

90 DAYS THROUGH THE GOSPELS:

A Prayer - Care – Share Scripture Journey with Jesus

by Kathy Branzell

Introduction and Invitation

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Welcome to the year 2020 and “90 Days Through the Gospels: Journeying with Jesus to Prayer-Care-Share.” How fitting to begin this year by saturating ourselves in the supremacy of Jesus by reading and learning His Words, will, ways, commands and promises written for us in the gospel scriptures. Many of you may have made a commitment or “resolution” to read your Bible every day and pray; this journey will help to make that hope a habit this year. We are so humbled and grateful that you joined us on this journey.

This is going to be an amazing journey that will help you live out life as a disciple-maker. Whether in a synagogue, by the sea, or walking down the street; Jesus modeled how to love God, love our neighbor and share the Good news of salvation. We can show love and make disciples every day, along the way to wherever we are going or whatever we are doing by following Jesus’ example. The gospels tell us that as Jesus was “passing through,” “on his way to do...”, or sitting on the shore enjoying the view; He prayed, He cared, and He shared the Kingdom message of salvation.

This journey was written to show us how simple it can be to be a disciple-maker every day by following Jesus’ model that is recorded in every chapter of the gospels. Every day you will read one chapter of the gospels beginning with Matthew and a short devotional prompt of how you can pray, care and share based on that chapter. It is simple to share the love and message of Jesus every day; giving help and hope to those who need it. A simple, “How are you doing?” can open an entire conversation that will teach you how to pray and how to care for them – sharing the message of Jesus will change them forever. Your life; your attitude, affection, availability, and affirmation will help show them what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Please pray with us and read Isaiah 9:1-7; looking forward to the coming Christ as we look forward to beginning our gospel journey in Matthew 1.

Prayer: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace – I look forward to what You will do; what You will teach me, and the doors You will open for me to share Your love and message on our journey with You these next 90 days. I commit to be faithful in this journey. I want You to saturate my life with Your Word and Your purpose. I seek to know You and make You known: be glorified in my life. Help me to focus – to give you my full attention as I read – and teach me to live a prayer-care-share lifestyle so that I can be Your witness, sharing Your love and message everywhere and every day.

Luke 1

Prayer: Jesus, I profess my belief in you and in Your Word. I believe Your promises and desire to do as You command in response to Your love for me and my love for You. Lord, I want to praise You as Mary did; I am amazed and thankful that You are mindful of me, always doing great and mighty deeds. Help me to seek opportunities to share Your love and message; allow me to prepare hearts for You as John did for Jesus.

Care: Just as John prepared hearts and lives for Jesus; we can do the same by providing friendship, meeting needs and sharing Scripture and our testimony. At John's birth, many gathered to celebrate and hear his name. If you know someone who recently had a baby, offer to bring them dinner or surprise them with a gift. If you are a close friend, offer to babysit a couple of hours while the new mom takes a nap. Pray for them and their baby.

Share: Verse thirty-seven reminds us that "Nothing will be impossible with God." His love is true and His promises are always kept. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to hear this verse and know Jesus' faithfulness; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this verse mean to you in your life?

Luke 2

Prayer: Jesus, I thank you for leaving heaven to come and dwell with us. Some had watched, some were waiting and some, like the shepherds, were surprised. I am watching for Your return. I thank you for the joy You brought – You are the Good News! I praise You and thank you for all of the things I have heard and seen You do. Lord, I can imagine the smile on Your face as Mary and Joseph present Your Son to You at the Temple in obedience to Your law. I seek You with all of my heart so that I can also grow in wisdom and in Your favor.

Care: Eighty-four-year-old Anna was widowed after seven short years of marriage. If you know a widow or widower in your neighborhood, workplace, church, etc., invite her/him to a meal or outing. Give them the present of your presence.

Share: In verse ten, the angel said, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people." Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that the message of Jesus equals great joy; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this verse mean to you in your life?

Luke 3

Prayer: Jesus, I know that my relationship with You is personal; it is not based on my parents' or grandparents' relationship with You, but my response to Your love and sacrifice for me. I want to live my

life for You, for Your glory and to fulfill Your purpose for my life. I thank You for being my Lord and Savior; thank you for taking the punishment for my sins and for making me an eternal part of Your family. I yield my selfishness so that Your Spirit can produce fruit in my life that is an expression of my repentance and dedication to You and Your Kingdom.

