

Behold, The King of Glory

40-Day Home Liturgy

"Lift up your heads, you gates! Rise up, ancient doors! Then the King of glory will come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, you gates! Rise up, ancient doors! Then the King of glory will come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord of Armies, he is the King of glory."

Psalm 24:7-10

A "liturgy" is simply a pattern used for worship. The purpose of this liturgy is to welcome the King of glory into our homes and lives with daily worship. The liturgy will take families or individuals through the Gospel of Mark in 40 days. Each day includes a Scripture reading, a confession of faith, a written prayer, and worship through song recommendations. While this resource can be used any time throughout the year, we encourage you to begin on Monday, October 3, so that our church can be reflecting on similar themes of worship these 40 days. If this schedule is maintained, the 40th day will fall on November 11, 2022, which is the night of a special service for our church to delight in God together.

We hope all our members—married and single alike—will utilize this resource. If you are married, we encourage you to do this together with your spouse and family (if kids at home). If worshipping together with your family is new, this may feel awkward at first. We pray that you will work through this awkwardness. God will bless those who seek Him by faith. Our prayer is that this resource will help develop a lasting culture of delighting in God together within your home.

A special word to married men: I want to personally exhort you to lead your family in worship at home. The enemy will give you many reasons to resist this—*I've never done this before, my wife and kids will think it's weird, I don't know how to do this, I'm not godly or spiritual enough for this, my wife and kids won't want to participate, this won't really matter long-term*. These thoughts do not come from God. God intends for you to shepherd and lead your family spiritually. It will be the power of His Spirit that produces fruit in your home. He simply calls us to walk by faith, and He will do more with our feeble efforts than we could ever imagine.

In the same way that we desire to delight in God first as a church, we ought to delight in God first within our home, carving out space every day to behold our King of glory. So, let's commit to work through this liturgy together that we might welcome the King of glory into our lives, homes, and church.

Pastor Rickey Primrose

Worship Through Song

“Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts” (Colossians 3:16).

Worship through song is a part of who we are as believers. We know that there are over 400 references to singing in the Bible, and 50 of them are direct commands to sing. God wants us to sing. Music helps us to remember truths about God, encourage one another and proclaim to the world how awesome is our God. It is also a way in which we can delight in God. I pray as we go through this liturgy that we would encounter Christ and that we would, “Bless God, you peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard” (Psalm 66:8).



Use this QR code to access a Spotify playlist with all of the songs mentioned throughout this liturgy.

Each day, you're encouraged to take time to worship through song.

Day 1: “Behold, The Son of God”

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:1-15

Confession: Jesus is the Son of God. Mark says this in verse 1, and the Father makes this declaration in verse 11 at Jesus’s baptism. This is a statement about Jesus’s deity. We are children of God by virtue of our union to Jesus, having been adopted by God. But Jesus’s sonship is unique. As the Son of God Jesus is fully God, possessing the same nature as God. John, in the spirit of Elijah, was to prepare “the way of the Lord,” that is Yahweh—God Himself. He did this to prepare the way for Jesus. The “gospel” (or good news) of Jesus Christ is that God Himself has come into the world. He will overthrow the kingdom of darkness, which He begins to do in the wilderness (v. 13). He will do this by representing God’s people. Israel is regularly referred to as “God’s son” in the Old Testament. Israel failed in their 40-year wilderness wanderings, but Jesus was triumphant. Jesus represents a new Israel, fulfilling the righteousness we could never obtain, and absorbing the wrath we deserve. Only God’s Son could do this. Mark’s gospel begins with the incredible declaration: Behold, the Son of God.

Prayer: Father, we praise the name of your Son. We acknowledge that His coming into the world to die in our place is the supreme demonstration of your steadfast love for us. You sent your Son to die for us. We were lost in our sin and enslaved to darkness. But you took on flesh, entered our prison, and overcame our enemy. You alone are worthy of all praise, honor, and dominion. We receive your love for us today. Help us to know your love for us and to be transformed into a people of love in the world. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 1-8):

"Behold Him" & "Come Thou Fount (Above All Else)"

Day 2: “The One with Authority”

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:16-38

Confession: Jesus has supreme authority over all creation. What struck the people in the synagogue about Jesus’s teaching? Were they taken back by His relevant applications, clever illustrations, or even His insightful observations? No. They were amazed at His authority. Who else could shout to four Galilean fishermen to leave their careers and the family business behind to follow Him? Who else could order unclean spirits to come out of a man “and they obey him” (vs. 27)? Evidently this man afflicted with the unclean spirit had been sitting there in the synagogue that day, listening to all the other teachers, and yet unmoved. He likely attended regularly. But when the Son of God entered and began to teach, the spirit realm could not sit quietly in the background. Like an escaped prisoner would say to a US Marshal the demons respond, “What must I do? Have you come to destroy me?” Even demonic spirits must recognize the Son’s authority. Jesus’s authority extends even over our physical bodies as he heals Simon’s mother-in-law of fever, which was the leading cause of death in the ancient world. Jesus has authority over people, spirits, and sickness. Behold the Son’s authority.

Prayer: Father, in the same way Jesus “saw” the four fishermen while they pursued their personal ambitions in life, we thank you that you saw us as we pursued temporary pleasures of this world. Thank you for calling us to yourself by the Spirit of Jesus. We acknowledge the authority of the Son of God, and we confess that You have given Him the name that is above every other name. We joyfully come under His authority, trusting that He is a good and gracious King. Forgive us when we resist Him in various aspects of our lives. Together today, we praise the One who has all authority! Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 1-8):

“Behold Him” & “Come Thou Fount (Above All Else)”

Day 3: “A Willing Compassion”

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:39-45

Confession: Jesus’s supreme authority is matched with a willing compassion. The man with leprosy did not doubt Jesus’s ability; he did question His willingness. Nevertheless, when he “came to him” in desperation, he found Jesus to be full of compassion. Not only was Jesus willing to heal him of the skin disease, Jesus was willing to touch him. No one touched those with leprosy or else they would be rendered unclean. When people touch something unclean, defilement is transferred to them. But when Jesus touches defilement, it becomes clean. This may have been the first time this man experienced the touch of another person in years—the tender, unfrightened, and unappalled touch of Jesus! By grace Jesus touches sinners, and by grace sinners become clean. When people come to Jesus in desperation, they will find a man of compassion who is willing to come close to them and make them clean.

Prayer: Father, in Jesus we see the exact expression of your nature, and thus we find You to be a God of willing compassion. You alone are able to cover our sin and clean our defiled hearts, and you are not merely able, you are willing. We find in You tender mercy unmatched in this world. We confess our desperation for you, and we rejoice in the God who comes close to His people. Help us to reflect this same compassion to the world around us. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 1-8):

"Behold Him" & "Come Thou Fount (Above All Else)"

Day 4: “The Authority to Forgive”

Scripture Reading: Mark 2:1-12

Confession: Jesus has the authority to forgive every sin you have ever committed, are committing, and will commit against God. He has this authority because He is God. When this story is told, attention often focuses on the faith of the four friends who brought the paralytic to Jesus. For Mark, the focus of this story is the identity and authority of Jesus. The crowds (and Mark’s readers) expect Jesus to heal the paralytic immediately. Instead, Jesus says, “your sins are forgiven.” It is easier to say to a paralytic, “your sins are forgiven,” than it is to say, “get up and walk.” If you do not have authority to heal, you are easily exposed as fraudulent when you say, “get up and walk.” Not having the authority to forgive is much easier to conceal. Thus, the demonstration of His authority to heal is intended here to prove His authority to forgive. Every sin is ultimately against God. Therefore, God alone has the right to forgive sin. Because Jesus is God, He has this authority. Do you need forgiveness? Come to Jesus by faith, and He will forgive your sin.

