

## **Week 14 Psalm 26, Matthew 12-16, Psalm 27**

**Psalm 26**— David's love for God runs deep, to his very core. His love runs so deep that David dares God to test him. That's a bold request, but it is driven by an insatiable desire to please God. We would want to know if anything we're doing displeases our Lord. **What can we do to cultivate a deeper relationship with God?**

**Matthew 12**— Jesus has run-ins with the Pharisees when He was eating and healing on the Sabbath (v. 1-14). As He heals all the sick, Jesus rebuts the accusation by the Pharisees that His power comes from Satan and then warns them against the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and careless words (v. 15-37). Asking Him to show them a sign, our Lord declares to the Pharisees that the only sign He will give them is that of Jonah. Jesus illustrates to them that their teaching of self-reformation will only result in Satan's control over their lives (v. 38-45). Finally, Jesus declares that His real family members are those who do the will of His Father in heaven (v. 46-50). **What is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? Who can commit the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?**

**Matthew 13**— Jesus delivers the parable of the sower by the Sea of Galilee, explaining the purpose for parables and then privately interpreting them to his disciples (v. 1-23). Jesus proceeds to give many parables to his disciples including: (1) parable of weeds (v. 24-30, 36-43), (2) the mustard seed and the leaven (v. 31-33), (3) the hidden treasure (v.44), the pearl of great value (v.45-46), fishing net (v. 47-50), and new and old treasures (v. 51-52). Returning to His hometown of Nazareth, Jesus is rejected by them (v. 53-58). **1. What are the four different types of soil that Jesus gives in the Parable of the Sower? What are the reasons why the first three types of soil did not take root or was unfruitful (v. 18-23)? 2. Verse 58 says, "and He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief." Does your lack of faith in Christ limit His work in your life? If so, what do you need to do to change this?**

**Matthew 14**— John the Baptist is imprisoned and then executed by Herod, and Jesus tries to withdraw to be alone (v. 1-13). Jesus feeds the five thousand (v. 13-21) and heals the sick at Gennesaret (v. 34-36). After sending the disciples across the Sea of Galilee and going up on the mountain to pray, Jesus walks on the water toward his disciples who are gripped with fear thinking He is a ghost. At the summons of Jesus, Peter steps out of the boat and walks on water but because of lack of faith must be saved by Jesus (v. 22-33). Jesus invited Peter to step out of the boat and to walk on water. **Is there some area in your life He is asking you to get out of the boat and trust Him? If so, what is keeping you from getting out of the boat?**

**Matthew 15**— Christ rebukes the Pharisees after their question about ritual washing of hands because they followed traditions that are contrary to the teaching of God’s Word. Jesus placed the real importance on the condition of the heart and the moral defilement it produces in our lives, words, and actions (v. 1-20). Withdrawing to Tyre and Sidon, Jesus heals the demon possessed girl and is amazed at the faith of her Canaanite mother (v. 21-28). Jesus feeds the four thousand (v.32-39). The Pharisees were condemned for their hypocrisy by Christ in this chapter for two reasons: **(1) much of their teachings were of human origin and not from God, and (2) they put importance on externals but overlooked the real moral defilement in their hearts.** ***When do traditions that churches have become wrong***

**Matthew 16**— After the Pharisees test Jesus by asking for a sign, He warns the disciples of the “leaven” or teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees (v. 1-12). After Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God, Jesus then reveals to them His suffering, death, and resurrection (v. 13-23). Christ challenges His disciples to deny themselves and take up His cross and follow Him, thus resulting in eternal dividends (v. 24-28). **1. Jesus said, “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (v.18). How do you understand this verse in relation to those who say it proves that Peter was the first Pope? 2. In verses 24 to 27 Jesus makes the call for real discipleship. What did he mean by the words “Take up his cross and follow me?”**

**Psalm 27**— This Psalm celebrates the protection of God. Like David we can have confidence in God’s sovereignty and provision, even in the midst of persecution. **What is the one thing that David would seek above all? Is that your desire also? Really?**

### ***Week 15 Psalm 28, Matthew 17-21, Psalm 29***

**Psalm 28**— This psalm is a petition for protection when God judges the wicked. It is a request for mercy, not based upon merit, but upon God’s favor toward those who seek Him. **What does this psalm teach us about God?**

**Matthew 17**— Jesus shows forth His future glory as He is transformed (transfigured) before Peter, James, and John on the mountain while the Father speaks from a cloud (v. 1-13). Jesus casts the demon out of the boy contrasting His effective faith with the defective faith of His disciples (v.14-21). Jesus sends Peter fishing in order for him to find money in the mouth of the fish so he can pay their temple tax (v. 24-27). **Share the details of the story of Jesus on the mount of transfiguration. Why is this incident significant in the life of Jesus (see Revelation 1:12-18)?**

**Matthew 18**— Jesus teaches us about our relationships in the church and how we are to behave in community with one another. He instructs about the characteristics and

importance of children (v. 1-14). Jesus gives us the pattern of conflict resolution and discipline in the church as well as highlighting the power of united prayer (v. 20). He gives us the parable of the unforgiving servant and the necessity of extending forgiveness to others no matter what the situation. **1. What are the steps we should take in the process of reconciliation (v. 15-17). 2. How is having an unforgiving spirit incongruent to the life of a Christian?**

**Matthew 19**— Answering the question of the Pharisees, Jesus speaks on the subject of marriage, divorce, and being single for God’s kingdom (v. 1-12). After blessing the children, Jesus encounters the rich young man who appears to be righteous but loves his riches more than God (v. 13-26). Finally, Christ promises temporal and eternal rewards for those who leave everything to follow Him (v. 27-30). **1. In reading the story of the rich young man (v. 16-26), which of the Ten Commandments did Jesus leave out? Why is the omission of this commandment relevant to what the young man was lacking (Exodus 20:3-17)? 2. Astonished at the difficulty of a rich person being saved, Peter asked, “Who then can be saved?” How would you answer Peter’s question?**

**Matthew 20**— Jesus gives the parable of the workers in the vineyard who all receive the same pay even though they worked a different amount of hours during that day (v. 1-16). After Jesus discloses His death, the mother of the sons of Zebedee asks for a special place in His kingdom for her sons (James and John). Jesus uses this occasion to teach that the greatest in the kingdom is the one who shows a servant’s heart (v. 17-28). Christ heals two blind men near Jericho (v. 29-34). **1. What are some of the lessons taught in the parable of the Workers of the Vineyard? ...about God? ...about the workers? 2. Give the contrast between the way the Gentile rulers exercise authority over people and the way leaders in God’s kingdom do it.**

**Matthew 21**— Jesus reveals His power and authority as Messiah through His triumphal entry (v. 1-11), His acts of cleansing and healing in the Temple (v. 12-17), the cursing of the fig tree (v. 18-22), and His exposure of the hearts, motives, and actions of the religious leaders (v. 23-46). Jesus said, “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer (v. 22).” **Taking into consideration other similar verses in the Bible, in addition to believing, what other qualifiers in scripture are there for God to answer our prayers? See I John 5:14, James 4:2-3, John 14:14, 15:7, and Luke 18:4-5.**