Care: “Anyone who has two shirts should share with one who has none, and anyone with food should do the same.” Bless someone; give to a ministry or organization that needs food and clothing, we all have something, or boxes of something we can give.

Share: John proclaimed the power and authority of Jesus in a culture overwhelmed by oppression and enemy occupation. Someone you know or that you will meet today is feeling weak and hopeless, and they need to hear the message of Jesus’ ability and authority; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this message mean to you in your life?

Luke 4

Prayer: Jesus I need You, I need Your Word in my heart and mind to defeat Satan’s questions and temptations. Teach me who I am to You and that You supply all of my needs. I worship You alone. Keep my ears and heart attuned to Your Word and to know when it is being twisted or spoken out of context. Do not let me be deceived into doubt or distraction from You Jesus.

Care: There are many people suffering from temptation, isolation, need, and rejection. The enemy likes to exploit those situations to make you feel unloved or to justify sin; ignore him and speak truth from Scripture over your circumstances, then watch for someone else today who is suffering and speak words of affirmation over them. Be their friend or cheer them up with a cup of coffee or other act of kindness. Share and show kindness today.

Share: Jesus healed many people throughout His ministry on earth but His purpose was to “preach the good news of the Kingdom of God” and redeem us from our sins. No one is so far away or so broken that Jesus cannot forgive them. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know the message of forgiveness; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this verse mean to you in your life?

Luke 5

Prayer: Jesus, I want to follow Your example in prayer; I want to live a lifestyle of prayer, talking with You throughout the day and having a habit of withdrawing to pray each day. Help me to guard my time and to make prayer a priority. Strengthen me to do Your will even when it seems inconvenient or does not make sense, so that I do not miss an opportunity to see Your love and power manifested throughout my life.

Care: The paralytic man had some amazing friends who carried him and dug through a roof to get him to Jesus. Go out of your way today to care for someone. Offer to drive them to church or a fellowship or take them somewhere they need to go. Often times, caring for people is not convenient or easy; sometimes it does not make sense – like when Jesus told Peter to put his net out on the other side – but Jesus will take your care and glorify Himself in miraculous ways.

Share: Verse sixteen says Jesus would withdraw to pray. If prayer was important and necessary to Jesus, how much more is prayer vital to our lives? Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that you pray for them, and that they too can call on Jesus anytime in prayer; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this verse mean to you in your life?

Luke 6

Prayer: Jesus, Your Word tells me to live differently than the world teaches. You promise and pronounce happiness, the Greek word “Blessed,” for the people who are often seen as desperate, poor, and persecuted. You tell us to love our enemies and pray for them. You tell us to lend and love without expecting return. I want a life built on the firm foundation of hearing and doing Your Word; please help me. I realize that every word that comes out of my mouth is a reflection of what is in my heart. Let my attitude and actions always reflect my faith and love for you.

Care: You have something that someone needs but could never repay you. Prayerfully consider giving it to them. Ask Jesus to show you a need, a gift that you could give without expecting anything in return. Always give Jesus the credit for the gift, saying, “Jesus prompted me to give this to you; He wants you to know that He sees You and He loves you.”

Share: In verse forty-two, Jesus tells the hypocrite to take the log out of his own eye before helping to get the speck out of someone else’s eye. “Hypocrite” is a word commonly thrown at Christians today; but we all sin, none are perfect, we have just opened our heart and surrendered our life for Jesus to teach us how to live and love better and better each day. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to hear this. What does this verse mean to you in your life?

Luke 7

Prayer: Jesus, I do not feel worthy of your love or attention; I know that is what makes it so wonderful. I cannot earn it, yet You give it so lavishly. Thank You Jesus! You know me; my heart and my thoughts, and so I come humbly to You – like the woman who washed Your feet with her tears and anointed you with precious ointment – sorry for my sin and honoring You with my heart and gifts. All I have is Yours, I want to be faithful to give and steward my time, talent and treasure for Your Kingdom.