Prayer: Father, your willingness and authority to forgive our sin is indeed a great miracle. You alone were able to provide the sacrifice required for sin to be forgiven, and you alone possess the love required for such a sacrifice. All our sin is ultimately against you. Forgive our unbelief, pride, and rebellious hearts! Thank you for your grace, and help us to be a people of grace toward those who sin against us. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 1-8):

"Behold Him" & "Come Thou Fount (Above All Else)"

Day 5: "The Heart to Forgive"

Scripture Reading: Mark 2:13-17

Confession: Yes, Jesus has the authority to forgive sins, but for whom does He appropriate this authority? Surely there are conditions that must be met to qualify for such forgiveness—being a decent person or possessing some degree of religious devotion. Could Jesus's forgiveness really apply to society's 'worst' sinners? Levi (AKA, "Matthew") was one such sinner. As a Jewish tax collector, Levi was known in town as a dishonest defector and thief, who only cared about padding his own pockets even at the expense of his needy kinsmen. Jesus goes, even to this one, and beckons, "Follow Me." Where do we find Jesus next? Reclining at a table with Levi and his squad of conniving bandits, eating, laughing, loving. We learn something new about this King of glory—He not only possesses authority to forgive, He came to earth with a heart to forgive even the worst of sinners. This doctor does not set up shop in the gym where the healthy are found; He goes to the infirmary where sinners are dying.

Prayer: Father, we had no right to enjoy communion with Christ—to sit at the table with Him to eat, laugh, and enjoy His presence. But you granted us this very seat by your indescribable grace. Our greatest pleasure in life is to recline with you and enjoy your company. Thank you for coming into our lives and communing with us. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 1-8):

"Behold Him" & "Come Thou Fount (Above All Else)"

Day 6: “New Wine”

Scripture Reading: Mark 2:18-3:6

Confession: Thus continues a series of controversies with the religious leaders that began at the beginning of chapter 2. These leaders were furious that Jesus claimed to forgive sins (2:6-7), ate with sinners (2:16), did not require his disciples to fast like they fasted (2:18), and worked for God (picked grain and healed) on the Sabbath (2:24, 3:6). This King of glory did not fit into the religious mold they had developed. Like new wine, the kingdom of God cannot simply be added or forced to conform to old and earthly forms of religion. Jesus brought a new era with new ways. God relates to us not on the basis of tradition, ritual, or law but on the basis of grace through faith in the Son. We find in Jesus, not merely an old wine in new packaging—merely another prophet, religion, or philosophy who came onto the scene. No, in Jesus we find new wine, who indeed makes all things new. Jesus is not intended to fit into our system. Instead, He comes into our lives and beliefs and makes us new.

Prayer: Father, now that our Groom has been physically taken away, we long for His return. Come, Lord Jesus, come! We long for Jesus to make all things new in Heaven and on earth. Until that time, we trust Him. Rather than insist He conform to our standards or systems, we gladly yield ourselves to Him. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 1-8):

"Behold Him" & "Come Thou Fount (Above All Else)"

Day 7: “The One Who Bound the Strong Man”

Scripture Reading: Mark 3:7-35

Confession: Jesus is the One who entered the strong man’s house (i.e. Satan’s domain, the kingdom of this world) and tied him up in order to plunder Satan’s house. What is Jesus plundering from the kingdom of darkness? He is seizing those in bondage, whom the Father had given to Him. Jesus entered our darkness, set us free, and has transferred us into the kingdom of God. Sure Satan and the demonic realm have been allowed temporary rule in the world, but like a man shackled to a chair, our enemy cannot keep the Son from taking what is rightfully His. When Jesus enters the house, even the demons must cry, “You are the Son of God.”

Prayer: Father, we were lost in our sin, bound in the domain of darkness, and helplessly doomed. Jesus has set us free and has made us a possession for the Lord our God. He was and is and ever will be triumphant over Satan, death, and sin. His power and authority is unmatched. Our enemy is strong, but Jesus is eternally stronger. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 1-8):

"Behold Him" & "Come Thou Fount (Above All Else)"

Day 8: “Let Those Who Have Ears Hear”

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:1-20

Confession: Similar to the ministry of the prophet Isaiah, who Jesus quotes in verse 12, Jesus’s ministry included a ministry of hardening—hardening those outside the kingdom so that righteous judgment would fall. For this reason, Jesus spoke in parables—to puzzle those outside the kingdom. Isaiah’s ministry would also, however, raise up a righteous remnant (Is. 6:13). The parables of the kingdom, likewise, disclose the secrets of the kingdom to the righteous remnant, those to whom the kingdom has been given. The exhortation is clear: “Listen!” (vs. 3), “Let anyone who has ears to hear listen” (vs. 9), “hear the word, welcome it” (vs. 20). When the King of glory speaks, it behooves us to listen carefully to what He says. He is a righteous King, and people must come to Him on His terms, not their own. The fact that we hear what Jesus says with a faith that produces fruit demonstrates that we are indeed children of the kingdom.

Prayer: Father, thank you for revealing the kingdom of God to us, giving us ears to listen to and hear Jesus. Produce in our lives kingdom fruit 100 times what was sown in us. Give us the grace to hear and to listen to our King every day. Cultivate fertile soil within us wherein truth is received and believed, producing the fruit of the kingdom. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 1-8):

"Behold Him" & "Come Thou Fount (Above All Else)"

Day 9: “Behold, the Kingdom of God”

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:21-34

Confession: Jesus has revealed to us the nature of His kingdom. Although it was starting very small, with Jesus and a few followers, it would grow beyond their comprehension. Even though we are a part of this kingdom as followers of Jesus, we don't necessarily need to understand every detail of God's plan. We are simply to be faithful in that kingdom and allow God to grow a people ready for harvest. We also begin to see our relationship to others within this kingdom. We are part of the place where others find rest in Jesus. It is wonderful to know that even though Jesus has completed His earthly ministry our relationship to His kingdom has not yet changed. We are to be an active part of the growth by shedding light, sowing seed, and offering rest to those who do not yet know Him.