**Psalms 29**— The psalmist describes the awesome power and glory of Yahweh in creation and nature, His supremacy over everything and everyone on earth and in the universe, and our need to acknowledge His unsurpassable majesty and the honor due Him. **Give the different ways the power and sovereignty of the Lord is revealed in this psalm.**

## **Week 16 Psalm 30, Matthew 22-26, Psalm 31**

**Psalm 30** — "...weeping may endure for a night but rejoicing comes in the morning". We all have seasons of trouble, but God sees us through the hardship, turning our "wailing into dancing". Therefore we sing praises to Him who is faithful, trustworthy and holy. **Describe a time of mourning in your life where God been with you through it.**

**Matthew 22**— Jesus gives the parable of the wedding banquet by telling of the invitation of the guests and the qualifications of those who enter (v. 1-14). He answers the questions of the religious leaders about paying taxes (v. 15-22), the resurrection (v. 23-33), and the greatest commandment of the law (v. 34-40). Jesus then turns the tables and asks the Pharisees a tough question (v. 41-46). **1. What did Jesus mean by the statement, "Give (render) to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's (v. 21)." Who is primary in the life of a Christian, government, or God? Why? See Acts 5:29. 2. What is the Great Commandment (v. 36-40)? What importance should it have in the life of a follower of Christ?**

**Matthew 23**— Jesus gave a scolding denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy, outward show of piety, and status seeking (v.1-13). Christ pronounces seven woes of judgment on these religious leaders for: (1) shutting the door of salvation (v 13-14), (2) entrapping converts (v. 15), (3) justifying evil through binding oaths (v. 16-22), (4) neglecting the most important teaching of the law (v. 23-24), (5) having a clean outside but filthy inside (v.25-26), (6) being whitewashed tombs (v. 27-28), (7), and finally, for being the descendants of the murders of God's martyrs throughout the ages (v. 29-36). Lastly, Jesus laments over Jerusalem for rejecting Him as their Messiah(v. 37-38). **What is the principal sin of the scribes and Pharisees given by Jesus in this chapter (Jesus called them this six times)? When did this sin occur in the early church? See Acts 5:1-11.**

**Matthew 24**— Jesus gives His Olivet Discourse (from the Mount of Olives) to His disciples, prophesying events in the future that will take place before His second coming. Jesus says that although the years ahead will be marked by false messiahs, wars, disasters, growing wickedness, and persecution of God's people, they still are not the final day of God's wrath that will be poured out in an unprecedented fashion during the great tribulation (v. 21) that was spoken by Daniel the prophet ( Daniel 9:24-27). Since we don't know when Christ will come back, we need to be faithful, watchful, and ready for His imminent (any moment) coming. Jesus said, "You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect (v. 44)." **Although this verse may not apply directly to the Church, what should a Christian do to prepare himself for Christ's imminent (any moment) return? Extra Question: Explain what**

**Jesus means in verse 15 when He speaks of the “abomination of desolation.” See Daniel 9:24-27 and II Thessalonians 2:3-4.**

**Matthew 25**— In this Chapter Jesus taught the seriousness of living your life in the Kingdom. In the parable of the Ten Virgins (bridesmaids) He stresses the need of watchful readiness as well as individual responsibility of all who want to be a part of His wedding feast (v. 1-13). In the parable of the Talents Jesus tells us that no matter how much He has entrusted to us in gifts and abilities, whether great or small, we are responsible to be faithful stewards (v. 14-30). In this final judgment of the nations before Christ’s earthly reign, the sheep and the goats will be separated according to the way the brothers of Jesus were served during their time of dire distress and need (v. 31-46). Some day you will stand before Christ and give account of the stewardship of the talents, gifts, abilities and resources He has given you. **How would you rate your stewardship thus far? In what ways can you grow in this area? Extra Question: In the final Judgment of the nations (v. 31-46), it appears that God will give people eternal life or eternal damnation depending on whether or not they helped and served the brethren of Jesus. The writings of Paul, John, and others declare that eternal life comes only by faith in Christ’s redemptive sacrifice on the cross. How would you explain this apparent contradiction?**

**Matthew 26**— The chapter opens with the plotting the death of Jesus by religious leaders with Judas offering to betray Jesus for a price (v. 1-4, 14-16). A woman (Mary - John 12:3) anoints Jesus for His burial (v. 6-13). Jesus celebrates the Passover and institutes the Lord’s Supper in the upper room with His disciples (v. 17-29). Jesus foretells of Peter’s denial and then agonizes in prayer in the garden of Gethsemane knowing of His forthcoming suffering and death (v. 30-46). After betrayal of Jesus by Judas and arrest in the garden, He was illegally tried before Caiaphas the High Priest and the elders. They proclaimed Jesus guilty and worthy of death (v. 57-68). Finally, Peter denies Jesus three times (v. 69-75). **Why were the disciples indignant at the woman for pouring out expensive perfume on the head of Jesus? Why did Jesus approve of this apparent extravagance?**

**Psalms 31** — David is besieged by enemies who sought his destruction, and abandoned by friends not willing to share his fate. His only and best recourse was prayer. Jesus also identifies with this Psalm quoting verse 5 as He draws His final breath (Luke 23:46). **If you find yourself mistreated and abandoned, you are in good company. What is David’s petition? (Hint: look for “me”) Was it answered?**

**Week 17 Psalm 32, Matthew 27-28, Mark 1-3, Psalm 33**

**Psalm 32** — The apostle Paul teaches us something about this Psalm in Romans 4:4-8. Notably, David does not declare his own righteousness, but confesses his iniquity. As humility comes before honor, so confession precedes cleansing (1 John 1:9). **David lists consequences of hidden sin, what are they?**

**Matthew 27**— Judas is filled with remorse and hangs himself when he realized his betrayal will cause death of Jesus (v. 3-10). Jesus is taken before Pilate but gives no response to his interrogation. The crowd chooses to release Barabbas but wants Jesus to be crucified (v. 11-26). Jesus is mocked and beaten by the soldiers and then delivered to be crucified (v. 27-31). Jesus dies on a cross between two thieves and suffers a horrific death paying for the sins of the world. At His death, the darkness, the earthquake, and the tearing of the temple's curtain attest to reality of who Christ is (v. 32-54). The body of Jesus is wrapped and buried, and soldiers secure the tomb (v. 57-66). **1. Why did the curtain in the temple tear from top to bottom? 2. As you consider the insults, agony, suffering, and finally death that Jesus endured for you, write down your appreciation and gratitude for what He did for you.**

**Matthew 28**— Jesus rises from the dead on the first day of the week. The angel rolls the stone away and appears to the women, and then Jesus appears to the disciples (v. 1-10). The Jewish leaders bribe the soldiers who guarded the tomb (v. 11-15). Christ proclaims to His disciples the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations (v. 16-20). **1. Why is the resurrection of Jesus important? 2. Exactly what is the Great Commission, and how does one fulfill it? What promise comes with it?**

**Mark**— The gospel of Mark was written by John Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, to the Gentiles in the city of Rome sometime between 55 to 65 A.D. as he heard it from the Apostle Peter. The key verse Mark 10:45 says, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many (NIV).” This verse presents Jesus as the suffering servant with the first half of the book showing Him as the Servant of the Lord, and the last half revealing His suffering as a ransom for the sins of the world. The gospel of Mark is the shortest of the gospels and is a book of deeds showing a rapid succession of actions by Jesus with very little of His teaching as compared with the other gospels. The last 12 verses of this gospel were omitted in earlier manuscripts and possibly added later to the gospel to give it a sense of completeness.