Care: There are many churches and ministries who go and share the love and forgiveness of Jesus with prostitutes, strippers, and those who have made bad choices in relationships time and time

again. They need to know that they can start new and walk in pureness with Jesus. Consider donating time or money to one of these ministries or share with someone you know who has a lifestyle of pain and not purity, so that they can find the love they have been searching for in Jesus. Do not judge them, care for them.

Share: Verse forty-seven tells us that someone “who has been forgiven much, loves much.” We need forgiveness every day and that is why it is important to respond with love every day. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know the message of forgiveness and love; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this verse mean to you in your life?

Luke 8

Prayer: Jesus I want to hear and hold fast to Your Word. I seek You with an honest heart that Your Word will bear fruit in my life. I want to share all that You have done with others; giving a testimony of Your love and power. I do not want to hide my relationship with you, and I pray that You use me to multiply Your fame to others who need to know You. Please make my life “good soil” for Your Word to prosper in me.

Care: Most people who come to church or a Bible study for the first time are often confused, they do not know the whole story, or are unfamiliar with our “church language” and feel embarrassed or even rejected. Some people experience an increase in “problems” such as finance, family or job situations soon after committing to growing closer to God. Offer to study and pray with someone who is new to the Word and church. You do not have to be a scholar, just someone willing to learn along the way with them. Be willing to answer questions and encourage them on their journey with Jesus.

Share: Verse twenty-four tells us that Jesus rebuked the wind and raging waves and they ceased and were calm. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus can calm the storms of life or carry them through the storms; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this verse mean to you in your life?

Luke 9

Prayer: Jesus, I picture You now high and lifted up, in the brightness as You were when You transfigured on the mountain. Your glory was revealed to Your closest disciples as You spoke with Moses and Elijah. You are King of Kings, yet You call me Your friend. Thank You. Thank You for the love You expressed to the sick and possessed, and the patience You had as Your disciples bickered over who was the greatest among them. Thank You for Your patience with me, I love You and desire to be Your disciple, a pupil learning more about You and from You each day.

Care: The Church is the body of Christ meant to worship Jesus and multiply by making more disciples. We are meant to complete the Great commission not compete in it. (V.49-50) If you know of a need or project that requires a team of people, reach out to your neighbors who attend other churches

and fulfill a need by uniting and being the Church together. Collect food, coats, or school supplies, clean up a park or a neighborhood that needs some love. The possibilities are endless.

Share: In verses eighteen through twenty, Jesus asks, “Who do the crowds say I am?” and then “Who do you say I am?” Peter professed, “You are the Christ, the Son of God.” The crowds and cultures have mixed and messed up messages about who Jesus is. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus is Lord; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this verse mean to you in your life?

Luke 10

Prayer: Jesus, I rejoice that my name is written in heaven. I thank You for revealing Yourself based on our love and trust in You and not based on our intellectual ability, riches or success. I love you with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength. Please show me if there is anything I am keeping from You. Help me to know how to love my neighbor; the “dear ones” and “near ones” You have put in my home, neighborhood, community and across the world. Let me be a vessel that pours out Your love and shares Your message of salvation.

Care: Samaria was a city that was avoided by Jews; they did not even speak to them and considered them unworthy to live in their country. Is there a part of your town that you avoid? Are there people you do not converse with for one reason or another? Be a “Good Samaritan” to someone outside of your usual relationship circles today; look for someone who is hurting physically, emotionally, or spiritually and help to bring healing and hope to their life. Make a sacrifice for another person or family to have or do something.

Share: In verse eighteen, Jesus says, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” Satan is not an equal rival of Jesus; often times we give Satan way too much credit. Jesus defeated the power of sin with His sacrificial death on the cross and when He rose from the grave. Notice the demons had to submit to Jesus. Put your faith in Jesus and let him fight Satan for you and with you. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that the enemy has been defeated; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this verse mean to you in your life?

Luke 11

Prayer: Jesus, You told us to ask, to seek, to knock in prayer and it will be given to us. You taught us to pray, “Your Kingdom come and Your will be done,” and so I understand not to ask for anything against Your Word and ways. Your plans are loving and Your goodness guides me into the best path, please keep me from being distracted by things that are not a part of Your plan for my life. Glorify Yourself in all I do, give me the desires of Your heart so that I will know what to ask for as I seek Your Kingdom and righteousness all of my days.

