
A WEEK WITH JESUS



Guided prayers through Scriptures to get to know more deeply
the great, great love of the Father as shown us in the Person of
Jesus Christ



Copyright 2016 Lee Giles
All rights reserved

Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)
Italics and other markings removed

INTRODUCTION

You'll find seven devotional guides here. Each day has four pages: The Scripture, The Lesson, The Prayer, Thoughts. (Thoughts has been removed from the pdf version so that you aren't printing out basically blank pages. You can write on the back of the prayer page.)

The Scripture is taken from the New American Standard Bible. If you prefer another version, the reference is there for you to read it in your own Bible.

The Lesson focuses on the verses and asks some questions for your thoughts. I've put in space, where I could, to leave room for you to write a response.

The Prayer helps you visualize yourself in the scene. Take the time to picture what's happening around you. Here you'll meet Jesus. Again, space is provided to record your answers and what you believe Jesus is saying to you.

Thoughts is a place for you. What did you learn about yourself, about your Savior, about your circumstances, about what you need to do, about who you need to be? You could also use this space to write out a prayer.

Whether you are already familiar with this type of prayer or not, I hope this little book will help you get to know Jesus better.

A WEEK WITH JESUS DAY 1

The Scripture



Then they came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him here.” So they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you.” Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus. And answering him, Jesus said, “What do you want Me to do for you?” And the blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!” And Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.

Mark 10:46-52



The Lesson

Blind Bartimaeus was sitting along the road. Blind men often were beggars by profession. That may have been where he could be found begging any day. He seems to know who Jesus is. He calls out to Him. He really calls out to Him, with a loud voice. Have you cried out to God in a loud voice?

Many try to stop Bartimaeus from crying out even though he's asking for mercy from the Merciful One Himself. Didn't they realize the need? Didn't they see the possibility? Are you ever discouraged from being "crazy" for Christ because you can see the possibility and others can't?

Jesus calls Bartimaeus to Himself. He's encouraged now by others. Then Jesus asks something strange. He's looking at a blind man; He knows everything. Yet He asks, "What do you want?" Do you know what it is you want most from Jesus?

The Prayer

It's your turn. You are the one by the side of the road. Picture it in your mind. Jesus and a crowd of his followers are coming down the road toward you. Hope swells in your heart. This is the chance you've been waiting for. See Him come: the crowd, the dust, Life itself. Call out to Him. You feel desperate to get His attention. You continue to call. People tell you to stop. You refuse to give up. You see Him through the crowd right in front of you. You continue to call for Him but with an even louder voice.

He stops and looks at you. How does that feel?

He calls you to Himself. What are you thinking as you hurry to Him?

Then He asks you what He asked blind Bartimaeus, "What do you want Me to do for you?" What is it? What do you want? Tell Him.

How does He respond?

A WEEK WITH JESUS DAY 2

The Scripture



Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:38-42



The Lesson

Martha offers hospitality to Jesus and His disciples. She then takes on the responsibility of hostess. Her sister sits with Jesus. We don't know if Martha felt like this happened a lot, that she took on the responsibility alone. Is there an area where you feel the burden of responsibility but think it should be shared by someone else?

Martha lets herself get agitated and lets the agitation grow in her thoughts until finally it gets to the point of accusing Love of not caring. "Don't you care?" Do you believe Jesus cares about the everyday burdens you face?

Martha doesn't wait for an answer. She just tells Jesus what to do. "Tell my sister to help." Is there something you are trying to tell Jesus to do? What?

Jesus knows that she is "worried and bothered about so many things." This wasn't *just* about working alone in the kitchen. What many things are worrying and bothering you?

The Prayer

It's your turn. Picture yourself doing that task you feel unfairly burdened with, or picture yourself fluttering around doing the millions of little things you know need to be done but don't necessarily want to be doing. Think about your task and think about those things that are worrying and bothering you. What are you feeling?

When you are feeling the aggravation of it, take it to Jesus. What do you want to say to Him about it? Don't worry; He can take it.

Hear Him acknowledge your feelings but remind you that only one thing is necessary. What is it? Ask Him what it is you *need* to do.

A WEEK WITH JESUS DAY 3

The Scripture



And Jesus called His disciples to Him, and said, "I feel compassion for the people, because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way." The disciples said to Him, "Where would we get so many loaves in this desolate place to satisfy such a large crowd?" And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven, and a few small fish." And He directed the people to sit down on the ground; and He took the seven loaves and the fish; and giving thanks, He broke them and started giving them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. And they all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, seven large baskets full.