**Mark 1**— Skipping the genealogy, birth, and childhood of Jesus, Mark starts his book with the public ministry of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, as prophesied in Isaiah 40:3. Jesus came from Nazareth to be baptized by John in the Jordan River, and then is immediately compelled by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan (vv. 1-13). After the imprisonment of John the Baptist, Jesus preaches the good news of the kingdom of God in Galilee and calls four fishermen to become His disciples and follow Him (vv. 14-20). As He comes to Capernaum and enters the synagogue, all are astonished at Him since He teaches with

authority and uses that authority to command the unclean spirits to leave a man (vv. 21-28). After the healing of Peter's mother-in-law, all those who were sick or demon-possessed were brought to Jesus for healing and deliverance. Early the next morning Jesus was able to get away to a deserted place to pray before being found by Peter who urged Him to take advantage of His popularity (vv. 29-39). A leper implored Jesus to heal him if He was willing. Jesus said, "I am willing, be made clean (vv. 40-45)." ***How did Jesus prepare Himself for His extremely busy schedule? See verse 35. Thinking of our busy schedules, what are some creative ways we can get alone with God in prayer and reading the word?***

**Mark 2**— Returning to Capernaum, Jesus enters a home to teach, but the house was so full of people that four men who brought a paralyzed man to be healed were unable to bring him through the door. Taking the man to the roof and then making a hole in the roof, they let him down in a mat in front of Jesus. First, after seeing the faith of the men, Jesus declares that the man's sins are forgiven. Then, to show His authority to forgive sins, Jesus heals the paralyzed man (vv. 1-12). After calling Levi (Matthew) to follow Him, Jesus went to the house of Levi who had invited his tax collector friends to eat with Jesus. Seeing Him mingling with tax collectors and sinners, the scribes complained to Him about associating with such men (vv. 13-17). People came to Jesus and asked him why His disciples were not fasting like the disciples of John and the Pharisees. Jesus indicated that when He is gone they indeed would fast. He said that He had not come to follow the old wine of Judaism but the new wine of the Kingdom of God. Complaining about His disciples eating grain while walking through the fields on the Sabbath, Jesus declared that He was the Lord of the Sabbath (vv. 18-28). The Pharisees asked Jesus why His disciples did not fast (v. 18). ***Should Christians fast today? If so, what would be the purpose of fasting? See verse 20, Matthew 6:16-18, and Acts 13:1-3.***

**Mark 3**— Jesus heals the man with the paralyzed hand on the Sabbath which causes the Pharisees and Herodians to unite in order to plot His murder (vv. 1-6). The common people follow Jesus in masses to such an extent that they would crush Him. Because of this, He would have to teach them from a small boat that was a few feet away from the shore (VV. 7-12). Of all the disciples that followed Jesus, He chose twelve to be His Apostles (sent ones) so that He could personally invest Himself in their lives in order to prepare them and empower them for ministry (vv. 13-19). Thinking Jesus had gone off the deep end, His family came to restrain Him and take Him back home. Instead of conceding to His family's wishes, He emphasized His spiritual family that is united to do the will of God in their lives. When the scribes accuse Jesus of being demon-possessed, He warns them of the foolishness of their accusation since it would cause the kingdom of Satan to be divided. Attributing the Holy Spirit empowered work of God done by Christ to that of Satan would cause the scribes to be eternally damned since a person cannot be saved by the Holy Spirit when at the same time rejecting the manifestation of the Holy Spirit (vv. 20-35). The family of Jesus thought that He had become unhinged and possibly deranged, and they came to have a family intervention and take charge of Him. ***Do you have any family***

*members that oppose your faith in Christ? What would you say is the best way to deal with them so that they will come to know Christ?*

**Psalm 33**— This is a Psalm celebrating God’s power and goodness. We are to praise the Lord for the wonders of creation and the multitude of blessings we have received from Him. **What does this Psalm say about the plans and purposes of God?**

### ***Week 18 Psalm 34, Mark 4-8, Psalm 35***

**Psalm 34** — where did David get the wisdom pouring from this Psalm? It is found by those who revere God, who pursue peace and goodness (vv. 11-14). “Come and listen,” David beckons, and I will teach you. Holy fear (reverence not terror) which leads to wisdom (Proverbs 9:10), God’s protection (v 7), and favor (v 9). **What does God do for those who revere/fear him?**

**Mark 4**— Jesus delivers the parable of the Four Soils by the Sea of Galilee, and then privately explains their meaning to the twelve disciples (vv. 1-20). He says that we are responsible to let our light shine for Him and not keep it hidden. The person who is diligent to listen and apply spiritual truth will be given a greater understanding of God’s truth (vv. 21-25). He then proceeds to give two parables to his disciples: (1) the Growing Seed (vv. 26-29) and (2) the Mustard Seed (vv. 30-34). He and His disciples head across the Sea of Galilee when a fierce windstorm arises causing the boat to become swamped with water. Jesus, who is sleeping in the stern of the boat, is awakened by His frantic disciples. Rebuking the wind, the sea immediately becomes calm, and the disciples marvel at the person of Jesus (vv. 35-41). **Analyze verses 35 to 41, the story of Jesus calming the storm. (1) Why was Jesus able to sleep during the storm? (2) What did the disciples not understand about Jesus? (3) Of what did the disciples accuse Jesus? (4) What was the real reason the disciples were fearful? (5) What does this story say about our trust in the Lord when we are fearful during our storms of life?**

**Mark 5**— As Jesus travels to the region of Gerasenes which is the Gentile side of the Sea of Galilee, He confronts a man possessed by a legion of demons who is completely uncontrollable and self-mutilating. Jesus casts the demons out of the man and allows them to enter a herd of pigs that rush down a steep bank and die in the sea. The people of Gadara were more fearful of Jesus than the demons and asked Him to leave their region. Although he wanted to be with Jesus, the former demon-possessed man is told to go back to his people and tell them the great things the Lord has done for him (vv. 1-20). Returning to the Jewish side of the Sea of Galilee, a synagogue leader by the name of Jairus begs Jesus to come and heal his daughter who is on the verge of death. On the way to the house of Jairus, a woman who has been suffering from bleeding for twelve years touches Jesus and is healed. Coming to the house of Jairus and finding the 12 year old girl dead, Jesus goes to her room with her parents and raises her from the dead to the utter astonishment of everyone (vv. 21-43). **Why did the people of Gadara beg Jesus to leave their region? What does this say about their values? How does this apply to our world and church?**

**Mark 6**— Jesus returns to His hometown of Nazareth and is amazed at their unbelief which limited the miracles He was able to do (vv. 1-6a). He sends out the twelve disciples in pairs to nearby villages with the message of repentance, the ministry of healing the sick, and with authority over unclean spirits (vv. 6b-13). Herod Antipas thinks that Jesus is John the Baptist raised from the dead. Previously he had imprisoned John the Baptist, and then reluctantly executed him at the request of the daughter of his unlawful wife Herodias who hated John the Baptist for His convicting preaching about their sin (vv. 14-29). After a busy time of healing the sick and casting out demons, Jesus tried to take the disciples to a remote place by boat. When they came to shore, a huge crowd was awaiting them. After teaching into the night, Jesus had compassion on the multitude and fed five thousand men (plus women and children) through the multiplication of the five loaves and two fish (vv. 30-42). After sending the disciples in a boat to the other side of the sea, Jesus comes to them walking on the water in the middle of the night during a huge storm. He tells them to take courage and not be afraid. Upon arriving at Gennesaret, Jesus continues His ministry of healing (vv. 45-56). ***As you meditate on the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand, what are some lessons we can draw from this story about the disciples, and for our own personal lives?***