Care: The only people Jesus spoke harshly towards were the “religious leaders” who were only concerned for their positions and comforts. Jesus always spoke truth with great love to the sinner and had great patience with His disciples. Look for people who have been hurt by “church people” in the past and apologize for their pain. Be a caring friend to let them know how Jesus taught us to treat others.

Share: Many of the verses in Chapter eleven deal with behavior. It is not that we just need to stop doing sinful things, it is that we need to replace sinful ways with faith-filled godly habits. You cannot dabble in Christianity – light is the absence of darkness. Whatever you “give up” for the sake of following Jesus will be replaced with something more wonderful than you could imagine. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that following Jesus with your whole heart fills Your life with joy and goodness; be prepared to share this message with them. What does this verse mean to you in your life?

Luke 12

Prayer: Jesus, I thank You that You love me so deeply, that You know every hair on my head. You are Sovereign; Creator of heaven and earth; and I pray that my words and deeds acknowledge You as my Lord. I seek You and know that You see my every need; help me to stand firm in my trust in You as my protector and provider. Help me to replace worry with faith. You are my treasure, strengthen me to know Your great love and goodness. Keep my eyes on You.

Care: Worry is deadly; it affects our health, relationships, work and most of all our relationship with Jesus. Listen to people as they talk, ask about their family and other parts of life. If they reveal something they are worried about tell them you will pray for them and talk with them as often as they will open up to you. Encourage and comfort them and urge them to pray if they have not. Talk with them about a difficult time in your life that Jesus got you through.

Share: Verses four and five tell us we ought to fear God not man. “Fear” is an awe-filled respect that acknowledges His authority and Your affectionate obedience. These verses are connected to the affection and provision that God has for us. He values and watches over you with power beyond anything a person could ever provide or prevent. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know Jesus’ supreme love and authority; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Luke 13

Prayer: Jesus, help me to know when suffering is a result of my sin and when it is meant to grow me. Let me always depend on You fully; I want to be fruitful and faithful. Thank You for my life; for the opportunities You give me, the wisdom, love and guidance You provide. I am just one person, but in Your hands I can serve You and Your Kingdom in amazing ways. Thank You for Your heart that loves us

so deeply and for Your hands that heal and hold us. Gather me under Your wings of authority and protection; I am Yours.

Care: Imagine the woman who was bent over for eighteen years in verse eleven; for all of those years she had struggled to look up. Day and night her face and eyes were lowered to the ground; she looked at feet and not faces. You know or see people like this every day; not because their body is bent but because their heart or confidence is broken. Watch for people who walk or sit with their heads down or cannot make eye contact and encourage them today, say something to lift their heads and hearts.

Share: Unfortunately, suffering is a part of life on this planet. Sometimes we suffer as a consequence from a bad choice we made; other times it is the result of someone else's bad decision. Sometimes God allows us to go through a trial to grow us; to show us His faithfulness, to draw us closer to Him, or to teach us something we will be able to share with others for His glory and will. There are times we suffer because of our sin; unresolved sin can cause a pattern or persistence of suffering but not all suffering is related to personal sin. If you have ever had someone accuse you of this in the midst of a personal crisis please let Jesus heal that wound. Even people with good hearts say dumb things sometimes; hand that hurt to Jesus and praise Him for carrying you through your pain. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know Jesus is with them through their suffering; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Luke 14

Prayer: Jesus, I do not want to be like those who "watched you carefully" but never really saw You. There are those who saw Your miracles and heard Your teachings yet they were blind and deaf to Your love. I want to see You and I want others to see You in me. Protect me as I live out my love for You; give me wisdom when others try to trick, test or trap me. Thank You for hearing the prayers of Your people and always listening for the voice of the one who confesses their sin and professes their belief in You. Thank You for Your patience; help me to be diligent in sharing Your love and message today and always.

Care: Jesus took away Your sin; You can never do anything to repay Him. Do something for someone in need who could never "pay you back." Do it anonymously or with a clear message that Your blessing is seeing them happy and there are no strings attached.

