

90 DAYS THROUGH THE GOSPELS:

A Prayer - Care – Share Scripture Journey with Jesus

by Kathy Branzell

Introduction and Invitation

90 Days Through the Gospels: A Prayer-Care-Share Scripture Journey with Jesus

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.

Matthew 1

Prayer: Jesus, Immanuel, thank You for coming to dwell with us. I thank You for the genealogy that traces the root of Your story through the Old Testament and introduces You as the fulfillment of every promise and prophecy. I thank You for family and for people who are “like family” to me. I thank You for heritage and the opportunity to leave a legacy. I want to know You more as I read through Your story in the Gospels these next ninety days. Help me to be faithful in reading through the Scriptures and in my daily walk to learn to live a lifestyle of prayer as You taught, care as You modeled, and sharing the good news of Your Kingdom as You commanded. I want to share Your love and message with the people You put in my path everyday along the way throughout my life.

Care: Jesus came from heaven to show His love and to redeem us from sin. He taught and modeled a right relationship with God The Father and with the rest of the people we reside with on earth both near and far. Jesus was conceived from the Holy Spirit but was born into a family. The love of Jesus you show and share has to begin at home. Call a distant family member today, give appreciation and affection to your family today or those who feel like family. Do something special to show your affection for them.

Share: Verse twenty-three explains that Jesus is Immanuel, which means “God with us.” He dwelled among us, and with His Spirit He remains with us. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know Jesus is with us, never leaving or forsaking us; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 2

Prayer: Jesus, like the wise men, I want to worship You. These men of wealth and wisdom fell down and worshipped You in humility and adoration. Jesus, I adore You; help me to show You my awe for You throughout this day and in every day. Attune my ear to hear Your instruction as Joseph and the wise men did. I want to hear and obey You; guard and guide me to do Your will.

Care: Have you ever thought about the fact that Jesus and His family were refugees in Egypt while Herod killed the babies in the region of Bethlehem? Without getting political, ponder the fear and actions you would take if people were being killed in your country and your family was in great danger. Refugees flock to America for safety and opportunity. If you live near a refugee housing area, know a church or ministry who serves them, or you have neighbors who have just come to America for a better life; reach out to them, find out how you can help them. Consider signing up to help teach English or to provide transportation.

Share: Verse thirteen describes tragic events surrounding the birth of Jesus with a King who would kill all of the babies in a region and His family fleeing their home in the middle of the night. Jesus’ life was not easy, He suffered much throughout His days on earth; tempted, threatened and mistreated so that He could live out His purpose and complete His mission to save us. If Jesus did not have a

smooth, problem-free life, why do we ask “why?” when difficult times happen in our lives? Jesus has compassion and works His love through our trials and victories. Someone you know or that you meet today needs to know that trials are a part of life in a broken world; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 3

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for Your Word and for the message of repentance and Your salvation. I want to live a life that bears fruit in keeping with my love and obedience to Your will, Word and ways. Convict me of my sinful ways and prompt me in Your righteousness; teach me the way I should go and how to share Your love and message. I want to prepare hearts for You just as John did in the wilderness. Let my words be acceptable to You and draw people to You; help me to be gentle and meek.

Care: Throughout your days help to prepare hearts for Jesus just as John did; speak of Jesus’ love and power and the need for repentance and righteousness. Do not preach; just be prepared to speak truth with love, refusing to compromise your character or values at work, school, home or wherever you are. Jesus was baptized to identify with those He came to save not just in a ritual cleansing but to fulfill righteousness. People who care humble themselves in order to identify with the people they care about. Doing the right thing does not make us better than other people but it can make us an example. Prepare hearts through your words and actions.

Share: Verse seventeen tells of Jesus’ baptism and the voice of God from heaven saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” God loves us because we are His. Our obedience and commitment to serve Him pleases His heart. This is often different from other relationships whose affection is based on your actions or what you do for them. Someone you know or that you meet today needs to know that they are deeply loved by God; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 4

Prayer: Dear Jesus, it is a comfort to know that my Savior was tempted and that You can identify with the pressure I endure as I fight Satan’s deception and distractions. I need Your help, deliver me from the enemy and keep me strong as I press on in my journey to fulfill Your purpose for my life. Do not let me stumble or weaken my witness; my eyes are fixed on You and I keep Your Word in my heart. Remind me that Scripture is the sword the enemy cannot defeat or deny.

Care: When Jesus began to call His disciples to “follow Him” they dropped their fishing nets immediately and followed Him. Jesus calls some to be full time Pastors and evangelist but most of us are called to follow him in our workplace. We are meant to be salt and light wherever we work, volunteer or go to school. Invite someone to lunch or bring them lunch today if they are working on a deadline, get them coffee or tea and give them an encouraging word. Be a caring bright spot in their day.

Share: In verse three, Satan used the words, “If you are...” trying to get Jesus to compromise His character to prove His identity. Satan knew full well that Jesus was the Son God, he was just hoping to catch Jesus in the weakness of fasting for forty days and get Him to show His power. Jesus came to defeat Satan at a much higher level than turning stones to bread, He came to turn sinners into saints, not to rule earthly cities but to reign in an eternal Kingdom. Satan tries to get you to sell your destiny short for an immediate moment of satisfaction – it’s not worth it. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that trials are a part of life in a broken world; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 5

Prayer: Jesus, I am nothing without You. I thank you for the eternal picture You bring to my life so that I can see past the pain to comfort, past the chaos to peace and past the temptation to Your reward in heaven. I long to see You; to delight in You, and to live and love as You commanded and modeled. Thank you for fulfilling a Law I could never keep perfectly and enabling me to walk in obedience to Your will. I am blessed, happy to walk under Your authority and in Your authority. My heart is Yours, keep it pure and let me be a peacemaker where pride and darkness divide.

Care: Do you owe someone an apology? Think about that carefully; does someone hold something against you, even something you did that you did not mean to hurt them? Has someone’s attitude changed towards you; are they cold towards you or avoiding you all together? Go to them and make it right; ask forgiveness for hurting them even if the incident was miscommunicated. Make things right with them so things can be right between you and Jesus. Asking and giving forgiveness is one of the most important ways you can show that you care; that you care for people and for Jesus. Make things right today.

Share: Verse five says, “Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.” Meekness is God’s strength under God’s authority; it is not weakness or being a coward. God has many blessings in store for us; benefits and opportunities that will provide what we need, when we need it for His great plans for our life. Anything we cheat or manipulate; any power grab or dishonest deal will choke, not promote our destiny. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that meekness is a rewarded strength; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 6

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for teaching us to pray and for modeling a prayer life that is deeply and consistently connected to our Father. Lord, You are holy, there is none like You. I desire to see Your kingdom come and Your will be done in my life, my home, in my community, and on earth as it is in heaven. Forgive me where I have sinned; bring specific instances to my mind that I may ask forgiveness, and I forgive those who have hurt me as you have forgiven me. Thank you for providing what I need

each day and I ask that today be filled with Your favor that will draw me closer to You and protect me from harm.

Care: How much time do you spend walking your neighborhood and getting to know your neighbors? Many of us lead busy lives and barely have time to sit and relax with our family. How can you “Love your neighbors” if you do not know your neighbors? Get out of the house and get a little exercise by prayer walking your street or neighborhood. Stop and meet people; learn their names and as you talk you will learn their needs. You can learn the names and receive prayer prompts every day by signing up at Pray4everyhome.com

Share: Verses 9-13 is a portion of Scripture known as “The Lord’s Prayer,” or the “Model Prayer.” It begins, “Our Father, in heaven...” Jesus was sharing a radical teaching as God, The Father; even more radical was that fact that Jesus included us in His family. “Our Father!” Jesus came so pay the necessary penalty for our sin so that we could have a personal relationship with Him and forever be in the presence of our Father. He is not some far off God waiting to shame and punish You; He is a Savior who came to remove your shame and love you. He wants you to be a part of His close-knit family. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus wants a close, personal relationship with them; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 7

Prayer: Jesus, You are the only true judge; You know the heart and the details behind every thought and action. Please keep me from the sin of a critical spirit or judging others. I want to help others to know You so give me opportunities to get to know people and to find the root of the hurt that can lead to the bad fruit of sin. Give me discernment and protect me from being deceived or harmed, but lead me to people who need Your compassion. Fill me with Your loving thoughts towards others; knowing You died so that all might choose to come to repentance and be saved.

Care: All of the things that turn our heads and make our heart ache are usually a result of some injustice in this world. Starving people, prejudice, murder, sex-trafficking, domestic violence, abandonment; the list could go on and on. Injustice sparks emotion that should prompt action; we cannot merely shake our head and walk away. It is up to God to judge the unrighteous, but He expects us to make a change. What breaks your heart? What makes you angry? Step up and do something to make it right. Look for a ministry and sign up to help, give your time and donations to help or get a team together in your church or neighborhood and make a difference. Start today.

Share: Verse twelve is known as “The Golden Rule.” Do to others as you would have them do to you. It is one thing to recite it and quite another to live it. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to have someone speak to or treat them in a “golden” way; give grace in a “golden” way today and then be prepared to share your heart with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 8

Prayer: Jesus, I thank You for all of the compassion You showed every day; the kindness and the healings that made people physically whole again. Most of all I thank You for the healing You brought to our souls; for repairing the breach in our hearts that divided us from You Lord. You do not change; Your character is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow; You are still a God of miracles and healing if You will. Our minds are not big enough, our knowledge of “what is best” is so lacking but You tell us to ask for the desires of our heart and so I pray for miracles. I ask that You glorify yourself in our needs and in illness and tragedy. Help me to understand that heaven is a place of complete healing and not to think of it as an unanswered prayer. Help me to trust You in all circumstances because I know You love me.

Care: There are people who need your friendship or the gift of your presence; a visit or a deeper relationship. People with disabilities are some of the most loving people you will ever meet and yet many times they are ignored or even bullied. In most instances they require extra care and help to do everyday tasks that we take for granted. Parents of children with special needs could use some extra hands, some extra smiles, a little help or just a friend to talk to. Do you know someone who has some special needs that you could help with? Find out how you can show them you care.

Share: In verse ten, Jesus marveled at the Centurion’s faith. He understood Jesus’ authority and had faith that Jesus could heal his dear servant without even coming to his house, without even touching him. His faith was steadfast. It is difficult to be filled with faith when you look at your circumstances; but not when you keep your focus on Jesus. Let your peace and hope rest in Him. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that faith is based on who Jesus is. Faith is not really faith if we base it on whether or not He does what we think He should; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 9

Prayer: Jesus, I thank You that You say, “Your sins are forgiven.” Thank You, not only for coming to earth from heaven but for traveling every day to seek and save those who were lost. Thank You for modeling how we should pray and care and share Your message every day along the way to work, school, shopping, exercising, errands, etc. Wherever I am on my way to or from I can show and share this lifestyle of love. People all around me need to know You; open my eyes to see them and open my mouth to share Your Word with them. Allow me to feel Your heart for them; let me be a laborer for Your harvest.

Care: Tax-collectors in the time of Jesus were considered traitors and extortionists. They were so hated that they were often a specified group of outcasts; Scripture notes the Pharisees asking why Jesus ate with “tax-collectors and sinners.” Who are the outcasts or outsiders in your community? Does Jesus love them any less? Would He avoid them or their area of town if He were here today? What can you do

to show His love to them? Smile and talk with them when your paths cross in your community. Take a couple of Christian friends with you and go visit with them, learn about their lives, families, work, talents and needs. Reach out with Christ's love and show them you care.

Share: In verse nine, Jesus meets Matthew, a tax-collector and says, "Follow me." Matthew immediately gets up and becomes a disciple of Jesus. Matthew physically followed Jesus but he also walked away from a life of sin to step into eternity. Matthew was willing to release earthly advantage for Jesus' affection and approval. Being a "follower of Christ" means you have to move; get up and go where He leads and needs. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that a relationship with Jesus "moves us" in many ways; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 10

Prayer: Jesus, when You chose your apostles and sent them out, You warned them of the sacrifice and pain they would endure for Your Name and Kingdom. You spoke of beatings, hatred, families suffering, relying on charity for food and housing and even death, but they gladly went out to share Your message. Help me to not be afraid of what people might think or do when I speak about You. Help me to take courage even as a sheep among wolves. I give my life to You and I know that Your reward is greater than anything I could possibly hold on to on earth. Let me show Your love in big and small ways; for Your glory.

Care: The apostles that were sent out to share the message of Jesus had to rely on the kindness and charity of strangers wherever they went. Many ministries still rely on that same practice today; requiring their workers to raise their support from friends and people who were blessed by their ministry, teaching or visit to their community. Consider giving some support today to someone in full time ministry or contribute to a missions trip at your church.

Share: Jesus tells His disciples in verse sixteen to be, "wise as serpents and innocent as doves." It is important that as followers of Jesus we use our brains to not be harmed and our hearts to not cause harm to others. Jesus will judge those who hurt or harass us but we are held accountable for our behavior without excuse. Our Bibles are meant to train us to speak truth in love to people and defeat Satan's temptations. We must be careful how we handle God's Word to bring life and not injury to others. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Scripture is meant to bring life, those convicted of their sin are not meant to wallow in their shame but to be lifted up to repent and walk in a new life; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 11

Prayer: Jesus, I thank You that when John's disciples asked if You were really the Messiah they waited until You answered with the evidence of Your authority and the proof of fulfilled prophecy. Thank You for the great evidence that shows You are the Son of God, thank You for the mountains of evidence that we can use to share that our faith is academic as well as affectionate. Thank you for revealing Your wisdom and love to us; Your truths and teachings so that we could know and follow You. Thank you for Your call to repentance and Your compassionate appeal for our full reliance on You.

Care: There are many wonderful Apologetic books that give hard proof in many areas of science, history, archeology, and literature that the Bible is true and Jesus is the awaited Messiah, Son of God. You may have friends or family who are very intellectual and as a result they reject Christianity. Go to the bookstore or find videos online from well-known Christian apologists and offer to read/watch with them or just give them as a gift. Learn how to defend your faith; some people come to know Jesus through their brain before they give Him their heart.

Share: In verses twenty-eight through thirty, Jesus offers to journey with us and unload a world's load of weight off our weary shoulders and find rest in Him. When our frazzled, fatigued flesh is sinking from the heaviness of stress; Jesus offers for us to lift our load and give us rest. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus wants to take their burdens and give them rest; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 12

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for the Sabbath; for commanding rest and fellowship with You. Please help me to rest. You created me; knit me together in my mother's womb and You made me to love, to worship, serve and rest. Please help me to do all of these well and to Your glory. I trust in You; do not let me fill my schedule with things You do not desire or require and wear myself out. I give You my life, my love; I will rest in You.

Care: In verse thirty-five Jesus says, "no city or house divided against itself will stand." Abraham Lincoln quoted these words in his 1858 speech and the truth of these words carry on today. Unity is at the heart of Jesus; but His house, the Church, often bickers and competes instead of coming together to complete the mission of making disciples and showing His love to the whole world. Families are divided, our country is divided politically, and racially. Be a peacemaker, an agent of unity; bring your neighbors together, start a project and bring churches together to meet a community need, pray for families who are divided or divorcing. Let your voice and actions bring people together wherever you go today and always.

Share: Verse thirty-four tells us that what comes out of our mouth is a result and reflection of what is in our heart. Gossip or encouragement, a stab in the back or a helping hand, a jeer or a cheer, criticism or praise; what comes out of your mouth? What is your reputation at work, church or even in prayer? Does God hear your praise and thank Him throughout the day or do you tend to complain and criticize? Share affection and affirmation wherever you go. Someone you know or that you will meet

today needs to hear your heart for Jesus reflected in your conversation; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 13

Prayer: Jesus, I thank You for giving wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Thank You for Your parables and the explanations You gave to prepare our hearts like soil for the seed of Your Word to grow and multiply in us and through us. Please make my heart and life good soil so that it bears good fruit; I want my life to testify of Your goodness and grace. Please keep the enemy away, do not let any seeds of weeds be planted in my life, not even one. Clothe me in Your righteousness for Your glory.

Care: Jesus was rejected in His hometown of Nazareth; even some of His own family members did not believe or follow Him until after His resurrection. Rejection and abandonment crush the hearts of many of the people around you. Fatherlessness is an epidemic in America, and children in orphanages and foster homes wonder every day why their parents did not want them. It is difficult for them to accept the notion of a loving heavenly Father that they cannot see when their own father wants nothing to do with them. Please pray for them; perhaps the Holy Spirit is nudging you to be a foster parent or even to adopt a child. You could become a mentor, coach or big brother or sister to a child or youth who needs someone to care and guide them through life. You may have an adult friend or co-worker who struggles with abandonment issues – be a friend to them and help them sort the fruit of God in their life from the weeds of lies the enemy has sown.

Share: In this chapter of Matthew, Jesus speaks of the kingdom of heaven and also the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Heaven and hell are real places and all of mankind will live in one or the other for eternity; but salvation is not a death destination decision. Jesus gave His life for us and so we give our LIFE to Him. Salvation is deciding who you are going to live for – not picking between heaven and hell; these destinations are the result of who was Lord of your life; you or Jesus. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that the reward for following Jesus begins the moment you call Him Lord; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 14

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for all of Your miracles recorded in Scripture. Thank You for all of the people You healed, for the feeding of thousands with a few fish and loaves, for walking on the sea and calming the storm. Thank You that You are still providing, healing and carrying people through storms. Please forgive us when we doubt, when we worry and when we fail to follow You. People chased after You; You could hardly get a moment to grieve the loss of Your cousin John. I want to pursue You as they did; not for physical healing and miracle meals but to be filled with Your Spirit and to fulfill my destiny for Your glory.

Care: Today you read the story of Jesus blessing five loaves of bread and two fish and feeding well over five thousand people with it. If only it were that easy for us to help feed the hungry; but there are many ways you can contribute. Give food to a food pantry, volunteer at a feeding kitchen, fill backpacks of food for students to take home over the weekend who receive free lunch at school, work to bring churches together to cook and serve food on weekends in areas of high need and poverty; there are lots of ways you can help feed a few if not a few thousand.

Share: Verse twenty-six begins with Peter asking Jesus to command him to walk out on the water to Him. Jesus says, "Come." Peter jumps out of the boat and heads for Jesus, walking on the water but then gets distracted by the storm and starts sinking. Jesus grabs Peter and says, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" This is a question we should ask ourselves; if Jesus has been faithful up to this moment, why do we worry so much? We are still here so He has been faithful! Why do we doubt Him when we have, in essence, already walked out halfway across the waves to get to Him? Train your brain to believe; let faith be your go-to emotion instead of fear. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that they need to keep their focus on Jesus and not their storm, faith is a choice; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 15

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for my mom and dad, for all parents and people who have nurtured me like a parent. Thank you for the neighbors and teachers who impacted my life. Please help me to honor them with my love and my life. Keep Your miracles, Your love and Your provision fresh in my mind so that I do not wonder where my help comes from. You are my Savior, my source; the supreme love and authority over me and the firm foundation under my feet. You are my rock and my refuge, thank You.

Care: There is a cultural context for the story of the woman who begged Jesus to heal her daughter and the reference to being a dog under the master's table. Do not think that Jesus was mistreating her, but Jesus will test our faith. Ethnically, He was not her Messiah, but thank God that He loved the WORLD and sent His Son! You may pass by people begging and size up their need; is it real or a trick, what will they buy with the money, do they worship God or just use His name to get you to give? Know that their intentions and what they do with the money is seen by God and so are your thoughts and actions. That person might be put there to test your heart. Listen to the Spirit inside you; if you are prompted to give, do not give up the opportunity to be a blessing – you may just be blessed right back.

Share: Verse fourteen talks about, "the blind leading the blind." Are you surprised by how many every day sayings are actually Scripture? The blind leading the blind will end up in a pit; people need mentors and coaches to love and lead them on their faith journey. A mentor is not their Savior. Mentors are people who are a few steps ahead in their walk with Jesus and their knowledge and obedience of the Bible, and who are willing to share what they have learned and the mistakes they have made along the way. A godly mentor always points towards Jesus and is never afraid to say, "I don't know that answer, let's learn together." Do you have a mentor? Are you a mentor? Someone you know or that you will

meet today needs to know that having and being a mentor is an important part of the journey of life; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 16

Prayer: Jesus, You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Thank You for being my Lord; please help me to profess my love for You in how I live my life every day. Help me to discern wrong teachings, to beware of deceit and distractions that may seem small but can cause great damage. Please continue to help me keep my mind set on You and Your ways. Do not let me think worldly thoughts but give me higher and holy thoughts to see and follow Your will. There is nothing in this world that I want more than You Jesus. My heart is Yours.

Care: People put their trust in all sorts of things and people. For instance, many people put their trust in government officials to make life better and cause necessary change for their benefit. While it is important to have godly people serve in government positions, we have to put our trust in Jesus alone. Humans will disappoint; power persuades, compromises contaminate, and promises seem hard to keep. Jesus is forever faithful. So what is our responsibility? Pray for our elected officials every day; know your government officials from local to national and pray for them, their families, and their office staff. Send them an email and let them know that you are praying for them and interested in receiving news about their schedule and progress. Vote for people who align with Biblical values, and be willing to show up when they hold a vote and projects that express Jesus' love and message.

Share: Verse twenty-six asks, "What will a man profit if he gains the whole world but loses his soul?" We live in a culture of gaining stuff and power. It is easy to get a taste of bigger, newer, fancier, and become consumed with wanting more and more. It is not a sin to have nice things if you can afford them but it is a sin to worship them or to go into debt to get them. In addition to not worshipping self and stuff; God requires a tithe of your money as well as gifts and offerings with a glad heart. He has given it all to you, and an obedient heart gives at least a tenth of it back to the church. Robbing God to go on vacation or buy a new car is disobedience; but giving Jesus what He commands with a glad heart will always bring blessings. Trust Him with what you need and all that You have and He will satisfy the desires of Your obedient heart. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that self and stuff will never satisfy, only our Savior can; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 17

Prayer: Jesus there are so many wonderful things that You allowed Your disciples to see and to hear; I thank You that they are recorded in Scripture for us to read and study. Thank You that we get to know You through Your Word; that You have always been and always will be, that You are our Creator, Savior, and intercessor at the right hand of the Father. Open my eyes and ears, my mind and heart, to

see You today and every day, always working in and through us. Your miracles and provision still surround us, Your glory shines as bright as when You were transfigured before Your disciples, and You still share the mysteries of the future times that we do not understand fully but walk in faith keeping our eyes on You. Please prompt me to look for You and glorify You today.

Care: Jesus taught His disciples every day along the way to wherever they were going and doing whatever they were doing. Whether on a boat, resting by a well, sharing a meal, sitting on a shore or on top of a mountain, passing through a city or on their way to Jerusalem; Jesus prayed, cared and shared His love and message with them to help them know and grow in their relationship and understanding of Him. It is important that you learn more about Him every day; prayer and bible study are a part of a Christian's everyday life. Look for people who are seeking solutions to life's questions or quandaries and invite them to your church, prayer group or Bible study. Jesus still wants to teach us something new every day.

Share: In verse five the disciples hear a voice from heaven say, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." We often find the disciples bewildered or baffled by what was being said or by what was happening around them. In the storm they asked Jesus if he cared if they perished, they wondered why He would speak to a Samaritan woman, and they were particularly troubled when He would tell them about His upcoming suffering, death and being raised on the third day. There was so much they did not understand until after His resurrection appearances to them; but they kept listening, kept asking questions, and kept following Him. There are so many things that happen in life that we do not understand; but Jesus calls us to be His disciples and to make disciples. He calls us to trust Him, to believe and to show and share His love. Follow Him with faith, obey Him with love, even when you do not understand what is happening to you or around you; Jesus does, so stick close to Him. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that following Jesus is the best way to get through things we do not understand; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 18

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for pursuing me, for Your patience with me and for pouring Yourself out as a sin offering so that I might live and abide with You forever. Help me to pursue those who do not know You, even those who have rejected You so that they will not perish but come to know the love and destiny You purposed for them even before they were born. Make me ready with a word or deed that expresses Your love and truth. Give me a pure heart and pure motives to have mercy as You have had mercy on me. I beg You to keep me from being a stumbling block; that nothing I do or say would cause another person to sin. Allow me to walk in Your Word and Your way so that those who are hurting and hopeless will want to know You, my comfort and my hope.

Care: In the parable of the lost sheep, the shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep with him to go find the one lost sheep. As followers of Jesus we have friends and family who are Christians – attend our church, hang out in the same coffee shops and bookstores – but how many non-Christian friends do you

have? How many people do you pursue in friendships who try to avoid you because you are a Christian? It is important to have strong Christian friends who strengthen and encourage us but it is vital as a disciple-maker that we are seeking conversations and opportunities to help non-Christians. Look for opportunities to meet and be kind to people who are not followers of Jesus; give them a glimpse of Him through your life and testimony.

Share: In verse thirty-three, the master in this parable points out that he forgave the servant all of his huge debt and therefore he should forgive others their debts. Sometimes we forget the great debt of sin that Jesus has forgiven us for and wiped our account and life clean with His blood. Others cannot forget the sins of their past and cannot forgive themselves; both of these are wrong. We give thanks for His forgiveness and learn from our past but we do not live in shame; we walk in His forgiveness. We are not puffed up as a forgiven follower; we are an example to others of the freedom that comes with His forgiveness. The people around you probably have no idea of the sin and shame Jesus has taken away from you. In being a relevant and transparent witness for Christ it may often be required of you to share that you realized that you were a sinner in need of a Savior. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that you are not perfect but in the process of being perfected into the character of Christ; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 19

Prayer: Jesus, I pray that I would never test You as the Pharisees; that my questions are pure and my heart is clean when I pursue to know You and Your will. Teach me Your ways; I want to have wisdom, knowledge and understanding of Your Word and I ask You to put Your love into action in and through my life. Do not allow money or possessions to be my first love; they are gifts from You to be used for Your glory and Kingdom. May I never hinder but always help people of all ages to come to You, young in age and young in their journey with You; show me how I can guide them deeper and closer to You. Help me to read and study Your Word in its entire context; I desire to delight You and I do not want to misunderstand Your commands. Give us teachers and Pastors who handle Your word with the utmost care, and who lead us in truth and do not wound us in opinions or preferences. I seek Your love and approval only; teach me, touch my heart that I may walk in Your righteousness.

Care: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them." Where do children spend a majority of their waking day? They are on campuses; public, private and home schools. There are so many things that you can do to show and share the love of Jesus on campuses, but it needs to begin with a relationship with an administrator or educator to find out the needs of that campus. Provide volunteers, school supplies, warm clothing and coats, tutoring, coaching, language and reading help, food for the weekends, chaperones and donations for special events, club sponsors and more. Pray for children and campuses as you pass schools and buses. Attend school board meetings and pray for the decision makers in your district and across America. Be a positive prayerful presence in your district.

Share: In verse thirty, Jesus says, "The first will be last and the last will be first." Injustice and pride prick our hearts and plague our culture. We must do everything we can to be a part of the solution

but it should give us comfort to know that God sees and knows everything and that eventually righteousness will prevail. Pain and tears will be wiped away and those who sought only for themselves and rejected the love and call of Jesus will be punished for all that they have done. God will have His vengeance; it is up to us to show and share His love and trust that He will restore and reward those who loved and lived for Him. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus will bring justice; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 20

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for Your example of being a servant. You could have come in chariots and lived in palaces of gold, but You came to teach us to be humble and to love. You taught of the generosity of grace, but others sought more money and even Your disciples fought for power as You were walking to Jerusalem to be condemned, beaten and crucified. Thank You for ransoming my life with Yours. Thank You for never giving up on us, but pursuing us even into the eleventh hour of our lives. May Your laborers rejoice as a sinner gives even his last breath to You and is received into Your presence in heaven. Thank You for your love and I desire everyone to know You as their Lord and Savior.

Care: So many Scriptures in the four Gospels have to do with Jesus healing the blind, lame, sick, the crippled and even raising the dead. Jesus exercised His authority over the physical body so that people would listen and learn about His authority over the soul. Eventually, those who He healed died but those who followed Him live in His presence forever in heaven. People are born with or have events happen in their lives that cause disabilities. It is a difficult life; difficult sometimes to understand and difficult to maneuver through everyday life. People with disabilities need assistance in a variety of ways but they also have so much to offer. They are smart, talented, loving, insightful, disciple-making people who can teach us a thing or two about life and love. They do not want your pity, they want your friendship. Is there someone in your life, your neighborhood, school or workplace with a disability? Get to know them and make sure your church is equipped with facilities, programs and teachers to embrace people with disabilities. Give them and their families a chance to worship and be disciplined.

Share: As Jesus passed through Jericho, the blind men cried out for Jesus to have mercy on them. The crowd tried to shush them but they cried out even louder. Jesus stops and asks them, "What do you want me to do for you?" You would think that the answer was obvious, a blind person would want their sight, but Jesus gives them the opportunity to express their desire to Him in front of the crowd that tried to keep them quiet. "Lord let our eyes be opened," and Jesus touched them and immediately they could see. Notice, that their mouths were open with cries for help before their eyes were opened. The cultural crowd today tells us that prayer is for the weak minded, that faith is a fairytale. It takes a strong person to cry out even louder when the crowd tells you to hush; but Jesus hears you. Ask Him, praise Him, thank Him and let the crowd be amazed by what He does in you and through you. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus hears their cries for help; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 21

Prayer: Jesus, I want to praise You as they did when You rode into Jerusalem on the colt. You came in peace and Your followers praised You; Your fame had spread even as the enemy prompted the chief priests and scribes to scheme on how they could kill You. I want to worship You, proclaiming You as the Son of God, Supreme Savior and Sovereign King. Your righteous anger threw the money changers out of the courtyard of prayer where every man from every country could come pray to the God of the Jews, the one true God. Please keep corruption and evil gain out of Your Church. Let the Church be a house of prayer; a place for disciple-makers to gather to worship in song, in prayer and in Your Word.

Care: The blind and the lame were brought to Jesus at the Temple and He healed them. While this does not seem any different from any other day in the life of Jesus, understand that they were not allowed into the Temple because they were considered ceremonially unclean. But those who could not approach God were approached by Him and healed; it is a beautiful picture of the love of Jesus that we should follow. There are many people who are “shut-ins,” unable to leave their homes due to age or health. They need to know that they are loved; they need to be visited and to have the message and love of Jesus brought to them since they cannot attend their local church. People need the present of presence; they need for people to care and to spend time with them. Find out if there is someone in your neighborhood or near your church that you can visit and bring the love and message of Jesus to their front door.

Share: In the parable of the two sons, one says no to his father’s request but changes his mind and does what he was asked. The other son says he will do what he was asked but does not do it. We all know that the proof lies in what you do and not what you say. If you believe that Jesus is the all-powerful, all-knowing, all-seeing, creator of all that exists; then your behavior reflects that belief. To say one thing but do another is living a lie or not really believing in the first place. Elementary school classrooms for decades have had “Show and Tell,” where a student gets to show a special item to all of their classmates and tell them about the item. The show comes first, then the tell. It is not called tell and guess or talk and tell, you have to bring something to show before you get to tell about it. It is the same with our faith and love; people need to see it before we get to talk about it. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to be shown your faith and love before you tell them about it; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 22

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for creating us in Your image. You are love, and You made us in love, to love You and our “neighbors.” Thank You that we are made and equipped to do what You have commanded us to do. Help me to live in the love You created and commanded; do not let me detour or be detained from the path that You paved for me to walk. Thank You for allowing me to serve You; to be Your instrument in Your hand for Your Kingdom purpose. Thank You for loving me first; for drawing me

to You and inviting me into Your family and Kingdom. I seek to love You with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength; and through that love I will love my neighbors; the people you put near to me and that You send me out to love from my neighborhood to the ends of the earth.

Care: You were made in the image of God. It is that image that is on You and therefore you are to render yourself to God. His image is on every man, woman and child; when you look at another person you should see His image like a child having characteristics of his or her parents. We are children of God; His image transcends every ethnic, racial, cultural, educational, economic, social, background or DNA that we carry. We are one in the family of God; all loved, all highly favored, no one person or group is higher than another but equally loved and important to the Kingdom. Do you know someone who has been abused or hurt by the ignorance of someone else's pride? When you see someone who looks different than you, do you think of them as family made in God's image? Do you look for sameness instead of differences? How can you be involved in bringing unity to your community and the body of Christ? LOVE one another!

Share: The parable of the wedding feast tells of guests invited to participate in an amazing and beautiful celebration hosted by a king, but the usual guests on the guest list refused to come. So the king filled the wedding hall with guests of good and bad character who accepted his invitation to "come" and put on the clothes he provided for all who attended. The king provided the place, the food, and the clothes; it is the picture of God inviting us to heaven through His Son, clothed in the righteousness only He can offer. No character can clean themselves up enough to enter this celebration; the only requirement is to respond to His invitation with humility and thankfulness to allow Him to clothe you in His righteousness and enjoy the celebration. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that they can never "fix" or "clean" themselves up for Jesus; He takes that responsibility when we say "Yes" to His invitation to come and follow Him; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 23

Prayer: Jesus, it breaks my heart to read about and to see people reject You. Thank You for the repeated reminder that religion does not save us, but a personal relationship with You as our Lord is at the heart of our salvation. You call us to practice what You preached; to follow Your example and to be mindful of justice and mercy. Help me to take every thought and deed captive; for my love to be authentic without pretense or pretending. Do not let anything I say or do add to the burdens of someone's life, but allow me to help carry their load and to cast their cares to You in prayer, with great care and sharing Your love and message always. If there is anything fake in me Jesus, please remove it. If anything dishonors You please show me and take it away. Cleanse me of all unrighteousness and allow me to be Your servant.

Care: Jesus does not reject those who come humbly to worship, love and serve Him. He rejects pretenders; He rejects the proud and the prejudice. Jesus rejected the Pharisees, Scribes and Sadducees because they rejected Him first. They were holding on to their own identity of power and missed the

One they had been waiting for to redeem them. Rejection is so painful! Jesus wept over Jerusalem; wanting so tenderly to gather them together under the safety of His authority and love. We are surrounded by people who feel or have been rejected by their family, classmates, co-workers or even an unfaithful spouse. Look around for people who sit by themselves in the breakroom or cafeteria and ask if you can sit with them. Make sure that you do not exclude people from parties or events; go out of your way to meet new people and make new friends. Keep a lookout for people who are alone or who have been rejected and show them the love of Jesus.

Share: In verse twelve, Jesus says, “whoever exalts himself will be humbled but whoever humbles himself will be exalted. We do not need to worry about being popular or our deeds being noticed; Jesus accepts us and He sees our good deeds. Everybody needs to be respected and appreciated, but do not despair if you do not have a wall covered in awards. Your reputation as an authentic, responsible, caring person will precede you even if it does not get you promoted on earth, you can count on being lifted up in the presence of God. Do what is right, always, without thought of recognition and leave the results and reward to Jesus. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that their hard work is appreciated and glorifies God; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 24

Prayer: Jesus, there are so many rumors and discussions about this being the end of days. I wait for You to return as You promised and look forward to the day when I see Your face. You said that only the Father knows when You will return, but there is wisdom for those who watch, and wait eagerly while they serve and worship you. Those who chose dates are foolish; only the Father knows how and when it will come. Please do not let Your church be divided by theology we cannot discern with exact accuracy; let us be busy going to all the nations to proclaim Your Kingdom and making disciples. I want to be found wise and ready whether you come in my lifetime or when You call me home to heaven. Even so Lord, come, we eagerly await Your return.

Care: No one knows the exact day that God will send Jesus back, so until then we must persevere in faith and love. Jesus said that people would fall away and love would grow cold; since we know the temptation we must be ready to fan the flame of our faith and passion for Jesus and the lost. We have to watch out for those who are swayed by people who set dates or cult leaders that claim to be the returned Savior. We need to teach the Word and pray fervently for all people to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus as Lord and Savior. Continue to pray and share His love and message every day along the way to wherever your schedule takes you.

Share: No one knows the exact day that Jesus will return but we were told to discern the times. As a follower of Christ we watch and wait eagerly, but to a non-believer talking about the “end times” may seem scary or even crazy. Be careful not to give details that we do not know or be wishy-washy about the consequences for those who do not follow Him as Lord. Someone you know or that you will

meet today needs to know that Jesus will return but no one knows the exact day He will come; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 25

Prayer: Jesus, I want to tell you again that I eagerly await Your return; please search my heart and know that I want You to find me watching and worshipping. I long to hear You say, “Good and faithful servant.” I want to be a good steward of all that You have given to me; to go and to give where You send me and to enter into Your joy when my journey is complete. Let me be prepared for Your return and to prepare others, watchful but not worried as you come to redeem Your people and Your creation that has been warring with the Devil since he slithered into the Garden of Eden. I look forward to the day when all that is wrong will be made right again, You will reign, and every knee will bow. I love You Jesus, help me to share Your love today while You may still be found and the door is still open.

Care: The last portion of Chapter twenty-five portrays Jesus’ return and rewarding those who gave food to the hungry, clothes to the cold and naked, and visited those who were sick and in prison. If Jesus mentions these by name; to meet the needs of the “least of these” it is vital that we are doing these things. All of these ministries are essential to expressing the love of the Church whether we share the burden of each one and go together, or make sure that the churches closest to us are working in at least one area and we cover another. Which of these pulls at your heart? Would it be possible to participate in all of them, maybe one per season? Would You be willing to sacrifice some time and money to make sure at least one of these ministries are sustained through Your church or local ministry organization? Would you be willing to volunteer on a regular basis or lead in organizing a project? Pray about it and let the Holy Spirit guide you where He will equip you to serve.

Share: We are all called to serve and share Jesus’ love and message. Christian ministry is not just for Pastors, seminary graduates or full-time ministry leaders; every Christian is called to go and give so that needs are met and the Gospel is shared. Jesus’ love for you should prompt you to love others. Love is a verb, it involves action. You cannot tell someone you love them and never show them in any tangible way. Love presents itself in kindness, generosity, sacrifice, and compassion. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that love is a verb, and that the love of Jesus and for Jesus is expressed through acts of compassion to those in need; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 26

Prayer: Jesus, I cannot imagine the emotions of Your last days before You were crucified. Thank You for the Scriptures that give us a glimpse into Your anointing at the table in Bethany and Your betrayer reclining with You to eat the Passover meal. The woman poured out her gift of great worth on You and Judas betrayed You for thirty pieces of silver. I cannot imagine how You felt as You broke the

bread that symbolized Your body and lifted the cup that symbolized Your blood that would be shed on a Roman cross in just a few hours. My heart aches as I picture You praying to the Father in the garden; knowing the mob was on their way to seize You and the anguish that awaited You throughout that night in the cover of darkness. While those who praised You slept, those who hated You gathered and schemed to bring Your death sentence before sunrise. Thank You Jesus for loving us, for the willingness to suffer for me as Your closest disciples scattered and You walked with a mob to lay down Your life.

Care: Hopefully none of us will ever know the pain of one of our closest friends betraying us to a group who desires to kill us; but if you have ever known the pain of someone who pretended to be your friend for their own gain or who betrayed you with lies, gossip or tried to destroy other relationships – you have a peek at the heartache Jesus experienced when Judas betrayed Him. Imagine the surprise of the other disciples as Jesus had treated them all with such love that none of them could guess who the betrayer would be. Jesus tells us to love our enemies and modeled that with Judas. Do you know someone who has been betrayed by a friend or family member? Help them to come a point of forgiveness and find healing. Be a good friend; encourage and affirm them. Be careful to guard your tongue and do not get mixed up in gossip or revenge. Pray for the betrayer. Explain that the pain will subside when they hand it over to Jesus; let Him be their comfort and deal with the betrayer.

Share: Peter followed Jesus at a distance and then denied knowing Him three times as he wandered the courtyard outside where Jesus was being mocked and questioned. Peter had proclaimed that he would die with Jesus but Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him, not die for Him. You cannot follow Jesus at a distance, You are either with Him or not. A “distant” follower denies Jesus access to all areas of their life. A “distant” follower denies Jesus with their language, unethical deals, or questionable relationships. A “distant” follower denies Jesus with their choices and has little risk of someone accusing them of being connected to Jesus. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that it is possible to deny Jesus without ever opening our mouth to say we do not know Him. We must stay close to Him so that our life replies and does not deny our trust and love for Him; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses in mean to you in your life?

Matthew 27

Prayer: Jesus, as I read through these Scriptures of Your mock trial and the deceit that took place, my heart pounds knowing You could have called down angels from heaven and left us all here to die in our sin. You were reviled, spit on, scourged, beaten until you could not carry the cross to Your own execution. All the while, they did not understand that You were laying down Your life, they did not take it from You. Thank You for taking the torturous punishment I deserve; for wrapping me in Your righteousness as they wrapped You and put You in the tomb. Truly You are the Son of God! They mocked You for a moment but I will praise You forever and ever. You are the only unblemished sacrifice that would satisfy the necessary wrath against our sin; Your sinless life and endless love covers all of those who would call You Lord. My heart cries out with thankfulness and praise; may my life express this love every day.

Care: The corruption of the chief priests and scribes throughout Jesus' ministry, mock trial and crucifixion is so difficult to understand. Why would they want to kill a man who was healing people and calling people to sin no more everywhere He went? The problem was pride and greed. Many of these religious leaders were allowed, even supported to live very comfortable lives even under Roman occupation. They were paid to keep their people calm and submissive to the government of the day and allowed to keep their titles and positions of honor even though they did not have governmental authority. You probably know someone who has been the victim of corruption; maybe they lost a promotion because of a bribe, wrongful accusations, behind-the-scenes relationships, ill-gotten gain. Maybe they lost a job, their marriage or friends because they tried to stand up for what was right and got shut down and shut out by a storm of lies and gossip. If there is someone you know that has been a victim of corruption, or is in the midst of a battle, go offer to pray with them; be their friend, listen to their story without allowing vengeful or hurtful things to be said about other people. Pray for truth to be revealed and for lies and evil plots to be exposed. Help them through the process in faith and friendship.

Share: Despite being betrayed, beaten and carried through a set up trial of false witnesses, corrupt leaders and a persuaded crowd in the cover of darkness; Jesus yielded His life for us; they did not take it from Him. We are all to blame, our sin made it necessary for the sinless Son of God to come to earth from heaven and be the sacrifice that would satisfy the wrath of God for our sins. Without Jesus' death and resurrection, we would have no hope. Life would be a miserable existence of consequences and corruption as each person lived for themselves and their own short-term gain, and death would mean an eternity of torturous punishment. Jesus came to change all that; so that we could have hope, peace and purpose in life and unending joy and love in death as we step from earth and into heaven. Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus offers this and more through eternal life as your Lord and Savior; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?

Matthew 28

Prayer: Jesus, I cannot imagine the emotion of the women who came to the tomb so filled with grief and anguish and the unmeasurable joy that filled them when they saw You risen from the dead, fully alive and talking with them! Thank You for defeating death; You are the one true living God. We serve our risen Savior, not bones in a tomb. Equip me each day to obey Your commission to go and make disciples of all nations. Thank You that You came for the Jew first, but loved all of Your creation enough to cover our sin and invite us into Your family. We are grafted into Your chosen ones, the Jewish people; we have not replaced them, but continue to love and pray for the day that they acknowledge You as their Messiah. I will be strengthened every day with Your promise that You are with us always; and I thank You that I will be with You forever, Almighty Lord, King of Kings, God with us, Lamb of God, Redeemer and Risen Savior.

Care: Jesus' command to go and make disciples is a commissioning to us today as well as every generation before us. Think of the mission field this way; Jerusalem would equate to your home and

neighborhood, those who are near and dear to you. Judea would equate to the community and city around you; where you work, shop, learn, eat, hangout and workout. It is your community leaders, government and helpers such as police, firefighters and healthcare. Your Samaria is the area that some people avoid; the outskirts or crime-ridden areas that people tend to avoid but really need the most love and help. To all nations is pretty self-explanatory; but there are people from all nations in your neighborhood, schools and colleges, workplace and in cultural areas of your city or nearby communities. It also impresses on us the need for missions and to take the message of Jesus to those who have never heard His name or known His love. Make a plan and be intentional about reaching all of these areas with the love and message of Jesus.

Share: As the women approached the tomb early in the morning, the angel met them with the greatest news of all time; “Jesus is not here; He has risen!” Someone you know or that you will meet today needs to know that Jesus has risen; be prepared to share this message with them. What do these verses mean to you in your life?