**Mark 7**— The conflict with the Pharisees and scribes continues as they accuse Jesus of not following the tradition of the Elders which was doing a ritual hand washing before they ate. Since Mark was written to a non-Jewish audience, he explained the customs and traditions of the Jews. Jesus taught that the Pharisees used the tradition of the Elders to keep from obeying the law given by God through Moses. He made it clear that the real defilement of a person arises from the evil thoughts, words, and actions that come out of the heart, not any food that goes into the body (vv. 1-23). Withdrawing to Tyre and Sidon, Jesus heals the demon possessed girl and is amazed at the faith of her Greek mother who was from the region of Phoenicia in Syria. He then heals the deaf mute giving him the ability to hear and speak clearly at the astonishment of the crowd (vv. 24-37). ***By what measurement should we judge the traditions of our church, and how can we keep church traditions from becoming ritualistic or overly formal?***

**Mark 8**— While Jesus is in Decapolis, a Gentile area, He has compassion on a crowd of 4000 men (plus women and children) that had been with Him three days and had become very hungry. Being slow to remember and learn, His disciples questioned where they would find enough food to feed such a large crowd. After feeding the multitude with seven loaves and some fish, Jesus and His disciples get into a boat and travel to the district of Dalmanutha (vv. 1-10). The Pharisees demand a sign but Jesus sighs because He knows that even though they had seen many powerful miracles that no sign will convince them that He is the Messiah. The disciples receive a rebuke from Jesus for their lack of trust in Him since they discussed with great concern how they had not remembered to bring bread with them on the boat, but they were forgetting that Jesus had just fed 4000 people with only seven loaves of bread (vv. 11-21). Jesus heals a blind man in stages instead of instantly. After Peter declares Him as the Messiah, Jesus reveals to them that He must suffer and die at the hands of the Jewish leaders and then will rise again. Peter is then rebuked by Jesus for trying to persuade Him to not go to the cross. He then declares that no one can follow Him unless that person follows the way of the cross which involves obedience, suffering, dying to self and the world, and boldly declaring allegiance

to Him (vv. 22-38). Jesus said in verse 38, “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words...the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the Holy Angels (HCSB).” ***Do you remember a time in your life when you were ashamed to identify yourself with Christ? If so, describe what happened. What can you do to keep from being ashamed of Christ?***

**Psalm 35** — What a terrible ordeal to be pursued by enemies whose goal was David’s utter destruction! David does not take matters into his own hand by attacking those who oppose him. Instead, he puts matters into God’s hands, where a more sure deliverance awaits. **In what ways does God promise to aid those who call out to Him?**

### ***Week 19 Psalm 36, Mark 9-13, Psalm 37***

**Psalm 36** — This Psalm is an oracle of David contrasting the wicked and the pure in heart. Notably, the wicked man devises sinful plans, while the godly set their affections on God (vv. 4 and 7). **How does the Lord preserve the righteous?**

**Mark 9**— Taking Peter, James, and John on a high mountain with Him, Jesus was transfigured before their eyes. Appearing with Elijah and Moses, His clothing became dazzling white, and He received approving words of His Father (vv. 1-13). Returning from the mountain, a large crowd meets Him, and He heals a demon-possessed boy who His disciples could not heal. The disciples were arguing about who was the greatest, but Jesus makes it clear that the greatest is the one who is the servant of all. The measure of true greatness is self sacrificing service to the least important of society such as a little child was in that day (vv. 14-37). #12 p. 578 Although the disciples were unable to cast the demon out of the boy, they were forbidding another man from doing it since he was not of their group. Jesus told them not to stop that man from doing it. He warns of the seriousness of sin in our lives that cause others not to believe in Him. Using hyperbole, Jesus puts emphasis on taking extreme measures to rid sin from our lives because of its damning effects on us and the lives of others. As Christians, we need to have saltiness which means complete allegiance to Christ, His teachings, and His gospel so that we can be effective witnesses to the world. A part of our saltiness is to be at peace with other Christians by recognizing our common loyalty to Christ and the gospel (vv. 38-50). The teaching of verses 38 to 41 is that we need to acknowledge other Christians who are not a part of our church, group, or denomination. ***What are the essential scriptural beliefs necessary to be held by another ministry, group, or church in order for us to recognize them as truly Christian and orthodox? In other words, what are the fundamental doctrines (teachings) of the historic Christian Church?***

**Mark 10**— Chapter 10 begins our Lord’s final journey which starts at Galilee, continues through Judea, and ends with His suffering on the cross in Jerusalem. Answering a question of the Pharisees, Jesus speaks on the subject of marriage and divorce (vv. 1-12). He encourages the little children to come to Him and teaches that everyone must approach Him like a little child. The rich young ruler comes to Jesus to find out how to inherit eternal life, and Jesus tells him that the one thing he lacks is to sell everything he has, give it to the poor, and follow Him. Stunned by the demand, he went away grieving. Thinking that being rich was a sign of God’s

blessing and approval, the disciples were also astonished at His words. Then Jesus assures them that leaving behind the security of material possessions to follow Christ will be duly rewarded in this life and the next life (vv. 13-31). Jesus then reveals for the third time that He was going to Jerusalem to suffer and die but would rise from the dead three days later. James and John ask for a special place with Jesus in His future kingdom. He uses this occasion to teach that the greatest in the kingdom is the one who shows a servant's heart (vv. 32-45). As Jesus, His disciples, and a large crowd are leaving Jericho, a blind beggar continually cries out to Jesus to have mercy on him, and he receives his sight (vv. 46-52). ***Some say that Jesus never disapproved of homosexuality. After reading verses 5 to 9, how would you answer them?***

**Mark 11**— After two of His disciples found a young donkey in the way Jesus had described, He mounts it and crosses over into Jerusalem with the shouts and praises of the people (vv. 1-11). The next day Jesus enters the temple complex and throws out all those who are there for commercial reasons instead of the purpose of making it a house of prayer for all nations. Returning the next day from Bethany to Jerusalem, the disciples commented that the fig tree Jesus had cursed the previous day was completely withered from the roots up. Jesus used this as an illustration of believing prayer (vv. 12-26). Being angry at this intruder and the loss of money at the temple complex, the Jewish leaders ask Jesus by what authority He is doing these things. Jesus astutely asks them a question which they do not wish to answer because of their fear of the crowd (vv. 27-33). ***What were the lessons Jesus was teaching by cursing the fig tree? See also vv. 20-26, Luke 13:6-9, John 15:4, 8, 16, and Hosea 9:10.***

