

# Lent Devotionals

## April 9 - 15



### Day 29 – Read Luke 20

When we ask God a question, do we want an answer? Or like Sadducees, are we trying to get him to answer only as we would desire? Maybe our questions aren't even the heart of the matter.

Since childhood I have admired these scriptures where Jesus spoke with authority. Walking on earth as a man, using parables that all could understand here in our worldly duties. To think he came here to earth to show us he understands and cares. Even then in human form he taught at our level of understanding while being God. We shouldn't be surprised since he made us. He understood the woman at the well (John 4). Her sin, her thirst, yet my God, the Lord of even David shows great compassion.

Have you ever wondered how great it would be to have Jesus in the pulpit for a Sunday? Maybe we would all be called out like Sadducees and think not so great after all. Perhaps we could have a question and answer session, or would we ask why he didn't do this or that. Would we challenge him and ask why he lets garbage like cancer infest our world, or ask him how we could obey his commandments? Come to think of it, he still delivers the message and not just on Sundays if we seek out his Word, "the good book," with prayer and his Holy Spirit.

Dare us to pray today: Jesus, help me respond by loving you more. Show me how to live up to your request to love one another. Guide me in my actions, help me be obedient.

*-Kenton Carlson*

### Day 30 – Read Luke 21

**Luke 21: 8-9 - "Jesus replied: "Don't be fooled by those who will come and claim to be me. They will say, "I am Christ!" and "Now is the time!" But don't follow them. When you hear about wars and riots, don't be afraid. These things will have to happen first, but that isn't the end...."**

We have a lot of chaos in our country and even the world right now. The stage seems to be set for the preparation of the coming Christ even as soon as tomorrow...but as I read this passage, I see "These things will have to happen first, but that isn't the end." So, what are "These things"?

I believe "these things" are that which need to occur to prepare us, His Bride. Christ is doing a mighty work in our generation right now. There are more and more people all around the globe becoming awakened to the knowledge of Christ and His truths.

In many Muslim countries, there are stories of how Christ has visited people in their dreams and they are converting to Christianity at high rates, even with the threat of death. In addition, there are more and more missionaries getting ready to go full time into these areas, risking the safety of their families, to help the underground church as it explodes. Acts 3:21 (CEV) states:

"But Jesus must stay in heaven until God makes all things new, just as his holy prophets promised long ago." Every day we are getting closer to Christ coming back, so be ready! However, the stage is still being set. God is still making "all things new" as he prepares us – His Bride -- for His return.

I would encourage you to dive into Scripture and ask, "What the things that are not are yet filled or restored that need to be made new to set the stage for Christ's coming?" This will keep you from being fooled by false prophets as Jesus warned in Luke 21, Matthew 24, and Mark 13.

*-Jen Einrem*

## Day 31 – Read Luke 22

I must admit, when my wife tells me to do something like pick up milk, there is a chance I will forget, even if I promise I'll do it. I don't forget on purpose, but something like that may get put in the back of my brain as the day goes on. Now, there's a good chance that if someone mentioned milk later in the day, I would remember my task. So, when I read about Peter's denial, it's hard for me to comprehend that Peter forgot what Jesus told him at the meal they just shared – "I tell you, Peter, the rooster won't crow today before you have denied three times that you know me." This is a far cry from picking up milk, so when the opportunity to deny Jesus comes, you would think that Peter would remember.

Of course, as much as I hope I could stand up for Jesus always, I believe my responses would have been the same as Peter's when asked if I knew Jesus. I would have feared for my life. But I don't believe I would have forgotten Jesus' prediction earlier, making my denials even worse. The great news for us is that even if or when we deny Jesus, he still loves us. Peter denied Jesus those three times, but Jesus still used Peter to grow the church. How will Jesus use you?

*-Jeremy Skoglund*

## Day 32 – Read Luke 23

**Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." Luke 23:34a**

The first words spoken by Jesus on the cross were words of forgiveness. Christ's purpose on earth had always been to make a way for us to know God personally and have life eternal. It is almost not surprising that, while bearing the weight of the world's sin by hanging on a cross, He spoke words of mercy and grace.

- 1) How will you respond to Christ's forgiveness in your life today?
- 2) Spend a few moments in worship for the loving sacrifice given for you.
- 3) Forgiveness is hard. "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." (C.S. Lewis) Is there anyone in your life who needs forgiveness? Or, do you need to seek forgiveness from another?

Lord, thank you for your love, compassion and grace. May my understanding of your forgiveness penetrate my heart and life like it never has before. Give me the ability to forgive, even when it is not asked for, and the courage to seek forgiveness when I have done the inexcusable. Amen.

*-Amanda Rue*

## Day 33 – Read Luke 24

**"The Lord really has risen!"** The disciples' exclamation in Luke 24:34 is the perfect summary of the perspective that Christ followers can have today. Throughout the book of Luke, the lost are found, the blind can see, the dead once again have life! Because of what Christ did on the cross, life will not and cannot be the same again. Jesus overcoming the grave, brings an unparalleled hope and depth to life. In his book Practice Resurrection, Eugene Peterson encourages us to make an "intentional, deliberate decision to believe and participate in resurrection life, life out of death, life that trumps death, life that is the last word, Jesus life."

- 1) Does your life reflect that of a resurrection Christian? How or how not?
- 2) Prayerfully consider what changes or additions God might want you to make to live in light of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Lord, I praise you today for in your rising from the dead you have trampled death. Thank you for the victory over sin and death that is mine through Jesus Christ. Show me how to walk in renewed joy and hope, for your glory. Amen.

*-Amanda Rue*