Prayer: Father, we praise you for establishing your kingdom through your Son, Jesus. Thank you for the rest that comes from having been delivered from hopelessness. May we be used as your light to continue to share with others the hope you offer. May we be faithful in sowing the seed of the gospel in a lost world. May we be waiting with open arms to welcome others into your kingdom. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 9-16):

"Build Your Kingdom Here" & "I Delight in You (Psalm 1)"

Day 10: “Behold, the King of the Sea”

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:35-41

Confession: Jesus has created all things and continues to reign over His creation. We are so easily controlled by the fear of the circumstances of this life. That fear leads us to question Jesus’s care and love for us. However, Jesus presents Himself in absolute peace in the face of the storms of life. It is so encouraging to know that “storms” in this life are allowed, limited, and removed by Jesus’s own command. The peace that He demonstrated in the boat is offered to us as we place our confidence totally in Him. Jesus was preparing His disciples for life when He would be away from them. His sleeping appeared to them that He was absent from them. However, He clearly was aware and ready to demonstrate His power. We are still in the boat and although Jesus appears to us at times to be absent, the reality is that He maintains absolute control over this earth. Let’s live in His kingdom through peace in His sovereignty. We must also recognize the hand of Jesus’s sovereign work every day in our lives. May we always give Him praise and glory for who He is, King of creation.

Prayer: Father, we praise you for the peace that is ours through your Son, Jesus. May we place our complete trust and confidence in Him every day. Please forgive us for doubting your love for us and for confusing the peace of your Son as apathy towards us. We are helpless in the storms of life but have not been left alone and give to you those storms we face at the moment. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 9-16):

"Build Your Kingdom Here" & "I Delight in You (Psalm 1)"

Day 11: “Behold, the King over Demons”

Scripture Reading: Mark 5:1-20

Confession: Jesus has demonstrated to His disciples that He was sovereign over creation and now adds to that the spiritual world as well. The casting of the demons from a man into the swine—those unclean animals—was to demonstrate that He as King has the power to remove that which is unclean from a man. What a confidence booster to His followers, and to us as well. We are in the midst of a spiritual battle for the hearts and minds of every man and woman. This includes a battle for our own hearts and minds, as well as those of our families. However, Jesus is sovereign over evil spirits. They cannot control us when we have been delivered by King Jesus. It is an act of mercy when Jesus delivers us and is something that should be proclaimed. We have the victory over sin and the forces of evil because of Jesus. We must also proclaim how Jesus has delivered us as well.

Prayer: Father, we praise you for the work of your Son, King Jesus, to deliver us from the bondage of sin. He has given us freedom and we ask for boldness to proclaim to others the mercy He has bestowed upon us. Father, we also ask for the protection that we and our families need in the battle for our hearts and minds. We are helpless to find victory outside of you. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 9-16):

"Build Your Kingdom Here" & "I Delight in You (Psalm 1)"

Day 12: “Behold, the King of Life”

Scripture Reading: Mark 5:21-43

Confession: Jesus has been demonstrating His authority over every aspect of our world, and He includes a clear demonstration of His power and authority over our very lives. Our text today includes a woman with an incurable physical affliction being healed by Jesus and a twelve-year-old girl being raised from the dead. Both of these certainly demonstrate that Jesus is King of our very body, the life we have, as well as our health. The woman showed her faith by simply touching the hem of His garment, knowing she would receive healing. The family of the girl had heard that Jesus could heal and asked Him to come heal her. However, news of her death arrived first. At that point they were hopeless, but Jesus then showed that He has power even over death. It's interesting that Jesus had them give the girl something to eat when she was risen. This is likely to demonstrate that she was truly alive and not a spirit. What a reminder that He is still King of our lives. He is our healer and giver of life and our sustainer of life. We owe everything to Him and are totally dependent on him for even our physical needs. These accounts do not imply that Jesus will always heal our physical ailments nor raise us from the dead if we have enough faith. It clearly establishes His authority over our bodies. We are in his care!

Prayer: Father, we thank you for the life that you have given to each of us. You knew us before our birth and have a plan for us in this life. We look to you for strength and healing when needed. We believe that your Son, Jesus, is King of our physical bodies as well as our souls. Forgive us for not caring for our body as you would have us to do. Forgive us for not giving you all the glory for our health. Encourage us during times of physical need. Care for us according to our need and your will, so that all glory is given to you alone. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 9-16):

"Build Your Kingdom Here" & "I Delight in You (Psalm 1)"

Day 13: “Behold, the King of Unbelief”

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:1-6

Confession: Jesus has been demonstrating His authority over every aspect of our world and then returns to His hometown of Nazareth to show His disciples the very sad reality of his relationship to those in his kingdom. Even though Jesus taught with authority and demonstrated His authority through miracles, those who knew Him simply as a member of their community were “offended” by His claims. How could He be the Messiah when His brothers and sisters are here as well, and we grew up going to school with Him? He is no different than anyone else. It was His claims that offended them, not His works. Jesus was, however, demonstrating that He is King even in the midst of unbelief. God is not dependent upon what the world thinks of Him nor whether or not they accept Him. He is King! The result of unbelief is that those people miss out on what Jesus can do for them. Jesus wanted His disciples to see that people will be offended when you claim to believe in Him as King. However, that should not deter us from our mission nor our confidence in Him.

Prayer: Father, forgive us for our unbelief. There are times that we view your Son, Jesus, as simply a teacher, provider, or example and not as our King. May we glorify Jesus as King and our only hope for redemption and life. May we be protected from discouragement that comes when others reject King Jesus. May we be bold to proclaim him even in the midst of unbelief. Thank you, Father, for the blessing we do receive as we submit and follow your Son. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 9-16):

“Build Your Kingdom Here” & “I Delight in You (Psalm 1)”

Day 14: “Behold, the King Through His Disciples”

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:7-30

Confession: In the text, Jesus sends His disciples in groups of two across the land in order to preach and demonstrate His kingdom and authority. In the middle is a review of king Herod’s execution of John the Baptist, which seems misplaced but goes to emphasize the point of this text. John the Baptist was killed because he preached against the sin in the life of Herod. The faithful preaching of Jesus’s followers placed in Herod’s mind the fear that John had been raised from the dead. The main point of this story being placed in this context is to show that Jesus’s followers were teaching and working miracles in such a profound way that it got the attention of king Herod. Their authority was significant, even though Herod didn’t recognize the source. This is also the point at which the former followers of John are beginning to see in Jesus what John was talking about. The true King is here; the one whom John had spoken about. The faithful work of the followers of Jesus will point the lost, and those seeking, to truth. We are a demonstration of the true Kingship of Jesus as we teach, serve, and love others. What a testimony of Jesus to see His followers in faithful service.

Prayer: Father, may we be faithful to demonstrate in our daily lives the authority of King Jesus. May the lost see your Son in our lives and our works of love. May those who are being drawn to you see through us where hope will be found. Forgive us when we take pride in what we do for your glory, as it is not about us nor what we do but about pointing others to you—the only one worthy of the glory. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 9-16):

"Build Your Kingdom Here" & "I Delight in You (Psalm 1)"

Day 15: “Behold, our King, the Bread of Life”

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:31-44

Confession: Jesus demonstrates loving compassion on a large crowd of people who are described as “sheep with no shepherd.” These were the very ones that Jesus had come to lead. His response to the crowd that had gathered out of curiosity because of Jesus's miracles were a people whose needs were truly known by Jesus. As the bread of life...He fed them spiritual food through His teaching, and then He gave them physical food. Jesus was demonstrating that He was their Messiah, their Shepherd, their Savior. He was not simply a miracle worker to be watched with amazement. He truly met their needs. The first need was their spiritual need as He taught them. What He taught at this moment would likely have been what He taught in the synagogues; that He was the fulfillment of the promise of the prophets. He was the one who was sent to bring healing and sight to the blind. He was the Messiah, the deliverer. What he came to deliver them from was their hopelessness and hunger. The miracle of the multiplication of the bread and fish was a demonstration that He alone could meet their need. The leftovers point to the fact that He is also able to meet our needs over and beyond what we could imagine. What a shepherd He was to this crowd and what a shepherd He is to us. He meets every need above and beyond what we even ask.

Prayer: Father, we praise you for your abundant provision. You have sent your Son, Jesus, to provide everything that we need. His word has convicted our hearts and given to us spiritual life. His care has met our daily needs and we are grateful for his love, compassion, and care. Forgive us when we become dependent upon ourselves or look to others for our needs to be met. May you receive all the glory for your provision for us. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 9-16):

“Build Your Kingdom Here” & “I Delight in You (Psalm 1)”

Day 16: “Behold, the Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient King”

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:45-56

Confession: This text is a summary of what has been shared regarding the demonstration of Jesus's authority as King of His kingdom. It opens with the disciples “alone”, but in reality they are never alone. It tells of the storm that appears to overtake the disciples, but in reality the circumstances were in Jesus's control. It appears that the disciples are lost, but in reality Jesus knew exactly where they were in their time of need. It appears that an obstacle—the sea itself—would keep Jesus away from where the disciples were going, but in reality it was no obstacle at all to Him. It ends in the land of those who would not be open to accepting Jesus, but in reality they were waiting and gathered to meet Him. It would seem that the sick and dying were hopeless and would overwhelm Jesus, but in reality they simply touched Him and found healing. No place is too far. No need is too great. No circumstance is too overwhelming for King Jesus. Jesus knows us, He is powerful enough for us and He is present with us. We have nothing to fear and everything to celebrate as followers of the King.

Prayer: Father, may we rest in you and the hope we have in your Son, Jesus. Forgive us when we look at our circumstances then trust in our emotions and feelings. You know exactly where we are at every moment and are prepared and powerful enough to protect, guide, deliver, and meet every need. We praise you for your leading and work in our lives. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 9-16):

“Build Your Kingdom Here” & “I Delight in You (Psalm 1)”

Day 17: “Heart Matters”

Scripture Reading: Mark 7:1-23

Confession: The Pharisees were out to stump Jesus by telling Him that His disciples do not live according to the Jewish tradition. But as is typical in the gospel, Jesus turns traditions into heart matters. Traditions are not inherently bad. The question is, where is my heart in the midst of this tradition? Is this tradition making me feel better by being more religious, or is this helping me pursue Christlikeness? Jesus rebukes those who hold tradition and religious activities ahead of holding firm to the commands of God and loving Him. But in this passage, Jesus gets to the root of the matter by reminding His followers that no food or dirt can defile a person. Instead, the actions that flow from a person’s heart are what show a defiled heart. As Christians, Jesus cares about our hearts more than He cares about religious activity, which is void of the right heart motive. What comes out of a person, the heart, is what demonstrates a person's health. Galatians 5 ties nicely with this passage because as believers we want to be known by the fruits of the Spirit, not lying, stealing, slander, envy, arrogance, pride, and sexual immorality. Remember, Jesus loves you and cares about your heart. One of the key ways we can get our hearts in the right place is through confession and repentance of the areas in our lives where we are not following the commands of the Lord.

Prayer: Father, we thank you for giving us a new heart in Christ. At one time, we tried to appease you through good works and religious activities. When we tried to satisfy ourselves by the desires of our heart, you knew us and loved us. We give you thanks for your kindness and grace. We ask that you reveal areas of our lives where we need to confess our sin. Help us be a people of repentance and allow us to focus on our heart condition in the midst of the busyness of life. We want to be more like you, Lord. Help us be holy as you, Lord, are holy. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 17-24): "Great is Thy Faithfulness" & "King of Kings"

Day 18: "Trust in Christ"

Scripture Reading: Mark 7:24-37

Confession: The disciples, Pharisees, and scribes are all dealing with differing levels of unbelief. These two stories demonstrate that not everyone at this time was failing to put their faith in Jesus as the Messiah. The ironic part is that people outside of the tribe of Israel are the ones trusting in Jesus! A Syrophenician woman and a man from Decapolis who cannot speak both demonstrate great faith in Jesus, and he performs miracles for them both. These miracles took the form of healing the woman's daughter and curing the muted man's tongue. Jesus continued to do miracles from town to town as he was traveling. Although Jesus kept attempting to withdraw from the crowds, they continued to press toward Him because of his majesty and works. They knew he was not some ordinary man or even a prophet. People were overwhelmed with amazement by His works and miracles and continued to talk to others about them (vv. 36-37). Are we people of great faith? Do we see God's miracles and works in our lives and others and use that as an opportunity to worship Him? Are we so excited by what God has done in us and around us that we can't help but share the hope of the Gospel with others? Behold and worship King Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Prayer: Jesus, we worship you for who you are. You are God in the flesh. You came to earth to live and to breathe just like us, except without sin. You put sin to death by being obedient to the Father and dying on the cross for our sin. We are much like those at that time who did not fully believe. Often, we are people who trust more in ourselves than we do in you. Help us, Jesus, to trust in you, your works, and your words in the Scripture. We want to know you more; we want to have faith like a child. Help us see the work you are doing in our lives and those around us and stir our heart's affection for you and embolden us to proclaim your great name to those around us. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 17-24): "Great is Thy Faithfulness" & "King of Kings"

Day 19: “The Provisions of Jesus”

Scripture Reading: Mark 8:1-30

Confession: The King of Glory, Jesus, demonstrates compassion and consideration for the crowd that was around him (vs. 2). Often, as humans, we only make considerations for ourselves. But here, Jesus is thinking earnestly about the crowd of people and their well-being. With that, He performs one of the more famous miracles in the Bible, multiplying loaves of bread and fish to feed the 4,000. Jesus gives the people what they need physically and points to what they ultimately need for fulfillment - Him. But apparently, it isn't that easy to see your need for Jesus, as the disciples demonstrated in verses 14-21. Just like us, the disciples were struggling to piece it all together despite seeing the glory of God around them. The last story in this section ties to the first, Jesus healing a blind man. Frankly, we are people who need to feast on Christ and His Word; we need the Spirit to open our eyes to behold the Son, but often we turn to the pleasures of this world and ourselves. Peter concludes these verses with the words we should remind ourselves of daily, “Jesus, you are the Messiah” (vs. 29).

Prayer: Father, your tenderness and graciousness to us is unmatched. We often attempt to satisfy our hunger for pleasure outside of you and your design. Lord, we ask that you would guide us and lead us to feast more in the person and work of Christ. That we would be a people who strive to be obedient to you, not denying you but instead proclaiming you as the Messiah. You have given us many demonstrations of who you are and how much you love us. Help us worship you freely, out of a genuine love and thankfulness for you; we love you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 17-24): "Great is Thy Faithfulness" & "King of Kings"

Day 20: “Will You Keep or Lose Your Life?”