Matthew 15:32-37



The Lesson

Jesus has been healing all those who came to him: the lame, the blind, the mute. People have been gathered around him for three days. He wants to feed the people because He has compassion on them. The word for compassion refers to a deep down feeling, like a wrenching of the gut. He *really* feels for them. He can't not respond to that feeling. Have you ever felt that kind of compassion for someone or for a situation? When? Or if not, why not?

The disciples feel at a loss for what Jesus could possibly want them to do in the situation. Do you feel at a loss? Is there a situation that you would love to help with but just don't have a clue how?

Jesus thanks His Father for what the disciples have and instructs them to give it. They end up with more than what they began with. That's God's economy at work. There is no end in Christ Jesus, and there is no end of what Jesus can provide in and through us. Do you believe you have something to give? Do you believe it's enough for God to use?

The Prayer

It's your turn. See the need. What moves you? Where do you see the need that feels impossible to meet? Feel the weight of the impossibility of it. What is it?

Hear Jesus tell you that He's sending you to meet the need. How are you feeling? What are the doubting questions you have?

What does Jesus ask of you? What is there that He's already provided you that you can use to start giving to others?

See yourself stepping out in faith and taking what you already have to start meeting the need. Then what happens?

A WEEK WITH JESUS DAY 4

The Scripture



The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them, and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their coats on them; and He sat on the coats. Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road. The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David;
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the highest!”

When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, “Who is this?”

Matthew 21:6-10



The Lesson

Jesus had given His disciples some unusual instructions about taking a donkey that didn't belong to them, but they obey and it all works out just as Jesus had told them. Jesus climbs on the donkey and fulfills a prophecy spoken hundreds of years before that day.

A donkey was the ride of a king coming in peace. This scene is a small glimpse of Jesus as King. His disciples are wanting Him to rule Israel as an earthly king right then and there. Jesus, however, knows He is entering Jerusalem to die.

The people celebrate the man they want as their king. He had fed them; He had healed them, and He had stood up to the religious leaders who oppressed them. He cared about them and showed it.

What has Jesus done for you? What reasons do you have to celebrate Him?

Do others see your excitement over King Jesus?

If someone asked you, "Who is this Jesus?" Would you have an answer?

The Prayer

It's your turn. Stand in the crowd that day. Your High and Awesome King is riding into town. Feel the excitement in the air. People are throwing down their coats and tree branches, so the hooves of His donkey don't have to touch the ground. Join them. What are you feeling?

"Hosanna!" What are you shouting? Shout praises to Jesus, King of Kings!

Someone sees your enthusiasm and asks, "Who is this?" What's your answer? Who is this Jesus?

A WEEK WITH JESUS DAY 5

The Scripture



He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. Zaccheus was trying to see who Jesus was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way. When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house." And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much."

Luke 19:1-8



The Lesson

Zaccheus wasn't just a tax collector; he was a chief tax collector. He was in a position of wealth and power. He made his money by taking from others. When he collected taxes, he collected extra for himself. He was despised for it.

He had heard about Jesus. I guess most everyone had. He wants to see who this man is. The crowd is keeping him from his mission, so he climbs into a sycamore tree. That's not difficult to do. A sycamore's branches can be low and widespread.

Jesus spots Zaccheus. We aren't told anything about Zaccheus having faith or what he believes about Jesus, just that he had a curiosity about Him. But God knew the potential. Jesus tells Zaccheus that He's coming over. Zaccheus is excited. Eating with someone in many cultures means accepting their friendship, even becoming like family.

In Revelation 3 Jesus tells the Church that He is waiting for us to open the door and to invite Him in to eat with us. Do you have Zaccheus' excitement that Jesus wants to be with you?

People grumble that Jesus is going to spend the day with a sinner. Do people grumble about you? What do they say? What are the negative words you "hear" about yourself in your own mind?

Jesus accepted Zaccheus. Do you know you are loved unconditionally? Overwhelmed that he is accepted by Jesus, Zaccheus makes a broad, costly offering. Could you make such an offer?

The Prayer

It's your turn. Climb the tree. Seek Jesus. Feel yourself strain to see Him. Feel your heart beating when Jesus stops and looks at you. How are you feeling? What are you wanting from Him?

Hear Jesus say that He wants to spend the day with you. How do you respond?

