

Devotional

June 28 - Oct. 3

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WEEK TWELVE (SEPTEMBER 13–19)

<u>Day 257: September 13, 2020</u> Full Plan: Matthew 26:1–75

Abbreviated Plan: Matthew 27:32-66

Matthew 26 calls us to choose: Will our faith in Christ be marked more by the expensive perfume used by the woman at Bethany to anoint him, or by the thirty pieces of silver used by Judas to betray him? Choose sacrifice, not betrayal.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

<u>Day 258: September 14, 2020</u> <u>Full Plan: Matthew 27:1–28:20</u>

Abbreviated Plan: Matthew 28:1-20

Matthew ends with two competing stories: the cover-up and the commission. There's the story that the disciples stole Jesus' body, and there's the command by Jesus to go into the world and make disciples. We are called to disprove the former by being the proof of the latter.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 259: September 15, 2020

Full Plan: Mark 1:1-3:35

Abbreviated Plan: Mark 1:1-45

Mark 1: It's interesting that in Mark and Luke, the first miracle Jesus performs is healing the man with the "unclean spirit," which is how the Bible describes mental illness. From the outset, Jesus cared for people with mental illness. We should, too.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

<u>Day 260: September 16, 2020</u> Full Plan: Mark 4:1–5:43

Abbreviated Plan: Mark 2:1-28

Until now, Jesus healed many people, but insisted they keep it a secret. Then in Mark 5, he cast a man's demons into swine and healed him, and told him to tell everyone about his healing. Again, Mark emphasizes Jesus' heart for the mentally hurting.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 261: September 17, 2020

Full Plan: Mark 6:1-56

Abbreviated Plan: Mark 3:1-35

Mark 6 captures the gamut of human anxieties: rejection (1-13), grief (14-29), fatigue and hunger (30-44), panic and overwork (45-52), and ill health (53-56). But above it all, Jesus says, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid," (v. 52). May his words bring encouragement to you.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

<u>Day 262: September 18, 2020</u> Full Plan: Mark 7:1–8:38

Abbreviated Plan: Mark 4:1-41

The pivot point in Mark 8 is vss 11-13; the other stories before and after run parallel to each other. Here Jesus tells the Pharisees there will be no heavenly sign to prove his authority. If you're looking for proof, note the transformed lives around you.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 263: September 19, 2020 Full Plan: Mark 9:1–10:45

Abbreviated Plan: Mark 8:1-38

Mark 9-10 has three reminders that true greatness is found through servanthood and humility: Whoever wants to be first will be last (9:35); Those with a child-like faith will enter the Kingdom (10:15); Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve (10:45).

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

September 13–19 2020: Weekly Devotion by Shirley Murphy

We can Make God's Word Real when we personalize what we read in the Bible. Matthew and Mark provide us with an account of the life, ministry, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Every aspect of Jesus' life serves as a mirror for us to reflect, to examine and to ask WHO ARE WE and WHO DO WE HOPE TO BE.

ARE WE Pilate who washed his hands of the matter of Jesus' crucifixion and allowed injustice to prevail (Matt. 27:24)?

ARE WE James or John who felt more worthy than all the other disciples and asked Jesus "to sit, one on the right hand, and the other on thy left hand…" (Mark 10:35-37)?

ARE WE the disciples on the storm-tossed boat who witnessed

Jesus performing miracles; and they still did not have a sustainable faith in His power to save them from a perilous sea (Mark 4:37-40)?

ARE WE the rich man who asked how he may "inherit eternal life"? When Jesus told the rich man to sell all that he owned, give the money to the poor and "follow me," the rich man sadly walked away (Mark 10:17-22).

ARE WE Peter who did not heed the warning from Jesus and ended up denying Jesus three times (Matt. 26:33-35; 69-75)?

Praise God that He accepts us as WE ARE. He can mold us into the person that WE HOPE TO BE through our prayers, our supplications and our willingness to surrender to His will.

WE HOPE TO BE Jairus who believed Jesus could heal his daughter or bring her back to life (Mark 5:22-23; 35-42). Jesus said if you believe, all things are possible (Mark 9:23).

WE HOPE TO BE the woman who was healed because she had faith that by simply touching Jesus' clothes, she would be healed. Jesus confirmed that it was her faith that made her well (Mark 5:25-34).

WE HOPE TO BE Prayer Warriors whose prayers for others will be as effective as the friends who cut a hole in the roof and lowered their friend down to be healed by Jesus (Mark 2:4) The sick man was healed because of his friends' faith. When we believe and faithfully pray on behalf of others, God hears our prayers.

WE HOPE TO BE the Sower who sows his seeds in a well

cultivated area. We need to plant God's Word in God-fearing hearts, so that He will be glorified (Mark 4:3-20).

Let Jesus' lessons, miracles and promises resonate within our hearts. Amen.

WEEK THIRTEEN (SEPTEMBER 20–26)

Day 264: September 20, 2020 Full Plan: Mark 10:46–12:34 Abbreviated Plan: Mark 9:1–50

This is Mark's odd version of Palm Sunday. After Jesus entered Jerusalem, he left that night and returned the next day to curse the fig tree and cleanse the Temple. That's grace. We're never so low that we can't say Hosanna and never so high that we don't need our sins cleansed.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life: