

Day One: Matthew 23:1-12

- Whom is Jesus addressing (1)? How does he describe the teachers of his day (2)? Why should people do only what they say, not what they do (3-4)? How do you think the crowd responded to Jesus' insistence that they not follow these religious teachers?
- What motivates the teachers (5)? Describe their practices and desires (5-7). What do you think it was like for students to try imitating these teachers? How would you sum up the Pharisees' way of life, and how does it contrast with Jesus' way of life?
- Why does Jesus speak against titles like "rabbi," "father," and "instructor" (8-10)? Who is the "one teacher"? Do you think the people expected the Messiah to be a teacher? Why or why not?
- What posture should we take as we relate to one another (11-12)? Consider throughout the gospels Jesus' many proclamations and demonstrations of how to be a humble servant. Give the Holy Spirit space and time to reproduce this posture in your own heart.

Day Two: Mark 2:1-12

- Set the scene of this passage (1-2). Describe the men who came to the house (3). What did they do (4)? What did Jesus see in them, and what did he say to the paralyzed man (5)? Why do you think he said that? Some scholars think this happened at Jesus' house. How do you think he felt about the roof damage?
- How did religious teachers respond to what Jesus said to the man (6-7)? What was Jesus able to discern, and what did he say to the teachers (8-10)? Based on this scene, how do you think Jesus' teaching style compared to that of the Pharisees'?
- What did Jesus then say to the paralyzed man (10-11)? What happened next (12)? How did people respond (12)? Note this miracle's similarities to the one performed in Acts 9:32-35. Peter used incidents in the gospels as a training manual for carrying on Jesus' ministry. How can you do the same, and what role must the Holy Spirit play? Invite him now to play his part.

Day Three: Mark 3:13-19

- Where did Jesus go, and what did he do there (13)? Hear Jesus' call to *you*. What is he saying, and how will you respond? What do you want your relationship with him to produce?
- Why did Jesus appoint these men (14-15)? Is this approach anything like teacher-student relationships today? Do teachers want you with them in all areas of life? Do they give you authority to do supernatural things? Thank God for the extraordinary and personal relationship we have with our teacher Jesus.
- List the 12 men Jesus appointed (16-19). Note that Peter comes first. Re-read verses 14-15. Based on Acts 9 and other accounts of Peter's ministry, how can we tell that he was with Jesus? How can people tell that *you* are with Jesus? Pray for more of the Holy Spirit, and that he'd reproduce the Jesus way of life in you.

Day Four: Luke 8:40-56

- Here in the midst of several miracle stories, what is happening (40)? Describe Jairus and his plight (41-42). Summarize what happened as Jesus headed to Jairus' house (42-48). One miracle happened while on the way to perform another. What does this tell us about the life Jesus lived, and what does it mean for you?

- Meanwhile, what news came (49)? How did Jesus respond (50)? In the face of death, what do you think he means by “just believe”? Describe the scene at Jairus’ house (51-53). How did the miracle unfold (54-56)? Besides “astonished,” how do you think the girl’s parents felt? Would you have been able to obey Jesus’ order in verse 56? Why or why not? Why do you think he issued it?
- Compare the story of Jairus’ daughter to Acts 9:36-42. What similarities and differences do you observe? Luke penned both his gospel and Acts at the same time. What overarching story does he seem to be telling us about the way of life we’re invited into?

Day Five: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

- What does Paul seek to inform his readers about (1-2)? What does he say about “speaking by the Spirit” (3)? In this season, how would you sum up the Spirit’s role in your own life?
- How does Paul contrast various spiritual gifts and callings with their source (4-6)? Why does the Holy Spirit manifest in people (7)? What are some examples of such (8-10)?
- Note the supernatural nature of the gifts listed. How does Romans 12:3-8 differ? In seeking and exercising supernatural gifts like healing and prophecy, what do we learn about the power of the Holy Spirit? Think about current situations and trials for which these gifts may prove helpful. Pray for them now.
- What point from verses 4-6 does Paul then reiterate (11)? Meditate on the phrase “just as he determines.” What are some ways you can allow the Holy Spirit to instill the Jesus way of life in you “just as he determines”? Pray for openness and obedience.