Now hear the grumbles, those words that try to tell you that God couldn't accept you the way you are. Then look in Jesus' eyes, feel loved and accepted, and let the words fade away. They aren't the truth. Jesus is the Truth, and He has loved you and accepted you and has asked to spend time with you today, just as you are. What are you feeling?

What's your response to being loved just as you are, so freely and purely?

A WEEK WITH JESUS DAY 6

The Scripture



Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

Mark 4:35-41



The Lesson

Jesus and His disciples are in a boat. They need to get from here to there. Jesus, who liked to get up in the wee hours to pray and who had been known to pray all night, is asleep. He curls up on the cushion while it is peaceful sailing. No one is upset that He was sleeping. The disciples are the sailors, and they know the demands on Jesus.

A storm starts. It gets bad, fast. Water is coming into the boat, which is what happens when it's sinking. It suddenly feels like a life or death situation to the disciples. They see Jesus sleeping. What are they feeling?

The disciples wake Him, and like Martha, accuse Love of not caring. "Don't you care that we're dying?" Do you have a situation in your life now or can you think back on a time when you knew Jesus could help, but it was as if He were sleeping? Maybe it wasn't life or death, but can you understand the feeling of wanting to ask, "Why aren't you doing anything about this?"

Jesus stops the storm and asks, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" He doesn't expect them to have faith to stand and calm the storm themselves, but He does want them to have faith that they are with One who loves them and who has their best interests at heart. As His children we are under the protection of One who always only wants what is best for us. We are loved perfectly and "perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18). So, what are you afraid of? Do you see God as in control over whatever it is you fear? Can you see that His perfect love for you is using it for your good, that He has your best interests at heart?

The Prayer

It's your turn. Climb into the boat and set off with Jesus. The storm starts. You think you are going to die. Feel the fear set in. See Jesus sleeping. In desperation shout and wake Him up. Let Him know what's going on. And He asks, "What are you afraid of?" Tell Him what it is you're afraid of.

Hear Jesus speak to you:

"Do you trust Me?"

"Do you know that I love you?"

"I only want what's best for you."

"I know the plans I have for you, and they are not plans to harm you! They are plans that will fill you with hope for the future."

A WEEK WITH JESUS DAY 7

The Scripture



But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind stopped.

Matthew 14:24-32



The Lesson

The disciples are on their way across the Sea of Galilee. They are making slow progress as the wind is against them. Jesus stayed back to pray and then decided to join them by walking out to their boat. I don't know how long they had been at it, but we know they are a long distance from land. Jesus has a bit of a trek to get to them.

The disciples get scared when they see Him, really scared. Jesus immediately calms them by calling out. His voice settles them. Peter gets a crazy thought: if that's Jesus, He can let me come out there with Him.

He thought that would be exciting until it worked, and he got out there with nothing holding him up but his faith that Jesus was the Son of God, the all-powerful One. What do you think was the progression of his thoughts?

He becomes afraid when he "sees" the wind. You don't see wind, but you see its effect. You feel it pushing on you. You see it moving the waves which are big enough to knock you down. The fear begins to drown him and he starts sinking. Is there a nagging fear that is slowly pulling you under?

He calls out, "Jesus save me!" Immediately He does. And then my favorite part, after fearing and sinking, Peter again walks on water. They've got to get back to the boat. Do you trust Jesus can get you back on your feet after you've fallen?

The Prayer

It's your turn. Picture yourself in the boat with the wind against you. You have been working hard and making slow progress. Jesus calls to you to let you know He's there. You ask Him to bring you where you want to be, where He is. What are you feeling as you step out onto the water?

Then it changes. You take your eyes off Jesus and start "seeing" the wind. Fear replaces faith and you start to sink. Call out to Jesus to save you!

Let Him raise you up. Walk with Him back to safety. What are you feeling?

Tell Jesus what is sinking you. Where are fear and failure pulling you under?

Call out to Him to save you!

See Him lift you up. Feel Him put His arm around you to hold you securely. Know that your safe place is with Him. What is Jesus saying to you?

The Next Week

Don't stop spending time with Jesus.

What happened next after Zaccheus got down from the tree? What happened after Martha was gently rebuked? What happened after Bartimeus was healed?

Zaccheus spent the rest of the day with Jesus. I bet Martha got still before Jesus and listened. Bartimeus followed Jesus.

Go and do likewise.