Share: We can never repay Jesus for taking the punishment for our sin on our behalf. He, and He alone, was the perfect, sinless, Son of God who could secure our place with Him in eternity by suffering the wrath from God in response to our sin. Only Jesus could satisfy the enormity of our sin-debt and we insult Him when we think we can somehow pay Him back or face God on the terms of our own "goodness." Jesus wants our lives to be a loving response to His sacrifice for you. Our worship and good deeds do not pay Him back; they recognize His holiness and say "Thank You!" Someone you know or

that you will meet today needs to know that only Jesus can take away their sin; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Luke 15

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for receiving sinners like me. Thank You for Your example of how to show love and to care for people as a part of sharing Your love and the message of salvation in You. Thank You for showing Your love as well as speaking truth in love. Your days were filled with not only contact, but fellowship with sinners; You came to seek and save those who were lost. Prompt me to follow Your example, make me aware when I isolate myself in my Christian circles and limit my contact with those who need You most. I desire to be determined to seek out those who need You – as those in the parables were – to find and embrace the lost coin, sheep, and son.

Care: Someone you know has done something they deeply regret. Someone you know has come to their senses and realizes their foolish behavior has brought them to a desperate place but they are not trapped there; there is a way home. Maybe that “someone” has hurt you very deeply or maybe that “someone” is you; there is a new start, even a new heart, available in Jesus. Give someone a second chance today.

Share: The Father of the prodigal son watched for his son to return with eager eyes and a heavy heart. Imagine how the days dragged on as the horizon remained motionless with no one in sight and then one day a small figure appears in the distance; it has a shape and gait that is familiar. As they get closer the features of their face grow more distinct as your heart races with excitement. In eager expectation you take off running, unable to wait for them to get to you. Despite the pain they have caused and the rumors and disgrace of what they did while they were away, all you can think about is how happy you are that they came home... that is how Jesus feels when a sinner repents and turns around to come “home.” Angels celebrate with Him at the sound of their voice calling out, “I have sinned against You and I am sorry...” Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know Jesus is eagerly and lovingly waiting for them; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Luke 16

Prayer: Jesus, You desire honest means and management of all of our blessings. Thank You for all that You have given me; my time, talent and treasure all belongs to You. Give me wisdom to be a good steward of all that You have given to me and increase my generosity so that greed does not have a grip on me. I love You, I do not love money. Money is a means to give and live but You are my life, Jesus, You are my love. Help me to never confuse or reverse the priority of money, possessions, position, or anyone other than You as the greatest treasure in my life.

Care: It is amazing to see how many lives are touched by stores that take in donations to sell or gift. The money raised by thrift-type stores benefit the homeless, hungry, and hurting. As Americans, most of us live in abundance; we have “bigger” and “more” than any other countries have or want. Take some time to look through your possessions and give a bag or a truckload of things to a store that helps people less fortunate than you. Your “extra” could become someone’s treasured “only.”

Share: Greed has a way of choking the joy out of God’s blessings in our life. The tighter we grip a gift; the more value we give it over God or its intended purpose, it loses its value and can even become a curse. Generosity adds value to our gift; whenever you experience that joy rush through you from helping someone or taking part in fulfilling a need or even making a dream come true, you want to do it again and again. Generosity is also contagious; other people want to join in or want to know what they can do to be a part of something bigger than themselves, to bring happiness or healing where there is hurt. We were never meant to love our blessings, but rather to love others with them. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know Jesus’ blessings were meant to flow through our lives not to be hoarded or worshipped; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Luke 17

Prayer: Jesus, keep me from temptation, strengthen me to walk away from its invitation and to fight its lure in my life. Help me to know my weaknesses and to steer clear of places and people who do not have Your best in mind for my life. Keep my mind and heart pure; fix my eyes on You and Your will for my life, do not let me be distracted or detoured. Light the path You have authored for me Jesus, keep my feet from stumbling or going astray.

Care: Jesus cured ten lepers but only one came back to thank Jesus and worship Him. A grateful heart multiplies the blessings we are given; it not only extends the joy we receive but is multiplied when we thank God and the person who showed the generosity or gave the grace. Go out of your way to be a grateful person; thank people for even the smallest gesture of compassion or thoughtfulness and kindle kindness in their heart the fire of faith and thanks in your life.