**Mark 12**— during this final week before His death, Jesus has a series of confrontations with the Jewish leaders who were desperate to find a way to kill Him. He gives them the parable of the Evil Farmers, and they understand He is talking about them (vv. 1-12). Now, even more offended and anxious to destroy Him, they try to trap Him in His own words by asking Him if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not. Jesus amazed them with His answer (vv. 13-17). Then the Sadducees, who reject the resurrection, give Him a hypothetical case of a woman who was married to seven different men (one at a time) and each in time died. "In the resurrection, whose wife will the woman be?" Jesus made it clear that there would be no marriage in resurrection and then cited Moses to prove there will be a resurrection (vv. 18-27). Surprisingly, a scribe asks Jesus a great question as to which command is the most important of all (vv. 28-34). Then Jesus turns on the religious leaders asking them a difficult question and riddle about the relationship of David and the Messiah from Psalm 110:1 (vv. 35-37). Jesus then condemns the scribes for their desire for recognition, their hypocrisy, exploitation of widows, ostentatious dress, and greed. In comparison, a poor widow is commended for her generosity because she gave all that she had (vv. 38-44). In verse 34 Jesus said that the scribe who had answered correctly was "not far from the kingdom of God." ***What does it mean that a person is "not far from the kingdom of God," and what would be necessary for that person to be a part of kingdom of God?***

**Mark 13**— Jesus gives His Olivet Discourse (taught from the Mount of Olives) to His disciples, prophesying events in the future that will take place before His second coming. He says that although the years ahead will be marked by false messiahs, wars, disasters, growing

wickedness, and persecution of God's people, they still have not come to the final day of God's wrath that will be poured out in an unprecedented fashion during the Tribulation period when Israel sees the abomination of desolation (vv. 14, 19) that was spoken by Daniel the prophet (Daniel 9:24-27). Since we don't know when Christ will come back, we need to be faithful, watchful, and ready for His imminent (any moment) coming. The context of this chapter is especially to be applied to the nation of Israel who will need to be prepared to flee Judea for protection when they see the man of lawlessness appear in the temple and demand to be worshipped as God (II Thessalonians 2:1-12). The key words for all of us regarding Christ's second coming are to "Be Alert and on guard" and to "Watch out/Stay awake (vv. 5, 9, 23, 33, 35, and 37)." ***What are the signs Jesus gave to signal the end of the age?***

**Psalm 37** — Great and precious promises abound in this psalm, but there are terrible consequences for those who forsake God. Compare "I have never seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging bread" (v. 25) and "But all sinners will be destroyed" (v. 38). **List some of the ways that God protects those who love him.** Psalm 38— David describes severe discipline from God as an overwhelming burden too heavy to bear. He cries out for relief (see verses 1, 15, 21-22) to his Lord and Savior. How does David demonstrate a pattern for renewed fellowship with God?

### ***Week 20 Psalm 38, Mark 14-16, Luke 1-2, Psalm 39***

**Psalm 38**— David describes severe discipline from God as an overwhelming burden too heavy to bear. He cries out for relief (see verses 1, 15, 21-22) to his Lord and Savior. **How does David demonstrate a pattern for renewed fellowship with God?**

**Mark 14**— The Jewish leaders had determined that they must get rid of Jesus because He was becoming more and more confrontational about their evil practices. A woman (Mary - John 12:3) anoints Jesus with costly perfume for His burial which He predicts would be proclaimed to the whole world in memory of her (vv. 1-9). The chief priests are overjoyed that Judas was breaking rank and willing to betray the Lord. Jesus sends two disciples to go and prepare for the Passover in a large upper room. He inaugurates the Lord's Supper with His disciples and points out that one of them will betray Him. Jesus foretells Peter's denial and then agonizes in prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, knowing of His forthcoming suffering and death. Although Jesus prays that the Father will take away this cup of suffering from Him, He says, "Nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will (vv 10-42)." Awakening His disciples, Judas and a crowd come to arrest Jesus and take Him away to the high priest's house. Upon hearing from Jesus that He is the Son of God, the Jewish leaders have the evidence they need to accuse Him of blasphemy and then bring Him to Pilate. Peter denied Jesus three times and then weeps bitterly (vv. 43-72). Judas betrayed Jesus, and Peter denied Him. ***Explain how the betrayal of Judas was different from Peter's denial.***

**Mark 15**— The assembly of Jewish leaders takes Jesus to Pilate and accuses Him of subverting the nation and many other things, but Jesus would not answer them. Knowing that He was innocent and that the chief priests were envious of Him, Pilate tried to liberate Jesus by offering to release Him instead of the evil Barabbas, but religious leaders would have none of it.

Because of the continual cries of the mob to crucify Him, Pilate gives Jesus over to their will and delivers Him up to be crucified (vv. 1-15). He is mocked and beaten by the soldiers and then delivered over to death. Jesus was led away towards the place called "The Skull" (Golgotha/Calvary), and Simon from Cyrene helped Him carry His cross. Jesus is hanged between two criminals and is taunted by the chief priests, those who passed by, and even those with whom He was crucified. At three in the afternoon after darkness had covered the land for three hours, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "My God, My God why have You forsaken me?" Then Jesus again cried out with a loud voice and breathed His last. The curtain in front of the Holy of Holies in the temple was split in two from top to bottom (vv. 16-39). Joseph of Arimathea asks and receives permission from Pilate to take the body of Jesus and hurries to wrap it in fine linen and place it in a tomb cut out of the rock. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where His burial tomb was located (vv. 40-47). **1. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?" Was Jesus actually abandoned by His Father? Explain. 2. Why did the curtain in the temple split in two from top to bottom?**

**Mark 16**— On the day after the Sabbath at sunrise, Mary Magdalene and the other women go to the tomb with spices to anoint the body of Jesus. Coming to the tomb, they find that the large stone that covered it was rolled away, and a young man in a white robe was sitting in the tomb. They are told that Jesus the Nazarene has been resurrected and that they are to go and tell the disciples and Peter to meet Him in Galilee. The women were completely astonished and overwhelmed by the words (vv. 1-8). Most reliable manuscripts of the book of Mark finish the book at verse 8 but verses 9-20 were most likely added later to give the book completeness. The book closes with the appearance of Jesus with Mary Magdalene, the two men walking on the road, and Jesus appearing to the eleven apostles. The Great Commission is given by Jesus with the mention of signs that accompany those who believe. The book ends with the ascension of Jesus to heaven and then sitting at the right hand of God (vv. 9-20). Verse 16 says, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." **Does the Bible teach that water baptism is necessary to be saved?**

**Luke**— This book is an orderly account of the life of Christ by Doctor Luke, a Gentile who traveled with the Apostle Paul on his journeys. The recipient of the letter was Theophilus who later received a second installment from Luke called the book of Acts. Written sometime between 58 AD. and 62 AD., Luke adds a lot of additional material not given by the other gospels, including events about Jesus birth, some miracles, and many parables. Written in the best Greek of all the New Testament writers, this book was given particularly to the non-Jewish world to stress the theme that "the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost (19:10)."

