



# Devotional

June 28 - Oct. 3

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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:

**Day 265: September 21, 2020**

**Full Plan: Mark 12:35–13:37**

**Abbreviated Plan: Mark 10:1–52**

Mark 12-13 is Mark's "little apocalypse," where Jesus forecasts the Roman persecution and the destruction of the temple. But his biggest warning is against the Pharisees, for taking advantage of the poor. Injustice and inequality is in itself destructive. How do we hear and heed that warning for ourselves?

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

**Day 266: September 22, 2020**

**Full Plan: Mark 14:1–72**

**Abbreviated Plan: Mark 15:1–47**

Mark 14 is about blind spots. Jesus knew something about the disciples that they didn't acknowledge in themselves: their capacity to betray, deny, and fall away from him. Following Jesus means confessing our tendency to say, "Surely not I?"

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

**Day 267: September 23, 2020**

**Full Plan: Mark 15:1–16:20**

**Abbreviated Plan: Mark 16:1–20**

The gospel that begins with Jesus casting out demons ends with Jesus empowering the disciples to do the same. Yes, there is evil in this broken world. But God is greater, and we are called and equipped to do something about it.

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

**Day 268: September 24, 2020**

**Full Plan: Luke 1:1–80**

**Abbreviated Plan: Luke 1:1–38**

Luke begins with a unifying vision of the old (Elizabeth) and the young (Mary) joining together to usher in the Kingdom. All generations are important; they each have value to offer one another. What can you learn today from people older and younger than you?

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

## Day 269: September 25, 2020

**Full Plan: Luke 2:1–51**

**Abbreviated Plan: Luke 1:39–80**

Luke 2. Sometimes the spiritual life is filled with bold, indelible moments of glory to God (angels, shepherds). Sometimes it is filled with quiet, centered “pondering.” (Mary). Regardless of how today goes, find time to praise through pondering.

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

## Day 270: September 26, 2020

**Full Plan: Luke 3:1–4:13**

**Abbreviated Plan: Luke 2:1–20**

Luke 3. It’s interesting that while Matthew puts Jesus’ genealogy at the time of his birth, Luke puts it at the outset of his ministry. We have two ancestries: one that led to the start of our lives, and the one that led to the start of our faith. Both are important.

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

## September 20–26, 2020: Weekly Devotion by Joanie Mellen

We begin this week by reading Mark’s recording of the last healing act of Jesus, the restoration of Bartimaeus’ sight. Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, the place where he knew he would face the Cross. Yet, from a large crowd, he hears Bartimaeus cry for mercy and healing. When Jesus asks “*What do you want me to do for you?*” Bartimaeus leaps up, and asks for restoration of his sight. Jesus says: “*Go your way; your faith has made you well*”.

Immediately his sight is received and ***Bartimaeus followed him on the way*** (read Longfellow’s Poem: “Blind Bartimaeus” at <http://christ-likelife.blogspot.com/2011/08/blind-bartimaeus.html>).

I like to think that Bartimaeus becomes our eyes on the journey to Jerusalem, becoming one of the “Passover pilgrims”. The ending of Mark, Chapters 11-16, tells of the grand entry into the holy city, the fig tree parable, foretelling of the destruction of the Temple, confirming the great commandment, the widow’s offering, the passion narrative, last supper, the denials by Peter, and finally; the crucifixion and death of Jesus. The thing that is different from the other three Gospels is that Mark closes without an account of the Resurrection or any of the subsequent appearances of the risen Christ. Scholars suggest this is intentional. Mark emphasizes that the crucified and risen Jesus is the Messiah and perhaps this forces us to do the same.

St. Luke, a physician, is the author of the Gospel of Luke and of Acts. Luke begins his Gospel with a short preface letting us know he has done his research well and is recording ‘*The Truth in Its Fullness*’. Then he precedes with telling two wonderful birth stories; that of John the Baptist and Jesus, son of God. Luke goes

on to tell of Jesus' boyhood, public ministry, baptism by John, a long listing of Jesus' genealogy, and ends this week's reading with the story of Jesus being tempted by the devil.

Of the three Gospels, Luke's recording of the birth of Jesus is the one I like best. My favorite verse is **2:19** "***But, Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.***" I think there is a message here for all of us parents.

**Prayer: Holy Spirit let us ponder in our hearts how best to nurture the souls under our care to become their greatest potential in the sight of God.**

#### WEEK FOURTEEN (SEPTEMBER 27–OCTOBER 3)

**Day 271: September 27, 2020**

**Full Plan: Luke 4:14–5:39**

**Abbreviated Plan: Luke 2:21–51**

Luke 5 contains the beautiful story of the people who lower their friend through the roof to meet Jesus (17-26). Who do you know who needs to be healed by Jesus? What friends reflect Jesus for you? How might you see the "strange things" of God's grace today?

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

**Day 272: September 28, 2020**

**Full Plan: Luke 6:1–49**

**Abbreviated Plan: Luke 4:1–44**

Just think of how much better this world would be if we all lived out Luke 6:37-42. Don't judge. Don't condemn. Forgive. Don't search for specks in other's eyes when you have a log in your own. Imagine how better our relationships, country, and world would be.

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

**Day 273: September 29, 2020**

**Full Plan: Luke 7:1–8:39**

**Abbreviated Plan: Luke 5:1–39**

There are only two people in the gospels who amazed Jesus by their faith. One is the Canaanite woman, the other is the centurion (Luke 7); both were outsiders to the Jews. This calls us to expand our view of God's love to include those that others would exclude.

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