Doctor Jesus. We call this "repentance."
Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for your healing forgiveness! Amen."

January 13th. - Matthew 9:18-38.

Reflect: God has already prepared the harvest of those touched by Jesus. The question remains: Are you willing to work in his harvest field?
Prayer: "Here I am, Lord, send me, use me, in Christ's name. Amen."

January 14th. - Matthew 10:1-25.

Reflect: Jesus calls us to share in his mission and suffering. That's both thrilling and frightening. It'll work out: God promises to see us through!
Prayer: "Lord, help me to not be afraid to tell others about you. Amen."

January 15th. - Matthew 10:26-42.

Reflect: Are you determined to follow Jesus, no matter what? Meditating on how Jesus went to the cross for us, helps us to bear our own cross.
Prayer: "Lord, help me to find true life by giving my life to you. Amen."

January 16th. - Matthew 11:1-30.

Reflect: What things in life make you start doubting about Jesus? In those times of discouragement, what most renews your hope and faith?
Prayer: "Lord Jesus, give me your rest, comfort and renewal. Amen."

January 17th. - Matthew 12:1-32.

Reflect: People were more important to Jesus than the Jewish Law. Do you have a similar love and concern for people? How do you show it?
Prayer: "Lord Jesus, fill me with your love and compassion. Amen."

January 18th. - Matthew 12:33-50.

Reflect: What kind of fruit does your heart produce? Christ has made us into good trees! Doing our Father's will shows we are his children!
Prayer: "Heavenly Father, help me do your will in all things. Amen."

January 19th. - Matthew 13:1-30.

Reflect: How receptive a soil is your heart to God's Word? Do you hear it gladly? Do you believe it? Trust in it? And do you act on it?
Prayer: "Lord, help me to be good soil and to bear a rich crop. Amen."

January 20th. - Matthew 13:31-58.

Reflect: How full of joy are you about the Gospel? Can others see that for you Christ's love and forgiveness is "the pearl of great price"?
Prayer: "Lord Jesus, let me never lose my "first-love" for you. Amen."

January 21st. - Matthew 14:1-21.

Reflect: Things that God calls us to do seem impossible at first, but the feeding of the 5,000 is a reminder that nothing is too hard for God!
Prayer: "Lord, help me to trust in your goodness and power. Amen."

January 22nd. - Matthew 14:22-36.

Reflect: When the waves of life threaten to drown you, remember to keep your focus on Jesus rather than on the problems you are struggling with.
Prayer: "Lord Jesus, increase my faith in you. Amen."

January 23rd. Matthew 15:1-20.

Reflect: What has been coming out of your mouth lately? Are there things that God needs to clean up? Where is this uncleanness rooted?
Prayer: "Lord, make my heart clean, inside and out! Amen."

January 24th. - Matthew 15:21-39.

Reflect: How quickly do you give up asking if God doesn't answer your prayers straight away? Consider this Canaanite woman's example!
Prayer: "Lord Jesus, teach me to more trusting when I pray. Amen."

January 25th. - Matthew 16:1-28.

Reflect: If someone came up to you unexpectedly and asked you who you think Jesus is, and what he means to you, what would you say?
Prayer: "Lord Jesus, yes, you are the Christ, the Son of God. Amen."