**Luke 1**— Because of Daniel's prophecy of 70 weeks (490 years- Daniel 9:24-27), there was an anticipation of the coming of the Messiah. The last prophet to appear 400 years earlier was Malachi who predicted the coming of the forerunner of the Messiah (Malachi 4:4-6), who was John the Baptist. The angel Gabriel appears to the elderly Zechariah telling him that he and his wife will have a son who will prepare the people for the Messiah. In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, Gabriel then appears to Mary and announces that though she as a virgin, she will have a child who will be the Son of the Most High whose kingdom will have no

end. Mary travels from Nazareth to the home of Zachariah and Elizabeth to announce her divine pregnancy and gives a song of praise to the greatness of God. When John was born, Zechariah's mouth was opened and he gives praise to God and prophecy about the ministry of John. The angel Gabriel told Zechariah that his prayers had been heard (v.13) and that he and Elizabeth would have a son. ***Why did Zechariah not believe Gabriel if he had been praying about it? Why do you think Mary believed Gabriel when he told her of the news of the virgin birth?***

**Luke 2**— Each person in the whole Roman Empire was required to return to their town of origin and register for tax purposes. Although she was in the last days of her pregnancy, Mary went with Joseph to Bethlehem and gave birth to God's son in a stable and laid Him in a feeding trough. A host of angels appeared to the shepherds in a nearby field announcing the birth of the Messiah that happened that very night. The shepherds then hurried off to see this announced Christ child. After the 40 days of their purification, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate Him and offer a sacrifice. In the temple, the Holy Spirit guided both Simeon and Anna to recognize the long promised Messiah and prophesy about Jesus. At the age of 12, Jesus was taken to Jerusalem for the Passover where He astonished the teachers at His depth of knowledge and wisdom. ***1. After reading this chapter where do you see: (1) God's sovereign hand, (2) the humble and ordinary details of the birth of God's Son, and (3) the miraculous things Mary treasured in her heart?***

**Psalm 39** — In this psalm we see a fervent prayer full of vivid descriptions of humanity's plight. David wrestles with the themes of wickedness, posterity, and discipline. **Name three things that David request from God?**

### ***Week 21 Psalm 40, Luke 3-7, Psalm 41***

**Psalm 40** — David's "remembrance of salvation (vv. 1-5) leads to willing commitment to God (vv. 6-10) and an appeal to God for support (vv. 11-17)." #6 p.267 Verses 6-8 are referenced by the author of Hebrews 10:5. Some even consider the entire psalm to be messianic. There are difficulties with verse 12 which make that interpretation problematic. Others claim it refers to David or Israel. None of those views fit perfectly either. The most recognized is that it refers to David with portions that are messianic. **What is the relationship portrayed between the author and God? (Look for "I" and "LORD")**

**Luke 3**— John the Baptist appears as the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3-5) and preaches the judgment of God by calling on the people to proclaim their repentance by being baptized. When asked if he might be the Messiah, John clearly stated that there was one coming who was greater than he, and this person would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with the fire of the God's wrath and judgment. It was at this time Jesus came to be baptized by John. The Holy Spirit and the Father authenticated Jesus and His ministry. John was locked in prison for rebuking Harold about marrying Herodias, his brother's wife. Luke records the genealogy of Jesus all the way back to Adam. ***1. Where in the New Testament do we see the evidences of the doctrine of Holy Trinity? 2. How were the genealogies of Matthew (chapter 1) and Luke different? What was the purpose of each genealogy?***

**Luke 4**— Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days to be tempted by the Devil (vv. 1-13). He returns to Nazareth and proclaims Himself the fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1-2. Becoming furious with His words, the people of Nazareth try to kill him (vv. 14-30). Coming to Capernaum, Jesus casts an evil spirit out of a man on the Sabbath day, and everyone marvels at His authority and power (vv. 31-36). Jesus heals Simon Peter's mother-in-law and others as well as casting out demons (vv. 37-44). ***What were the three ways that Satan tempted Jesus? Amplify the meaning of scripture He quoted. Extra Question: In verses 18-19, Jesus quoted Isaiah 61:1-2. Comparing these two passages, what did He leave out, and why is that significant?***

**Luke 5**— In chapter 4, Jesus is a solitary teacher who preaches and teaches in the synagogues and to great crowds. In this chapter He calls His disciples to be with Him, to learn from Him, and to prepare for their future ministry when He is gone. Peter, James, and John leave everything and follow Christ after they see the miraculous catch of fish when they obeyed His command (vv. 1-11). The teachers and the Pharisees begin to demonstrate their opposition when Jesus doesn't conform to their rules and norms. The Pharisees are scandalized when Jesus forgives the sins of the paralyzed man before healing him. They are appalled when He calls a tax collector by the name of Levi (Matthew) to be one of His disciples, and then has a party with His tax collector friends (vv. 12-32). Our Lord gives a parable of the old and new wineskins (vv. 33-39). Jesus told the disciples that they would now be fishers of men (and women). All Christians have been called to win and disciple people for Christ. What are the reasons why most Christians are not active in winning people to Christ? Extra Question: This chapter shows that Jesus desired to reach all people, including the outcasts such as lepers, tax collectors, and the worst of sinners. ***Who are the outcasts in our world, nation, and city today, and what do we need to do to reach them for Christ?***

**Luke 6**— This chapter begins with a heated disagreement between Jesus and the Pharisees concerning the Sabbath day since His disciples picked heads of grain to eat, and Jesus healed the man with the paralyzed hand, both on the Sabbath (vv. 1-11). After spending the night in prayer, Jesus chose twelve of His disciples to be apostles (vv. 12-16). A large crowd of His disciples and others came to Jesus to be taught, healed, and cured of evil spirits. In this "Sermon on the Plain (level place)," Jesus taught His disciples the principles and values of His kingdom similar to that which He taught in Matthew 5-7 (vv. 17-49). In verse 38, Jesus taught a very important principle on giving. ***What is the principle He taught, and give and explain other verses in the New Testament on the topic of giving that amplify the meaning of this verse? See II Corinthians 9:6-8. Extra Question: What are reasons and principles Jesus gave concerning what was legitimate to do on the Sabbath? See verses 1-11.***

**Luke 7**— The Roman Centurion requests through envoys that Jesus would heal his servant. Before healing his servant, Jesus marvels at the great faith of the officer who would be an example of millions of Gentiles who would put their faith in Christ in the future (vv. 1-10). Jesus travels to Nain where he stops a funeral procession and raises a widow's only son from the dead (vv. 11-17). Our Lord graciously answers the questions and doubts of John the Baptist as to whether He is the Messiah or not. The twisted minds of the Pharisees are exposed by Jesus as they justify their rejection of John and Jesus for complete opposite reasons (vv. 18-35). While

dining in the home of Simon the Pharisee, a sinful woman anoints the feet of Jesus, is commended by Him for her action and receives forgiveness of sins (vv. 36-50). Verse 28 says, "...yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." **How are the least in the kingdom of God greater than John the Baptist?**

**Psalm 41**— It appears that David has become exceedingly ill, to the point of death. In verses 4 and 8 David pleads to be healed of a vile or deadly disease. He prays for God's help and vindication. **Who might David be referring to in verse 9? See John 13:18, also II Samuel 11:3, 23:34?**

## **Week 22 Psalm 42, Luke 8-12, Psalm 43**

**Psalm 42**— A wonderful Psalm of encouragement when one finds themselves in tragic circumstances. Peace comes when our hope, yearning and thirsting is for God. Accusers taunt the author with questions, but also the author asks himself 6 "whys". **What are they and how do they teach us to renew our own hope in God?**