Share: Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. As Jesus told the Pharisees in verse 21, “The Kingdom of God is in the midst of you,” you need to know that that Jesus is still, and always will be, with us. He is alive and intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father and has sent the Holy Spirit to be with us – and as a Christ-follower He is in us. You are never alone. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus is always with us; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Luke 18

Prayer: Jesus, have mercy on me and continue to guide and grow me in Your character and will. I know my righteous acts are as filthy rags, worthless in my own strength and pride. I cannot compare myself or my sin to other people, I stand accountable before you for my faith and my deeds. All that I have is Your blood Jesus, covering my sins and You alone are my defense. Thank You for being all that I need. My prayers, worship, service and giving is my thankful and love-filled response. I do not put my trust or value in riches or good deeds; my faith is in You Lord.

Care: Justice in an unjust world can be difficult to find; thankfully we have an advocate and the One true Judge who promises us justice. God knows all, sees all and even knows the heart and intension behind every deed. He will judge the wicked and make right all that has been wrong. Until then, He created us to help battle for victims and to watch and act when we see injustice; whether ill-gotten gain in a business deal, prejudice in a courtroom, human-trafficking or any wrong happening around us. Be courageous and step in to bring justice into a hurting or harmful situation.

Share: In verse one, Jesus prompts His listeners that they “ought to always pray and never lose heart.” In times of struggles and suffering we cry out to Jesus for help; but as weeks turn into months and then into years it would be difficult to keep praying and keep a positive attitude if it weren’t for Jesus. We know that He loves us, we know that He hears our prayers, we know that we belong to Him and that He is unchanging. So the God who ushered in all of the care and provision in our past is the same God who reigns today and ushers in tomorrow. We can pray and not lose heart because He is God and He loves us. Situations come and go, trials and victories come and go but His love and power never change, so don’t lose heart. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that in all situations we ought to pray and never lose heart. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Luke 19

Prayer: Jesus, I want to hang on Your every word just like the people You were teaching at the temple. I want to soak in Your lessons, Your commands, and Your promises. I want to follow Your example and obey Your instructions and be salt and light for others to know You. I want to give You glory and multiply the gifts and blessings You have given to me. I want to hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Care: Some people believe they are too far gone, that they have sinned too much for Jesus to save them. Shame and guilt have them shackled and there is no expectancy of freedom and forgiveness for one who feels like they deserve every horrible thing that has happened to them and that will happen to them. You know someone who feels this way; they might not have told you yet, but a neighbor, co-worker, friend, student, or someone that crosses your path feels that they have out-sinned Jesus’ desire to forgive them. The world looks down on them, “church-people” have judged them and they do not think salvation is even an option for them. Tell them the truth; do not let them live the lie that there is no hope. You cannot out-sin Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, forgiveness is for all who would repent and follow Jesus. Tell them.

Share: The story of Zacchaeus is a beautiful model of the salvation story. Zacchaeus makes an effort to see Jesus; he may have been curious or just did not want to miss out on seeing the man that people were filling the roads to see, so he climbed a tree. Zacchaeus hurried down when Jesus wanted to spend time with him at his home, there was no hesitation despite knowing that everyone in town hated him; he was considered worse than a sinner, being a tax-collector made him a sinner and a traitor. Zacchaeus received Jesus joyfully. Zacchaeus responded to Jesus' presence; confessing his sin and repenting with a pledge to restore in abundance where he had been dishonest. While others judged Jesus for eating with sinners and tax-collectors Jesus rejoiced that salvation had come to Zacchaeus. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that salvation is just that simple; a joyful response to the deity and love of Jesus that changes who we live for and how we love; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Luke 20

Prayer: Jesus, all that I have is Yours. You gave me life, intelligence to learn and opportunities to grow. You opened doors for me and You equip me to do what I need to do each day. You made all that exists; the earth is Yours and all that is in it. You created me in Your image; and so I give back to You all of me and all that You have given to me. Do not let my heart be greedy; I do not want to rob You of tithes or offerings, I do not want to steal Your glory, and I do not claim that my life is my own. All I have and all I am is Yours. I love You and I am thankful to be a tenant of Your creation and Your servant. You lift me up and call me Your own; a child of God; my body is a vessel for Your Spirit. I love You with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength. Thank you for loving me so much!