Scripture Reading: Mark 8:31-9:1

Confession: Jesus begins by teaching and prophesying His future events. He states that He ‘must’ suffer many things (vs. 31). These sufferings were not by happenstance; instead, they were God-ordained to display the majesty of God through the Son. As Jesus is explaining His death, burial, and resurrection, Peter, who was recently referred to as God’s spokesman, rebukes Jesus for talking about dying. Jesus responds with the infamous quote, “Get behind me, Satan” (vs. 33). Peter is the rock on which Christ will build His church, but Peter’s rebuke goes against God’s plan for the suffering servant to die for His people and thus enhancing Satan’s work. To be against Jesus’s death, burial, and resurrection is to partner with the enemy. Verses 35-36 show the great paradox of life itself. If you attempt to save your life with ease, money, pleasure, and your own agenda, you will lose it. But if you lose your life and give it to Christ, you actually gain everything because God is all-in-all, the source of all pleasure, joy, and peace. Will you attempt to save your life by the things of this earth, or will you give up your life for the sake of Christ and His mission?

Prayer: Jesus, we pray that you would help us deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow you. While the things of this earth are not trending toward Christlikeness, would you help us be a light in the midst of a dark world? We ask that you would help us have a mind like Christ, one of full obedience to the Father, willingness to suffer for the name of Christ, and a desire to serve those around us in boldness. Father, we recognize conceptually that it is of no benefit to gain the world but to lose our souls; help us not waste the time you have given us on earth for our own gain, but instead use us as instruments in your hand for your glory. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 17-24): "Great is Thy Faithfulness" & "King of Kings"

Day 21: “The Glory of the Son”

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:2-13

Confession: The glory of the Son is on full display at the transfiguration. Jesus’s clothes began to radiate intensely white, displaying His glory and that the presence of God was in Him and with Him. Peter, terrified and not knowing what to think of the spectacle of Jesus’s glory, and Elijah and Moses transfigured, says that they should pitch a tent to stay awhile. But instead of staying longer, the magnificent event is over quicker than expected. God the Father, speaking through the clouds, exclaims that Jesus is the beloved Son of God (vs. 7). The uniqueness of the cloud overshadowing them was that throughout the Old Testament, a cloud was signifying the glory of God and His presence being with them. The presence of the triune God was on display. But while the glory of God was on display, the confusion in Peter’s mind is ramping up. But Jesus once again reminds them of who He is and what He must do: suffer and die in order to restore all things back to the Father.

Prayer: God, we know that your glory is more than we can handle and grasp. Your majesty is unthinkable and leaves us speechless of your ways. We praise you for the grandeur that you show us in the Scriptures and in the heart transformation you have graciously given. I pray that today we would live in such a way that we would cherish you as King, behold the Son who served and died in our place, and be obedient to the Spirit whom you have so kindly given. We worship you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 17-24):

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" & "King of Kings"

Day 22: “The Dominion of Jesus”

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:14-29

Confession: Jesus has power and dominion over Satan and his demons. A young boy with a spirit within him since childhood that makes him seize, foam, and nearly paralyzed is healed miraculously by the power of Jesus. The disciples are amazed yet confused because they were not able to cast the spirit out. Why was this the case? Jesus tells them it was their lack of faith that held them back. Christians are to be people of faith. Jesus also tells His disciples that this kind of miracle is driven by the power of prayer and dependence on the Spirit. The Spirit was at work in Jesus for this miracle, and Jesus was depending on the Spirit as well. As Christians, trust in the one we have never seen in the flesh; it is by faith that we are saved. The father’s faith in Jesus was one of the catalysts for Jesus restoring the young boy. What kind of faith do we have? How dependent are we on the Spirit for the things in our lives? Behold, the King of Glory, in Him we put our faith.

Prayer: Jesus, we need you and trust you. While there are countless areas of our lives we have not yet fully yielded to you, we ask that you bring those to our hearts and minds so that we can confess them to you. We want to know you more and trust in you more, and we ask that you help us. Father, we need you to move in our lives. We want to have faith like a child, one that is unyielding and unailing even in the midst of uncertainty. Help us trust and follow you all the days of our lives. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 17-24):

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" & "King of Kings"

Day 23: “Humility of the Servant King”

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:30-50

Confession: Jesus again foretells of the Father’s plan for Him to be delivered into the hands of men, killed, and resurrected three days later. As the disciples were still perplexed, they began to argue about who will be the greatest in the kingdom, clearly forgetting that it is God’s kingdom, not theirs. But Jesus gives yet another great paradox: whoever is first shall be last, whoever is last shall be first. Once again, Jesus is showing a key characteristic of what it looks like to be in the kingdom: humility and service. Jesus is the greatest; so believers ought not to serve themselves in order to try to become the greatest but instead serve others like Christ. Jesus ends this passage by talking about the severity of sin. Sin is so serious that Jesus uses the metaphor of cutting off your hand if it causes you to sin. No one can enter the kingdom of Heaven defiled and sinful; we all need the blood of Jesus to save us and restore our relationship to Christ. It is once we have the Spirit that we are to delight in God, behold the King of Glory, and become like our maker and savior, Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Father, you are so kind to send your Son to die in our place. To show us what it looks like to trust in you and live for you. We pray that you would empower us to be humble servants to those around us, both those who are far from you and our brothers and sisters in Christ. We also pray that you would help us understand and comprehend the severity of sin and help us fight it by your Spirit. This world is full of temptations, and we all have our own struggles. Help us in this fight for freedom in your name. We need you and your gospel truth; help us in this war. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 17-24): "Great is Thy Faithfulness" & "King of Kings"

Day 24: “Jesus Speaks on Marriage”

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:1-12

Confession: We behold the Son, the one who makes all things clear. Here, Jesus is further explaining the new covenant law of divorce. Jesus doesn't muddy the water; He clarifies it. When the Scribes are attempting to trip Him up, he tells them about the intent of the Mosaic law regarding divorce. Because of the hardness of the heart from that generation, Jesus gives further clarification. Jesus starts by defining marriage: one man, one woman, as one flesh for a lifetime. Marriage is instituted by God and for God; thus, what God has brought together, no human should separate. In essence, to divorce is to go against God's plan. For someone to divorce their spouse, without true biblical grounds and process and marry someone else, is to commit adultery. While this may be normal in our culture, Jesus instituted marriage and its purpose; one man, one woman, one union before God 'til death do them part. Marriage, then, is two believers joining together to pursue Christ together to honor Him, glorify Him, and become more like Him.

Prayer: Father, you are the author and creator of life. You have created us male and female in your likeness. We thank you for giving us an opportunity to be able to know you more fully in marriage. You demonstrate your love for us as your adopted children through the relationship with Christ and the church and marriage. Father, protect our church body, protect marriages, protect those looking for a spouse, and give them wisdom and a desire to depend on you for that life decision. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 17-24):

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" & "King of Kings"

Day 25: “Let Them Come”

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:13-31

Confession: Christ Jesus is a gracious inviter. With open arms, He called the cast-out children, “Come. Sit with me and be blessed.” With compassionate love, He called the man dedicated to good works, infatuated with his success, and yet still empty of hope, “Come. Be free of the dissatisfaction of temporary pleasures and be secure in my eternal treasure.” With the gentleness of a kind father, He called His adult children (the disciples), “Come. Be amazed at what is possible with God instead of astonished with what is impossible for people.” The children were considered a distraction, the rich man was assumed as accepted, and the disciples were a collection of the underwhelming and unwanted. But Jesus saw them all as worthy and needy of the invitation, “Come. Follow me.”

