



# Devotional

June 28 - Oct. 3

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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:

**Day 274: September 30, 2020**

**Full Plan: Luke 8:40–9:62**

**Abbreviated Plan: Luke 6:12–42**

Only Luke records the story in 9:51-56, where the disciples want to punish a Samaritan village with fire from heaven because the villagers rejected them. But Jesus rebuked the disciples. The way of violence and revenge is never the way of Jesus.

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

**Day 275: October 1, 2020**

**Full Plan: Luke 10:1–11:36**

**Abbreviated Plan: Luke 8:1–25**

The Good Samaritan story (Luke 10:25-37) is placed in the middle of teachings about rejection (1-16), perseverance (11:1-13), and suffering (11:14-32). It's a reminder that no matter how bad life gets, we can always be in service to our neighbor in need.

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

**Day 276: October 2, 2020**

**Full Plan: Luke 11:37–12:59**

**Abbreviated Plan: Luke 9:1–27**

Hardly a day goes by when Luke 12:13-34 isn't helpful in some way. Don't be obsessed with possessions. Do not worry. Do not be afraid. Keep your priorities straight. We are more than lilies and sparrows. We are the "little flock" of God (v. 32).

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

**Day 277: October 3, 2020**

**Full Plan: Luke 13:1–14:35**

**Abbreviated Plan: Luke 10:25–42**

We typically interpret the mustard seed parable (Luke 13) to suggest that we should have "faith like a mustard seed." But given the story Luke tells before this, it could also mean having "compassion like a mustard seed." Even a little goes a long way.

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

**September 27 – October 3, 2020: Weekly Devotion by Martha Chamberlain**

**Spending Time With Jesus, in Awe**

Seasoned readers of the Bible will tell you that you can read the same Bible passage many times, at different times, and still discover a new message. I experienced that this week going through the entire week's readings (Luke 4:14 – 14:35) in one sitting. I had planned to read one day at a time, but I just couldn't stop reading.

I am going back to each day's verses for further, more focused reflection. But immersing myself in multiple page-turner chapters of stories, parables, miracles and sermons drew me closer to Jesus as no one passage could.

Here I found Jesus, rejected by his hometown Nazareth, preaching in the synagogues of Judea, calling his first disciples, speaking in parables, and inviting Levi the tax collector to "follow me" (which he did, of course).

Jesus is preaching his way to Jerusalem, and along the way he's healing people. The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the dead raised. And noticing all this are the Pharisees, with growing anger at the one who speaks and acts so boldly.

"They ought to make a movie of this!" I thought to myself at one point (Actually, they already did. The "Jesus" film, based on the Book of Luke, was released in 1979 and has been translated into 1,400 languages. You can still find it online, or in the Bible mobile

app, as I did. It was widely acclaimed for its historical and biblical accuracy, and as an evangelical tool.).

But in the end, for me, The Book is always so much better. Reading Jesus' own words and Luke's narratives, I could imagine myself in the crowd, or in a corner of the room. I witnessed miracles and absorbed profound truths. I heard Jesus' voice. I found myself at his feet in awe.

Immersion is a word we Christians associate with the Sacrament of Baptism. But it can happen also when you read the Gospel of Luke.

"Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear," Luke 14:35.