

March 26th. - Luke 3:1-18.

Reflect: John the Baptist's role was to prepare the way for Jesus. We too are called to prepare others for Jesus coming, so "all will see God's salvation."

Prayer: "Lord, thank you for all those who helped me to know you. Amen."

March 27th. - Luke 3:19-38.

Reflect: At Jesus' baptism, God said, "You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased." God said that about **us too**, in our baptism!

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank you for my new identity in Jesus. Amen."

March 28th. - Luke 4:1-30.

Reflect: Jesus was tempted (but without sinning). God's Word gives us guidance when we are tempted (and tells us of Jesus' forgiveness when we fail.) *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, mercifully protect me in times of temptation. Amen."*

March 29th. - Luke 4:31-44.

Reflect: The demons had enough sense to recognise who Jesus was. They even did (reluctantly) what he commanded them. How about us?!

Prayer: "Lord, help me to both know you and to obey you (willingly!) Amen."

March 30th. - Luke 5:1-26.

Reflect: The paralytic man finally got to meet Jesus - and was forgiven and healed - because of the persistence and faith of his friends. Your friends need Jesus too! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to bring my friends to you. Amen."*

March 31st. - Luke 5:27-39.

Reflect: Jesus freely mixed with the "down-and-outs". He loved them. He wants us to love them and care for them too. We're all the same: we all need forgiveness! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, fill me with your compassion for people in need. Amen."*

(Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer)

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March 1st. - Mark 7:1-23.

Reflect: Do you honour God with your heart as well as with your lips? Is it obvious to others that the way you live is consistent with what you say you believe? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, protect me from the sin of hypocrisy. Amen."*

March 2nd. - Mark 7:24-37.

Reflect: How does your faith measure up to that of the woman in this chapter? She refused to be put off! What an encouragement for us to keep praying for God's help. *Prayer: "Lord, help me to trust that you are willing and able to help me. Amen."*

March 3rd. - Mark 8:1-21.

Reflect: These people had come a long way to hear Jesus. Are you as eager (and patient) to sit at Jesus feet? How is this reflected in your worship patterns? *Prayer: "Lord, thank you for feeding me both in body and soul. Amen."*

March 4th. - Mark 8:22-38.

Reflect: Who do you say Jesus is? If you answer (correctly) that he is the Christ, are you also willing to show you know who he is by following him? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to take up my cross and follow you. Amen."*

March 5th. - Mark 9:1-29.

Reflect: God speaks from heaven and what does he say? He says, "Listen to Jesus!" That heavenly advice will see us in good stead in every situation in life! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to always keep my focus on you. Amen."*

March 6th. - Mark 9:30-50.

Reflect: How would you describe true greatness? How do you feel about Jesus' call to servanthood? How do you link serving and greatness in your thinking? *Prayer: "Lord, please give me a servant's heart. Amen."*

March 7th. - Mark 10:1-31.

Reflect: If you had to give up your riches (financial security) to follow Jesus, would you do it instantly (gladly) or would you go away sad? *Prayer: "Lord, by your grace, keep me free from the love of money. Amen."*

March 8th. - Mark 10:32-52.

Reflect: Jesus' suffering servanthood for our salvation is both an example and motivation for our serving. Who could you share Christ's love with this week? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you that you gave your life to ransom me. Amen."*

Read the New Testament in a Year

March 9th. - Mark 11:1-19.

Reflect: When Jesus came to Jerusalem, like the fig tree, the fruit he was looking for was missing! Would you greet his arrival to your home with hosannas or with fear? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, produce in me the fruit you want me to show. Amen."*

March 10th. - Mark 11:20-33.

Reflect: Here's a simple recipe for prayer (with Jesus' own stamp of approval): Faith in Christ and a forgiving heart for others! Which do you find harder? *Prayer: "Lord, strengthen my faith and fill me with your forgiving love. Amen."*

March 11th. - Mark 12:1-27.

Reflect: Jesus says we ought to responsibly pay our taxes. More importantly, we ought to fulfil our obligations to God! How do you fare with each? *Prayer: "Father, help me to be a person of honesty and integrity. Amen."*

March 12th. - Mark 12:28-44.

Reflect: Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and our neighbour as ourselves is truthfully what we ought to do. But we don't! *Prayer: "Lord, forgive me for my failings. Help me to live by your grace. Amen."*

March 13th. - Mark 13:1-23.

Reflect: To be forewarned is to be forearmed! The future will be difficult and troubled times. The only hope of surviving is to stay close to Jesus! *Prayer: "Lord, help me to stand firm to the very end. Amen."*

March 14th. - Mark 13:24-37.

Reflect: The most enduring thing of all are the words (promises) of Jesus. We can count on them and safely build our lives on them - for now and for eternity! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to know, love, and trust your Word. Amen."*

March 15th. - Mark 14:1-26.

Reflect: When was the last time you did something extravagant for Jesus (simply because you love him)? What would help you to be more generous? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, move me to give my very best for you! Amen."*

March 16th. - Mark 14:27-50.

Reflect: Despite Peter's bold claims, Jesus knew he would fail under pressure. Jesus also knows your weaknesses (and forgives them!) *Prayer: "Lord, thank you that YOU never let me down or fail me! Amen."*

March 17th. - Mark 14:51-72.

Reflect: What have you done in your life which, like Peter, made you break down and weep? Jesus suffered for that sin too! He declares you "not guilty!" *Prayer: "Jesus, thank you for all that you went through to save me! Amen."*

March 18th. - Mark 15:1-20.

Reflect: Close your eyes and try to picture Jesus' silence when faced with unjust accusations, a blood-thirsty lynch mob and the mockery of his brutal torturers. *Prayer: "Lord, you gave yourself for me, now I give myself to you. Amen."*

March 19th. - Mark 15:21-47.

Reflect: On the cross, Jesus felt forsaken by God. He felt the full weight of God's (just) anger at our sin. The debt has been paid in full! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for paying the debt of all my sin. Amen."*

March 20th. - Mark 16:1-20.

Reflect: The stone was rolled away and the tomb empty! Jesus is alive! Jesus promises us new life too! This is wonderful news! Who will you tell? Today? *Prayer: "Risen Lord Jesus, thank you for the new life you give me. Amen."*

March 21st. - Luke 1:1-25.

Reflect: Luke's Gospel was written for Theophilus so he could be sure that the things he had been taught about Jesus were true. So too for us today. *Prayer: "Lord, open my ears and heart to hear and believe your Word. Amen."*

March 22nd. - Luke 1:26-56.

Reflect: Even though the promise of Jesus' birth puzzled her deeply, Mary gave herself willingly in God's service. What a wonderful example of faith for us! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, use me in your service. Amen."*

March 23rd. Luke 1:57-80.

Reflect: Which of the many promises listed in Zechariah's song speaks the most to you? How does this promise help your faith? Or your Christian living? *Prayer: "Lord, guide my feet into the path of peace. Amen."*

March 24th. - Luke 2:1-20.

Reflect: The angels tell us who Jesus is: He is Christ (the promised saviour) the Lord (God). God has come to save us - that's worth believing and sharing! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to spread the word about you. Amen."*

March 25th. - Luke 2:21-52.

Reflect: Like Simeon, having seen Jesus (believe in him) we can live and die in peace. Like Anna, we can praise God and tell others the Good News. *Prayer: "Lord, help me, like Mary, to treasure these truths in my heart. Amen."*