Care: Jesus instructs us to give from what He has given to us. Our time, talent and treasure are all His but He commands that we give back to Him in tithes and offerings as well as surrendering our lives to His wonderful will. When we surrender to Him it always turns into a blessing for us; we never lose when we give to God. We are to give to our local church and then to ministries and organizations that help people and spread the love and message of Jesus. When you refuse to do this you not only rob God but you rob yourself of many blessings. Give with a cheerful heart and watch what He can do with your money and your life.

Share: When you give to your church and to other ministries who serve Jesus, you are giving your money to Jesus. Most people make giving decisions based on relationships with people within those organizations and it is wonderful that your relationship prompts you to be generous, but ultimately your gift is given in love and obedience to Jesus for His work, His will, His love and message to spread across the earth. What an amazing thought! You get to be a part of God's work every time you give; no amount is too small or too large; God multiplies each gift with supernatural math that meets needs, shares His Word and brings people into His Kingdom... and brings a blessing back around to you from His awesome hands. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus wants them to be givers, not because He needs their money but because they need His blessing; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Luke 21

Prayer: Jesus, my security is in Your salvation and nothing less. Just as the citizens in Jerusalem in Your day could not live in disobedience to God and lay claim to safety and security because of the Temple and their heritage; neither can we blaspheme You with our laws and lives and believe we are untouchable as a nation. We must bless You before we ask You to bless us. Our faith and hope is not in our history or money, it is not in our military or our technology; it is only in You Jesus. Draw me closer to You and strengthen me to endure, to be steadfast under persecution or pressure to turn my back on Your Word and ways. Let me use every opportunity to share Your love and my faith in You.

Care: Jesus was deeply touched by the widow's sacrificial gift. Many widows and widowers live on fixed incomes and have to be very wise with their spending. Unforeseen bills, health problems or household issues can send their finances into a tailspin. Pray for the seniors in your community, especially those who live alone. Check in on them if they are your neighbors and offer to help around the house or to take them to appointments if they need help. Invite them over for meals or take them some treats once in a while to let them know that you care.

Share: We are instructed to wait and watch for Jesus' return but we are not to get caught up in predicting the day or the hour. Many Christians believe that we may be living in the last days before the book of Revelation is set into motion; many of the signs Jesus spoke of have happened and it is possible that His return is near. One thing is for sure, His return is nearer than it was yesterday and much closer than a year ago. We are to trust Him and live fruitful and faithful lives until we go to Him or He comes to us. It is our duty to share His love and message and be ready to give an answer for our hope to man and an account of our life to God. It is vital to be excited and expectant of Christ's return; but do not get distracted looking for signs and ignore the lost souls around you; remember, they will perish. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus is going to return. No one knows the day or the hour but we should live and love as if it were today; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Luke 22

Prayer: Jesus, Passover is such a beautiful time for the Jewish people to remember and recount what God did for them as He freed them from slavery in Egypt and provided for them in the wilderness. Lord, You gave Your laws and taught them Your ways so that they would leave the culture and false gods of Egypt behind and walk in the blessings of being Your people. Jesus, it is no wonder that You were eager to celebrate the Passover meal with Your disciples, to remind them of God's faithfulness in their history in hopes that they would have Your love and power fresh in their minds so that they could face the next three days with faith. I cannot judge them for scattering at Your betrayal, I probably would have fled too, but You allowed them to witness the greatest three days in all of history even though at first, it

felt like the worst. Help me to remember this story and Your faithfulness when fear grips me or tests trip me; let Your story be my strength.

Care: Jesus told Peter that Satan demanded to have Peter in order to “sift him like wheat.” The saving grace of this message was that Jesus told Peter He had prayed for Him that his faith would not fail. Jesus instructed Peter that when “you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” Jesus did not say He would keep Satan away, He said that Peter would come through the sifter stronger. Jesus now intercedes in heaven for His followers. His blood and His love covers us and carries us through seasons of sifting. You know someone who is a Christian but does not understand why bad things happen to good people. There are many reasons this happens; but go and encourage them. Pray for them and remind them that Jesus is praying for them too. Pray that their faith will not fail. Journey with them through these days and point out the wonderful ways that Jesus is working in and through their faith.