**Luke 8**— This chapter shows that a large group accompanied Jesus on His journey, including women who played a vital role by supporting Jesus and His disciples in their ministry. The Lord tells the parable of the four soils to a large crowd and then explains the meaning to His disciples. His mother and brothers try to see Him but He declares to the crowd the importance of a spiritual relationship with Him, and obeying His word (vv. 1-21). "Jesus then showed His total authority by exhibiting sovereignty over nature (vv. 22-25), over demons (vv. 26-39), and over disease and death (vv. 40-56). All forces of life bow at His feet." **What is one important teaching of Jesus to consider in each of the following passages: (1) verses 16-18, (2) verses 19-21, and (3) verses 22-25? Extra Question: Verses 1-4 indicate that Jesus had a large group with Him as He travelled from place to place, including women. What part did women play in His ministry? How was His treatment of women different from the rest of society in the first century? How should Christian men treat women today?**

**Luke 9**— Jesus sends out His disciples with His power and authority to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom, to heal the sick, and cast out demons. Five thousand men (plus women and children) are fed by Jesus through the multiplication of the five loaves and two fish (vv. 1-17). After Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus reveals to the disciples of His coming rejection, death, and resurrection. He then gives to all hearing Him a call to total discipleship and obedience (vv. 18-27). Taking Peter, James, and John on a mountain with Him to pray, Jesus was transfigured before their eyes, and His clothing became dazzling white. Returning from the mountain, a large crowd meets Him, and He heals a demon-possessed boy who His disciples could not heal (vv. 28-45). His disciples argue about who is the greatest among them, but Jesus instructs them about who really is greatest in the kingdom. Knowing His time to suffer and die is close at hand, Jesus determines to head toward Jerusalem for His final journey (vv. 46-62). In verse 23, Jesus says that in order to be His disciple, we must deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him. **Explain in detail the meaning and cost of discipleship. Can a person be a born-again Christian and not be a disciple? Extra Question: What does welcoming a child have to do with spiritual greatness?**

**Luke 10**— After sending out the Twelve Apostles in chapter 9, Jesus sends out Seventy-two of His disciples to proclaim the gospel, and do miracles of healing, and cast out demons. Upon their return, the disciples rejoice that the demons were subject to them, but Jesus tells them that their real joy should come from the fact that their names are written in heaven (vv. 1-24). An expert in the law tries to test Jesus, but Jesus tests him by telling him the story of the Good Samaritan (vv. 25-37). Martha shows hospitality to Jesus, but then complains to Him that Mary is sitting and listening to Him instead of helping her in the preparation of the meal (vv. 38-42). **1. What is the main point of the parable of the Good Samaritan? 2. What is the principle lesson Jesus wanted Martha to learn (vv. 38-42).**

**Luke 11**— Upon a request by one of His disciples, Jesus teaches them how to pray and the importance of consistent and persistent prayer, knowing that the Heavenly Father so desires to give us good gifts, including the gift of the Holy Spirit (vv. 1-13). Upon driving a demon out of the mute man, the Pharisees and teachers of the Law become hostile and accuse Jesus of driving out demons through the power of Satan. Jesus shows the absurdity of Satan undermining his own work through partnership with Him. He also shows that reformation without inward transformation will result in a worse condition than before (vv. 14-26). Again, Jesus refuses to honor His mother above those who hear the Word of God and keep it. He warns against unbelief and their response to the light that Christ gives them (vv. 27-36). Dining with a Pharisee, He gives a scathing denunciation against the evil and hypocritical actions of the Pharisees and the experts of the law (vv. 37-54). **What lessons and promises did Jesus teach on prayer, and what is the Heavenly Father's response to it? Extra Question: In verses 42 to 52, why did Jesus harshly criticize the Pharisees and experts in the law?**

**Luke 12**— Our Lord gives specific instructions to His disciples about the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and preparation for their future suffering. "Only confidence in our value to God can free us from the fear of other human beings and help us to take a bold stand that openly affirms our trust in Christ (vv. 1-12)." Jesus speaks about the evilness of greed and the disastrous effect of fixing one's heart toward material things instead of finding our riches in God. He tells his disciples not to worry about anything since God is faithful to provide everything we need, but instead to seek first His kingdom (vv. 13-34). Christ teaches about our proper stewardship as the Lord's servants, and the fact that each would be judged by his faithfulness to the stewardship he or she is given (vv. 35-48). Jesus talks of the division He will cause in families and warns them that though they have great skills in interpreting signs of impending weather, they are slow to understand signs of the times and the coming judgment (vv. 49-59). **How do we acknowledge Jesus before men, and how do we deny Him before men (vv. 8-9)? Extra Questions: What lessons about material possessions, greed, and worry did Jesus teach in verses 13 to 34?**

**Psalm 43**— The psalmist pleads for vindication from deceitful men and encourages himself with the realization that when his focus is on the Lord and not his circumstances, everything begins to change. We see a pattern in the Psalms of men coming to God for justice, but not based on personal merit. **What is the basis of their petition (see verses 2, 4)?**

**Week 23 Psalm 44, Luke 13-17, Psalm 45**

**Psalm 44**— The sons of Korah remember the former glory and subsequent ruin of their nation. Verse 22 is cited by Paul in Romans 8:36. At face value, it would seem God is being unfair to them. **Is that true? Why or why not?**

**Luke 13**— Jesus calls the people to repentance by stating that tragedies such as the one where the Galileans were killed by Pilate's men are not necessarily a sign that these people were greater sinners than others. The parable in verse six says that God is giving Israel its last chance to produce fruit before Israel will be cut down like the fig tree in the parable (vv. 1-9). Christ heals the crippled woman on the Sabbath in the synagogue. Hearing the reaction of the synagogue leader, Jesus powerfully condemns him for his hypocrisy (vv. 10-17). Our Lord gives the parable of the mustard seed and the leaven (vv. 18-20). As Jesus journeys on toward Jerusalem, He visits the towns and villages on the way. Being asked the question about if few people will be saved, Jesus responds that only those who enter the narrow door (gate) will be saved. Our Lord grieves over Jerusalem for rejecting Him but finishes with the hope that one day far into the future they will say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord (vv. 21-35)." **Explain the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven. Extra Question: What is the narrow door of salvation that Jesus was speaking about?**

**Luke 14**— As Jesus winds His way to Jerusalem to face death and the cross, he minces no words when visiting the home of a leading Pharisee (vv. 1-25) or with the large crowds that travelled with Him (vv. 26-35). He fearlessly challenges the religious elite by healing a man with swollen limbs on the Sabbath, and then confronts their pride of wanting the best place and the highest social status when attending a wedding banquet. When giving a dinner, one should invite the poor, lame, and blind, not their friends who can repay them. The blessed by God are those who respond to God's invitation to come to the banquet even though they may have been outcasts and not to those who are invited to the banquet but don't come and then make flimsy excuses (vv. 1-25). Jesus made it clear exactly what were the qualifications of being a disciple and then makes the Pharisees aware He is not intimidated by them (26-35). After reading verses 26-27, and 33, **what are the requirements to be a fully committed disciple of Christ? Is there an area where you really need to grow?**

