

Sunday Scriptures and Study for March 29, 2020

This is week two that we are going to be having church from home. My hope is that you will take time to read the following and reflect on it individually and with family members, where possible. Use what information and format that is helpful to you. Let us join in the hope of the President that America would be back in church by Easter Sunday. May it be our prayer.

During this time, we want to be clear disciples of Jesus. Once again, I remind you of John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, and what he described as the plan of discipleship in what he called The General Rules. As Christians, we are to (1) **do no harm by avoiding evil of every kind;** (2) **do good to all people;** and (3) **attend upon all the ordinances of God like participating in worship, taking Communion, reading the Bible, praying, and loving God and others.**

1) Start with prayer (Use your own words or use these to help you get started)

Holy Spirit we invite you to be with us this morning and we need you to guide us as we worship and have church here this morning. We ask for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we might know Jesus better. (Eph 2:17) Jesus we invite you to be with us this morning just as you were with Zacchaeus. May we be so affected by your presence that there is true transformation in our lives.

Bless this time of worship in our homes and bless the church during this time of crisis. Raise it up to be what you called it to be. We ask for your mercy and forgiveness as a nation. We repent and turn back to you, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The God of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We bow our knee and confess that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is the answer to all that we need. Thy Kingdom Come! Amen.

2) Listen to a favorite Christian hymn or song. For those of you who are musically inclined, you can sing yours.

3) Follow this with the tithes/offerings

4) Psalter Read: Psalm 81:8-16 (I encourage you to read this every day this week and use it in your prayer time)

5) Once again, the Theme for the morning is "**Press In.**" Before reading scripture pray again, asking the Holy Spirit to open your hearts and minds and reveal God's truths from the Word to you this morning.

6) Read scripture: **Luke 8:42-48**

7) Apostles Creed:

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died,
and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand
of the Father,
and will come again to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.

8) Read and discuss/reflect on the following: *(A portion of this is a repeat of what I sent out on the Lent Study)*

In James 4:8, It says, draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Let's look at the story of the woman subject to bleeding for twelve years.

Luke 8:40-48 (NIV)

⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him.

⁴¹ Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house

⁴² because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.

⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her.

⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

⁴⁵ "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

⁴⁷ Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.

⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

1. Notice Jesus was in a crowd. Who was the first one in the story to "press in" to ask for help from Jesus?

2. Jairus, a Jewish synagogue ruler came and fell at Jesus' feet on behalf of his 12 year old daughter who was sick. He was so desperate, that he was willing to fall before Jesus in front of the crowds and he pleaded with Jesus. He didn't care what others thought or what they would say. **He knew his only answer was Jesus.** Jesus showed no favoritism towards Jew or Gentile, man or woman, adult or child. He loves all the same!

3. Where did Jairus ask Jesus to come? Jesus loves to be in the house of families. He created them!

4. Today let's ask Jesus to enter every house that is in desperate need of a miracle in their lives as we face one of the hardest times that America has seen in a long time. Ask that Christ's love would abound in the homes of America and that they would encounter Jesus just as Saul did, as Mary and Martha did, as Jairus did, and just as we have. Pray that the difficult times we find ourselves in would cause all of us, Christian and non-Christian to fall before Jesus and ask for help.

Every knee will bow and every tongue confess to God (Rom 4:11).
Now is better than later.

5. Notice that the crowd was surrounding Jesus in such a way that they were pressing in on Him. It would have been like being in an overfull elevator. So crowded that everybody was up against or touching someone. Jesus was feeling the pressure of the crowd.

6. Who came and touched Jesus even as crowded as it was?

7. A woman, just as desperate as Jairus, somehow managed to get to Jesus through the crowd. She must have been crawling on her knees. That's just my thinking. Regardless she was determined to get to Jesus no matter what.

8. Do you think America is that desperate yet? Do you think the Church is that desperate? What about you?

The woman with the bleeding problem was indeed desperate. She risked her life, because she would have been considered unclean in that culture, and being among the crowd which probably was mostly men, would have been countercultural to say the least. She would have defiled everyone she touched, including Jesus. Nevertheless she "pressed in" like few people ever have. Jesus honored her effort and faith.

He did not discount her value as the culture did with women. He was not afraid to be touched by her. In fact, he purified her. He acknowledged her even in the midst of the crowd. He not only healed her, but gave her new life; giving her relationships with family back, hugs from family and friends back, a place in society back, and the ability to enter the synagogue and worship back.

Almost everybody would have regarded the woman in the crowd as totally unimportant. For Jesus she was someone in need, and therefore he, as it were, withdrew from the crowd and gave himself to her. "God loves each one of us as if there was only one of us to love." – William Barclay

Malachi 4:2 (NIV)

² But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its **wings**. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall.

Jonathan Cahn, teaches that the word "wings" in the verse above in the Hebrew does not mean the kind of wings we might think of. It says, "The sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in His *kanaf*" – the very word that also means the corner and fringe of His garment." "Therefore, never be afraid to touch God. If God puts fringes on His garment, it means He is touchable. He is not afraid to be touched.

So touch God with your infirmities, your wounds, your uncleanness, your sins, with the darkest part of your life, and you will be changed. For the Sun of Righteousness will arise with healing in His wings... with healing in His *kanaf*."

This story challenges me to ask myself how much will I press in, to encounter Jesus. How much time will I give Him and how hard will I pursue Jesus? Have I truly dealt with every dark area in my life? What are the obstacles that I allow to be in the way? Am I afraid to really reach out and touch God with my shame, my guilt or any other sin in my life?

John 16:31-33 (NIV)

³¹ "You believe at last!" Jesus answered.

³² "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Philippians 4:10-13 (NIV)

¹⁰ I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

9. The woman had tried all human power for healing but could not be healed. Could not be saved! She was as good as dead without Jesus. That is how we all come to Jesus. Lost, broken, sick, afraid and sinful. The key to her healing was a desire which turned to action. She obviously knew about Jesus but that didn't change her circumstance. It was when she did something with that desire. When she sought him and reached out to touch Jesus that everything changed.

May we turn our desire into action! Reach out, seek the Lord and his promise is that we will find Him.

Deuteronomy 4:29-31 (NIV)

²⁹ But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul. ³⁰ When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and obey him.

³¹ For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath.

Acts 17:24-28 (NIV)

²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.

²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

²⁶ From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

²⁷ God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

9) Prayer Concerns: Judy Draper, Brenda Stam, Ellis Hise, Jana Ledbetter, Davis Family, Mary Marshall, Oden Family, Johnson Family, those suffering from the effects of the coronavirus, our nations' leaders, that the church would rise up in revival and be used powerfully by God to bring salvation and healing.

10) End with **The Lord's Prayer** and prayer for others/nation and a hymn or song.

Let me remind you of our prayer guide **Day 1 Sunday prayer**: Pray for a hunger and thirst for righteousness and for a pure heart. Remember, blessings come from both. (Matt 5:6, 8)

This week, I was listening to the intercession prayers of the International House of Prayer out of Kansas City (IHOPKC) and they often asked that believers and the church would have a new hunger for God's Word, new revelation while reading the Word, and a fresh encounter of the Word. They are praying for families as they are together in their houses that God's love and Word would abound supernaturally so that Jesus would be known.

Also, pray that by Easter Sunday, the world will have turned to revere the name of God, to press in to touch Jesus and be healed, that we all might go out and leap like calves released from the stall. May we "Press In" so that we will receive that blessing! Amen.

Pastor Tim