Prayer: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for being a gracious inviter. The message of the gospel continues to call with open arms, compassionate love, and gentleness, “Come. Follow me. Enter the kingdom of God.” Like the disciples, we often get distracted with the appearance of people deciding who can be let in and who should be kept out. Instead, let us be enamored with the words of our Savior and call out to all, “Come. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Trust and follow Him.” Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 25-32):

"God So Loved" & "The Power of the Cross"

Day 26: “To Serve and Ransom”

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:32-45

Confession: Jesus came to serve as a ransom, not to rule as a tyrant. He did not deny His glory to come or the position of lordship He'd sit in, but He did deny the instinctually self-indulgent approach of worldly leadership. And the way of Jesus's leadership was to be the way of His disciples' leadership; they just didn't get it yet. Jesus had much bigger plans. Peter says, “Look, we have left everything and followed you (vs. 28). James and John say, “Allow us to sit at your right and at your left in your glory (vs. 37).” Then, the rest seem to be mad at James and John for saying out loud what they were all thinking inside. Their problem was not with recognizing that Jesus was worth following or that He held power and authority. Their problem was that they still didn't fully comprehend the scope of His worth, authority, and power. Political and social position was not His end goal; the redemption of mankind from the death penalty of sin was, and that would only come through the ultimate act of service... “to give His life as a ransom for many” (vs. 45).

Prayer: Father God, how humbling it is to consider the purpose of your Son's incarnate mission “to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many” (vs. 45). Through it He crushed sin, the enemy of our souls, and re-set our identities as image bearers of the Most High. When we are uncomfortable with your call or overwhelmed by the circumstances of obedience, give us the vision of Christ. He saw through the agony of Jerusalem with its rejection, betrayal, suffering, and death to the day of His victorious resurrection and our salvation. If even He, the Son of Man, did not demand His rights and glory, give us the grace to lay aside ours as well for your will and Your gospel mission. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 25-32): "God So Loved" & "The Power of the Cross"

Day 27: "Son of David"

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:46-52

Confession: Jesus is the everlasting Son of David promised by the Father through the mouth of Nathan the prophet (2 Samuel 7). Many heard Jesus speak and called Him teacher or rabbi. They recognized the authority He displayed as a teacher of God's Law even though His branch of the family tree was not of the priestly line of Levi. But Bartimaeus did not appeal to the Messianic grace of the priesthood; he cried out for the Messianic mercy of the eternal king, the Son of David. Bartimaeus is uninhibited in his humility and unwavering in his expectation. He cries out for the Son of David to act on his behalf out of a show of mercy (undeserved restraint towards punishment), not of grace (undeserved goodness, blessing, and favor). Then, he literally casts his security blanket aside among the crowds in faith that he will receive mercy and sight. Jesus, the Son of David, beckons him into His presence with the mercy of a king granting audience to an uninvited subject; and with the wisdom of a king, He grants Bartimaeus not only the sight he wants but the salvation he needs.

Prayer: Jesus, Son of David, give us the humility and expectation of Bartimaeus in our prayers. Open our spiritual eyes to the reality of our dependent need and extinguish our cynical petitions with the unwavering expectation of your merciful action. Give us enough trust in your wisdom and power to cast off the things or skills or circumstances that we're clinging to with more hope than we're clinging to you. And like Bartimaeus, we will respond to your mercy and salvation by following you. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 25-32): "God So Loved" & "The Power of the Cross"

Day 28: “He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord”

Scripture Reading: Mark 11:1-25

Confession: What if the crowds along the streets of Jerusalem held onto the belief of their confession? “Jesus, we believe that you come in the name of the Lord. We believe that You are our promised salvation from God.” Praise God, Jesus walked in the truth of their confession even though they did not. In Philippians 2:9-11, Paul records an awesome picture of the blessing Jesus will receive for coming in the name of the Lord. Hebrews 12:2 reminds us that the agony of the journey was excruciating physically and spiritually for our Christ, and yet He chose to look ahead to the “joy that lay before Him” and finish the work the Father placed upon Him. His victory must not allow us to negate or minimize the hostility our Savior obediently suffered for our sake. We must be abundantly grateful that Jesus never loses faithfulness to the truth even though we, like the chanting crowds celebrating in the streets of Jerusalem, inevitably do.

Prayer: Blessed One, who comes in the name of the Lord, be praised with honor and joy! We raise our hands to you and proclaim, “Hosanna! Our Savior!” Feed the fuel of our proclamation with meditations on both the weight of your suffering and the freedom of your victory. Keep us from despair in our failures to hold onto what is true. Renew our joy by your faithfulness to your name for your glory. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for choosing to endure the disappointment and torment of humanity that we might be “saved by grace through faith, and this not from [ourselves]; it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8). Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 25-32): “God So Loved” & “The Power of the Cross”

Day 29: “The Lord’s Chosen Cornerstone”

Scripture Reading: Mark 11:27-12:12

Confession: A cornerstone is a large block prepared with precise purpose and placed as the initial building block to guide the correct placement of all other subsequent blocks in a stone or brick structure. If at any point during construction there is a question about the alignment of materials, it must be verified and judged according to the cornerstone. Christ Jesus is the Lord’s cornerstone. It is by Jesus that all people must rightly orient faith, worship, and discipleship to the Lord God. The chief priests, scribes, and elders listening to Jesus recognized that they were not in alignment with His teachings about the kingdom of God. They should have humbled themselves before the Lord in acceptance to His gracious revelation; nonetheless, they rejected the lordship of God’s Messiah hoping to disguise their misplaced faith. The Lord’s chief cornerstone cannot be reshaped and will not be replaced.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for sending your beloved Son among us so that we can know you rightly. We do not have to live in fear or uncertainty wondering if we’ve intuited the right path to you, for you have set in place your chosen cornerstone among us. We would rather experience your corrective work in our lives than to live misaligned to your kingdom plans. We surrender ourselves to your wisdom and take joy in being used by you for your glory. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 25-32):

"God So Loved" & "The Power of the Cross"

Day 30: “The Right Teacher of Right”