Share: Verse 39 points out that Jesus and His disciples went to the Mount of Olives that night “as was His custom.” Luke 21:37 told us that everyday Jesus taught at the temple and at night He went to the Mount of Olives to sleep. Jesus knew that Judas His betrayer was coming and yet He went to the same place He always did and prayed. He did not run or hide; He could have easily slipped off into the desert to hide or taken a ship across the Mediterranean Sea or He could have called down legions of angels from heaven and stopped the whole mob in their tracks, but He didn’t. Jesus went and waited to hand Himself over and prepared to lay down His life for us. No one took Jesus’ life, He gave it to fulfill what was necessary for us to be forgiven and live as overcomers of darkness on earth and eternally in heaven. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus chose to die so that we could live; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Luke 23

Prayer: Jesus, help me to linger in Your Word today and not to skim over the descriptions of Your abuse and torture. Let me imagine the scene of each place You were taken, each person who questioned You and the religious leaders who called for Your death. Help me to understand that this was done in darkness while Your followers slept, and the wicked worked to swiftly have You condemned and hanging on a cross early in the morning. But the angels watched from heaven as the reason You came from heaven played out in courtyards and palaces, and pride and politics pushed its agenda – You were walking out Your plan of salvation. As You hung on the cross You asked Your Father to forgive those who had nailed You there and opened the gates of heaven to one of the thieves professing his belief on a cross next to You. Let me linger at the foot of the cross as You drew in Your last breath, gave up Your spirit and died. Thank You Jesus for doing all of this for me.

Care: You may know someone or know of someone who has been betrayed by a friend, co-worker or even a fellow church member. You may know or have seen parts of it play out; people talking in corners, whispers behind closed doors, rumors and division erupting with shouts of anger or tears of broken hearts. Satan loves to divide. If you know or have been a part of a divisive situation or betrayal,

go to the people who have been at the center of the pain and try to restore unity and peace. Truth will have to be told, apologies made and forgiveness granted; it may be a long process, but go and get it started with the heart of Jesus and His prayer for His followers to be united. Let love heal the wounds with lots of prayer and humility.

Share: Jesus died on the cross. Some skeptics have said that He just seemed dead but was resuscitated after He was brought down from the cross. This is simply not true; when you read a medical description of what crucifixion was and did to the body you know this torturous death could not be faked; Jesus was dead. He had to die to defeat Satan and ultimately death so that His people could be freed from the eternal torture in payment for their sin. Jesus had to die to break you and me out of Satan's grip and hand us back into the loving arms of our heavenly Father. The best news comes in tomorrow's chapter; we know that Jesus WAS dead but on the third day He rose again, so let's celebrate our living Savior today, tomorrow and every day. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus died to defeat sin and death so that we could live in faith forever; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Luke 24

Prayer: Jesus, I love the first word of this chapter; "But..." it fills my heart with such joy! You died and were buried in a tomb with the stone rolled over it and sealed. Guards were posted and Your followers wept in loss and dismay, BUT on the third day You rose from the grave and showed Yourself living and eating and talking for forty days to hundreds of people and then You ascended into heaven where You LIVE today. Thank You for commissioning us to share Your love and message with our neighbors, community, the neglected, those in prison, those who are different from us, and even our enemies. I profess my faith in You and rejoice that my Savior LIVES!

Care: There are people who have a difficult time understanding or believing the truth found in the Bible. Some skeptics think you have to leave our brain at the door of the church but this is NOT true. If you have someone like that in your life, be patient and meet them intellectually with the many great apologetic resources, books and podcasts that exist on the scientific, historical, archeological and non-biblical texts that verify the reliability of the Bible. Faith is a heart decision, but it does not mean leaving your brain behind. Be kind and patient as they explore the truths that may have once seemed impossible or like nonsense to them.

Share: The tomb is empty and Jesus has risen; Jesus offers forgiveness of sin and eternal life that begins the moment you confess Your sin and need for a Savior and profess Your faith and love for Him as Lord of your life. God has a plan for your life; a plan filled with purpose and love. It is not a promise for trouble-free days but it is a promise for the Holy Spirit to dwell in you and equip you with all that you need to experience and express love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control throughout your days until you join Jesus in heaven. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus offers eternal life; life lived for Him and with Him, that begins the

moment you ask Him to be your Lord and Savior; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?