Scripture Reading: Mark 12:13-34

Confession: As we have seen over the last several days, some people declared the identity of Jesus by faith, others believed but only for a moment, and some refused to believe at all. Many of the latter group went beyond rejecting Jesus and actively sought to publicly embarrass and discredit Him in front of His followers over and over again. It never worked. On the contrary, these opportunities repeatedly affirmed Jesus is the right Teacher of right. What makes Jesus the right Teacher of right? First, listen to how He characterizes the leaders hoping to trap Him with their words. “Isn’t this the reason why you’re mistaken [or wrong]: you don’t know the Scriptures or the power of God?” (vs. 24). What a dreadful condemnation of those who were supposed to be instructing God’s people in truth. Then, the right Teacher proceeded to rightly teach according to God’s power and the Scriptures. In John 16, Jesus encouraged the disciples by proclaiming that at His ascent back to the Father the Spirit of Truth would come, empowering them to carry on as right teachers of right for the glory of Christ Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, Word of God full of grace and truth, we receive your promise—the presence of the Spirit of Truth. By your life testimony, you have taught us to rightly know the Scriptures and the power of God, and you have given us both in abundance. Therefore, we repent of giving undeserved preeminence to worldly doctrines and ideologies through our ignorance, disobedience, and fear. We confess that you are always the right Teacher of right. May we diligently present ourselves to God as approved workers who don’t need to be ashamed because we’re correctly teaching the word of truth and living in your power. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 25-32):

"God So Loved" & "The Power of the Cross"

Day 31: “Seer of the Heart”

Scripture Reading: Mark 12:35-44

Confession: Samuel looked on the sons of Jesse and saw many physiques more kingly than the young, shepherd boy named David. God saw a man after His own heart. The crowds looked with awe at the scribes exquisitely decorated with fancy clothes and public honors. Jesus saw men hungry for their own glory. Jesus watched giver after giver make comfortable deposits of their abundance, only to celebrate the abundant deposit of the destitute widow's all. People can't help but see the appearance of people, but Jesus is the seer of the heart. This truth is a stark warning to those impressed by what they see in themselves and others, but it is an equally uplifting encouragement to those who know they have nothing but themselves to lay at the foot of the cross. Like the Gentile woman pleading for the freedom of her daughter or the woman from the crowd “knowing what had happened to her” (vs. 33), may we bow ourselves before Jesus, the seer of the heart, with humility and hope.

Prayer: Jesus, we bow down in honor and humility because you see everything about us and in us. When we try to cloak ourselves with costumes of piety and self-righteousness, you see our hearts and that we are in desperate need of the compassionate discipline of our loving Father. When we feel crushed by inadequacy and fear, you see our hearts, that we are in desperate need of being drawn near like little children for a hug and a blessing. Through all this may we come to know you as Hagar did, the God who sees us. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 25-32):

"God So Loved" & "The Power of the Cross"

Day 32: “Coming with Great Power and Glory”

Scripture Reading: Mark 13:1-37

Confession: It was a natural thing to say. After all, the temple was an impressive building of massive stones. The disciple (mercifully not named in the text) must have been caught off guard by Jesus’s response. In fact, all the disciples seemed so confused that no one could come up with a follow-up question until they finally reached the Mount of Olives. Then the conversation took another unexpected turn veering from, “What did you say about the temple?” to wars, birth pains, and tribulation for all faster than Peter could sink in a stormy sea. Their hopes must have been about to crumble under the promise of earthquakes, floggings, and death when Jesus bound their faith back together again with His declaration, “Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory” (vs. 26). The promise of Christ has never been our ease and luxury, but it’s always been our secure hope in His coming with great power and glory.

Prayer: Son of Man, coming in the clouds with great power and glory, we pledge to watch with vigilance just as you exhorted the disciples. We will not let our guard down, be deceived, or fall asleep. We pledge this knowing we are incapable, easily distracted, and totally reliant upon your strength being our strength to stand with faithfulness in the commissioning you’ve placed upon us. In all this, we receive your admonition to be alert. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 25-32):

"God So Loved" & "The Power of the Cross"

Day 33: “Jesus is Worth the Cost”

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:1-11

Confession: What a strange story. Pouring stuff on another’s head. Applying perfume to a man. And even stranger still are the opening (vv. 1-2) and closing (vv. 10-11). They don’t seem to fit the actual story! In fact, if you were to take them out, the story would flow just fine. What’s going on? Look at how the woman treats Jesus. She was completely sold out for Him. And we know that because she has just done something for Jesus that cost her a great deal. Now look at the opening and the closing. How did the men treat Jesus? They sold Him out! Whereas the woman was sold out for Jesus, the men sold Him out. Interestingly, Mark didn’t name the woman Jesus said we are to celebrate worldwide. The actress was unnamed so that the act—and what we can infer about Jesus—would receive the spotlight. Mark’s question for you is this: Why should you do things for Jesus that might cost you a great deal? His answer: because of what I’ve told you about Him so far. And no, we haven’t even gotten to the best part yet.

Prayer: Dear Father, your Son Jesus is the most amazing person! No one heals like He does, casts out demons like He does, flies to defend the defenseless like He does, commits to me like He does, even at the cost of being cut to pieces. There is no one like Him. To whom shall we give our lives and be sold out? To Jesus alone! Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 33-40):

"Build My Life" & "Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"

Day 34: “Jesus’s Oath to You”

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:12-31

Confession: What does verse 25 mean? Why is Jesus not drinking until paradise? (vs. 25) Will He not be thirsty until then? “I will not drink (or eat)” is an oath-swearing formula. In our culture, we swear an oath by saying, “I, (name), do solemnly swear that I will do such-and-such.” In their culture, they swear an oath by saying, “I will not drink (or eat) until I do such-and-such.” In other words, Jesus was swearing an oath, but what oath was Jesus swearing?

It was the Passover. And every year this festival transported the Jews back to ancient Egypt. The smell of blood was thick in the air. Every house would lose a firstborn son unless he was substituted with a dead lamb. By instituting the Lord’s Supper during the Passover, Jesus was saying, “I will be your dead lamb, so that you don’t have to be the dead son.” Jesus hammered home His commitment with an oath, “I *swear* to be your dead lamb. I *will* bring you home. You will not be lost! I will keep you until we’re home. In sickness and in health, and in death, I am committed to you.”

Prayer: My wonderful Savior, long before I swore to you that my life is yours at my baptism, you had already sworn to me. Long before I ever asked you to keep me until the end, you had already sworn that for my life you will contend. Who am I to receive your unconditional love? Who am I to be a recipient of your unwavering commitment? I can’t believe it’s me. No, I still can’t believe it’s me. Thank you, my Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 33-40):

“Build My Life” & “Christ Our Hope in Life and Death”

Day 35: “The Crushing Garden”

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:32-52

Confession: The account of Gethsemane is almost unbelievable. We’re used to seeing a poised, collected, and composed Jesus, but here we have a Jesus who was unraveling, shrinking back, and on the verge of collapsing. In that garden, something crushing must have happened, so crushing that it shook even the Son of God. What happened? Verse 36 provides a hint. In the garden, Jesus got a sip of “the cup.” The Bible consistently refers to the wrath of God as “the cup.” There in Gethsemane, the Father gave the Son a sip of the Father’s wrath that would be fully unleashed on the cross. And the wrath of God was such that even just one sip dismantled the Son of God. There in the garden, the Father showed the Son a preview of His full wrath merited by humanity’s sin, in essence asking Him, “If the garden is just a fraction of what the cross will be, will you still set your eyes on Calvary?” Jesus answered, “Yes.” You might have blown it this morning, but if Jesus wouldn’t abandon you even after Gethsemane, what makes you think that He would now?

Prayer: Jesus, you are the strongest, bravest, and the most selfless person ever! If you went to the cross without tasting the garden, then I might have wondered if you had gotten yourself into a suffering that you didn’t fully understand. But as it stands, you did understand because you were there in the garden. You did take a sip of God’s wrath before drinking it all. You knew the suffering you would enter unless you U-turned, and yet for my sake you kept going forth. That’s strength. That’s bravery. That’s selflessness. And that’s why only you are worthy of my love. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 33-40):

“Build My Life” & “Christ Our Hope in Life and Death”

Day 36: “When Failure Meets Jesus”

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:53-72

Confession: Jesus doesn't just put up with your failures; He redeems them. Look at what Peter said in 14:29: “I love you, Jesus, more than everyone else loves you! Others may fall; I will not.” Then reality checked in. There in the high priest's courtyard, Peter found himself more interested in saving his own skin than sticking with his Savior. Peter learned something cutting about himself that day. He might love Jesus some, but not more than everyone else, and certainly not more than he loves himself. That cut would've sunk Peter, but Jesus wouldn't let that happen. Days later at a beach, Jesus found Peter and asked, “Do you love me more than these?” Peter probably shrunk, “You know that I love you.” Then his voice broke, and this time, “more than everyone else does” didn't come out. He knew that he didn't, and he was ashamed. But to Peter's utter shock, Jesus didn't say, “Since you repented, I'll forgive you, but go sit in the back.” Instead, Jesus said, “I'll make you the head leader of My church.” Peter learned something precious about Jesus that day. Jesus doesn't just put up with our failures; He redeems them.

Prayer: Jesus, we thank you that you don't just tolerate our failures; you redeem them. If you simply tolerated our failures, you would've taught us a lesson, but by redeeming our failures you freed our hearts from self-love. Thank you for showing us what you did with Peter, and therefore what you can do with us, and that gives us so much hope. So, would you do in our lives what you did in Peter's? We want that. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 33-40):

"Build My Life" & "Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"

Day 37: “The Evil Against Jesus”

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:1-20

Confession: If you were Jesus, would you die for these people: first, the religious, who hates you; second, Pilate, who sacrifices you to save his own skin; third, the crowd, who uses you to their end; and fourth, the soldiers, who deal cruelly with you because that’s what is socially acceptable. In other words, would you die for a people who commit evil against you? How much selflessness would it take to die for those who commit evil against you? Whereas we’ve heard stories of a mother dying for her child out of her motherly nature and soldiers dying for their countries out of their sense of duty, where do we go to find a king dying for his evil subjects out of utter selflessness?

Prayer: Jesus, there is no king like you. Whereas a human king executes evil rebels in exchange for his well-being, Jesus you are the only King who let the evil rebels execute you in exchange for their well-being. You are utterly selfless! And we worship you. In your name we pray, Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 33-40):

"Build My Life" & "Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"

Day 38: “The Shame of Jesus”

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:21-47

Confession: Have you noticed how Mark has gone out of his way to show us the shame of Jesus? Physically, Jesus was so weak that He couldn't carry His own cross. Relationally, He was abandoned by those closest to Him, including God. Socially, everyone mocked Him. Legally, He was counted as a criminal. Psychologically and emotionally, He was to the point of crying out, “My God, My God!” (vs. 34). As the Son of God, Jesus could have left the cross, but in the greatest exercise of self-control in world history, He stayed. Why? Hebrews 12:2 answers, “For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame...” In other words, Jesus stayed on the cross for the joy set before Him. What joy? The joy of one day sitting down together at the table of God in the kingdom of God in one great family reunion, fulfilling His oath from 14:25, “I swear to be your dead lamb. I will bring you home. You will not be lost! I will keep you until we're home. In sickness and in health, and in death, I am committed to you.”

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for enduring the cross, for scorning its shame, and for keeping your promise. On that cross, you endured hell for me. I would have been the one hanging there, and I wouldn't have lasted. But you substituted yourself in my place and died the death that I was supposed to die, doing that which I cannot do. Thank you for what you've done. Thank you for what you've done. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 33-40):

"Build My Life" & "Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"

Day 39: “What the Resurrection Proves”

Scripture Reading: Mark 16:1-13

Confession: Why the resurrection? Whereas all other religions talk about escaping from this world, or going to heaven, Christianity is the only religion that talks about the resurrection, or returning to this world. Why would Jesus want to return to this world? Did He forget already about the shame and the rejection that He just experienced in the last 72 hours? Why was He so attached to this world that instead of “going to heaven,” He resurrected and came back to this world? Because He loves us. And Jesus never abandons His loved ones. In the incarnation, Jesus proved that He loves us to the point that He’s willing to enter our filth. In the resurrection, Jesus proved that the incarnation wasn’t a fluke. It wasn’t a single occasion. The resurrection is the unbeatable proof of His love that even after experiencing the worst in us, He would come back to us again, and He did. Do you secretly think that your failures, rejections, shame, past, un-commitment, and repeating sins faze Jesus? They do not. And He proved it with the resurrection. He came back for you.

Prayer: Jesus, you are the most amazing person. There truly is none like you. Why would you come for me? Even more inconceivable, why would you come back for me? I know me. I know what I’ve done to you. I know what I’ve said to you. I know how I’ve thought about you, but you still came back for me. When I think about what you’ve done, the choices you’ve made, who you are, my heart is warmed. Why would I live for anyone else? Why would I live for anything else? I worship you, my Lord, my Savior, my anchor. Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 33-40):

“Build My Life” & “Christ Our Hope in Life and Death”

Day 40: “The Bible is Trustworthy”

Scripture Reading: Mark 16:14-20

Confession: Your English Bible has probably noted that Mark 16:9-20 is missing in some of the earliest Greek manuscripts. What does that mean? The English New Testament you currently have is translated from Greek copies, of which we have many. What the Bible translators are trying to communicate is that some of those Greek copies of the Bible contain verses 9-20, but some do not. Therefore, we don't know for certain if verses 9-20 are part of the original inspiration. Most scholars don't think so, but we don't know for sure. That note on Mark 16:9-20 by the Bible translators should be very encouraging. There is fake news out there right now that claims that the Bible has been corrupted. They say, “The Bible has been tampered with by the religious authorities to fit their agenda. What we have is not the original. Therefore, the Bible isn't trustworthy.” The note on Mark 16:9-20 proves that claim false. The note is proof that when the Bible translators aren't sure of something, they have the integrity to tell you. Therefore, we can be confident of the things in the Bible as we read about the life of Jesus.

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, thank you for not just giving us your word, but through the Holy Spirit carefully preserving it so that we know exactly what you've said and have come to a true knowledge of you and your Son Jesus Christ. The past 40 days you have used your word and your Spirit to show us how beautiful, incredible, and one-of-a-kind Jesus is, and so we delight in Him. Please continue to show us who He is, so that we may delight in Him even more, all the days of our lives. We look forward to seeing you face-to-face, and it is in His name that we pray, Amen.

Worship Through Song (Days 33-40):

“Build My Life” & “Christ Our Hope in Life and Death”

40-Day Home Liturgy Created by:

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