**Luke 15**— Almost like no other, the teaching of Jesus on the parables of the (1) Lost Sheep, (2) the Lost Coin, and (3) the Lost Son, reflect the heart of God the Father toward the lost and His outrageous love He has for them. In each of the parables there is a celebration when that which was lost is found. In the parables of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin, we see that God rejoices when just one sinner repents of his sins. In the story of the Lost Son (the Prodigal Son), the father allows the younger son to take his share of the inheritance and leave. After squandering his money in foolish living and without anything to eat, he returns to his father and repents of the evil he had done. His father not only forgives him but throws a party on his behalf. Instead of rejoicing, the older son is angry that the father is forgiving and takes no joy in his brother's return. As you read the story of the Lost Son, **what do we learn about the person, character, and attributes of God the Father? Extra Question: What attitude do we see in the actions of the older brother? Who did the older brother represent?**

**Luke 16**— This chapter challenges us about our attitude toward and use of material possessions, as He tells us the parable of the Dishonest Manager, and the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus. The incompetent manager is found out and is about to be fired. In order to prepare for his future after losing his job, he dishonestly cuts deals with his master's creditors and is commended by his master for his astuteness. Jesus warns us to be faithful stewards of our material possessions and not to make them a god. Jesus touches on marriage and divorce (vv. 1-18). Our Lord ends the chapter with a story about a selfish rich man and a beggar named Lazarus who was sitting at his gate. Both of them died, and Lazarus went to Abraham's side, and the rich man was in torment in Hades (vv. 19-31). ***What does the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus teach us about the afterlife? Why would a loving God send people to hell?***

**Luke 17**— For the third time in the book of Luke it says that Jesus and those with Him are "traveling to Jerusalem" on His last journey (v. 11). The topics covered in His teaching are varied. We are not to cause others, including little ones, to sin. If someone sins against us we are to forgive them even up to seven times a day. We will do great things for God if we even have the faith the size of a mustard seed. We are to obey our master with a servant's heart and not expect extra praise (vv. 1-10). Ten lepers are healed but only one, a Samaritan, returns with a heart of gratitude (vv. 11-19). In answer to the question by the Pharisees, Jesus talks about the coming of the kingdom of God, His present kingdom, and His second coming to earth (vv. 20-37). ***What attitudes should His followers have when they serve Christ (vv. 7-10)?***

**Psalm 45** — This chapter is a wedding song for David or Solomon. The author shifts his focus in verses 6-9 to one greater than David or Solomon, the Messiah Himself. He continues with the earthly wedding in verse 10. God is mentioned three times in verses 6 & 7, indicating two different persons. ***Who are they (see Hebrews 1:8-9)?***

### ***Week 24 Psalm 46, Luke 18-22, Psalm 47***

**Psalm 46** — This is a prophetic song celebrating the ultimate triumph of God over the nations, when He "makes wars to cease" and instills a lasting peace on earth. We are reminded to "be still and know that He is God". See verses 9 & 10. Look for the instances of verb "to be" (is, was, am, will be) ***where God is the subject. God is, I will, I am God, etc. List the attributes of God mentioned in these verses.***

**Luke 18**— Jesus tells a parable of the Persistent Widow in order to encourage His flock to always be praying, knowing that God the Father, unlike the evil judge, will swiftly grant justice to His elect (vv 1-8). He then gives a parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, showing that not pride and self-righteousness, but humility and repentance lead to salvation (vv. 9-14). Jesus encourages the little children to come to Him, and He teaches that we must approach Him like a little child. The rich young ruler comes to Jesus to find out how to inherit eternal life, and Jesus tells him that the one thing he lacks is to sell everything he has, give it to the poor, and follow Him (vv. 15-29). Preparing His disciples for His impending death, Jesus privately tells them He will soon suffer, die, and be raised again the third day, but they don't understand it. Drawing near to Jericho, a blind beggar cries out to Jesus to have mercy on him and he receives his sight (30-42). 1. What does the parable of the Persistent Widow teach us about prayer and God

the Father? Do we really believe this? 2. In the meeting of Jesus and the rich young ruler, answer the following questions; **(1) what did Jesus mean by, “Why do you call me good? No one is good—except God alone,” (2) What commandments were the rich young ruler continually breaking?(3) Do we have to sell all in order to have eternal life?**

**Luke 19**— While Jesus and His team pass through Jericho, He finds a short tax collector by the name of Zacchaeus in a sycamore tree trying to see Him. Upon seeing him in the tree, Jesus invites Himself to lodge at his home, and Zacchaeus joyfully accepts and is drastically changed because of His visit (vv. 1-10). As the whole group was nearing Jerusalem, they all thought this was the time for Jesus to take charge as Messiah and free Israel from Rome’s tyranny. Jesus tells them a parable about a nobleman who would not immediately take over the kingdom, but would go away and leave his 10 servants each with a mina (3 month’s wage). Upon his return after receiving the kingdom, the servants had to give account of their investment to the king (vv. 11-27). This last week before His death, Jesus enters into great conflict with the religious leaders who do everything possible to find a way to kill Him. Jesus mounts a young donkey, crosses the Mount of Olives, and comes into Jerusalem with the shouts and praises of the people. Jesus weeps over the city knowing what would happen to it because of their rejection of Him. Arriving at the temple complex, He throws out those selling animals (vv. 28-48). **1. What can we learn from Jesus on how to evangelize from the story of Zacchaeus? 2. As a King’s servant, you have been given resources to use in Christ’s kingdom. What resources do you have, and how should you invest them for the kingdom?**

**Luke 20**— Jesus is in His last few days before the cross, and so the chief priests, scribes, and elders join in with the Pharisees to do everything possible to kill Him. Jesus refuses to respond to them when asked what His source of authority was. He gives them the parable of the Evil Farmers, and they understand He is talking about them, and they are extremely angry (vv. 1-19). Now, even more offended and anxious to arrest Him, they try to trap Him in His own words by asking Him if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not. Jesus amazed them with His answer (vv. 20-26). Then the Sadducees who reject the resurrection give Him a hypothetical case of a woman whose seven husbands died one right after the other. “In the resurrection, whose wife will the woman be?” Jesus made it clear that there would be no marriage in resurrection and then cited Moses to prove there was a resurrection. Then Jesus turns on the religious leaders asking them a difficult question about the relationship of David and the Messiah from Psalm 110:1 (vv. 27-47). In verses 41 to 44, **what was Jesus teaching them about the Messiah? #7 p.1511 Extra Question: What kind of authority did the priests and teachers respect and think Jesus should have had (verse 2)?**

**Luke 21**— The poor widow is credited by Jesus for her generosity because although she has only two small coins, she gave them to the temple offering. Jesus predicted the time when the temple would be destroyed. A person asked about what would be the sign when these things are about to take place. Jesus then talks about future events that will happen before His second coming. He talks about future wars, horrible acts of nature, and also great persecution for His followers as they valiantly testify for Him. Jesus then says He will come when we see signs in the sun, moon, and stars and anguish on earth among the nations. Jesus then tells the parable of the fig tree and the other trees. He then gives a warning to be alert for the great judgment that

comes to all who live on the earth. **What is the “times of the Gentiles” mentioned in verse 24?**

**Luke 22**— The Jewish leaders had determined that they must get rid of Jesus because He was becoming more and more confrontational about their evil practices. They are overjoyed that Judas was breaking rank and willing to betray the Lord. Jesus sends Peter and John to go and prepare for the Passover in a large upper room (vv. 1-13). Jesus inaugurates the Lord’s Supper with His disciples and points out that one of them will betray Him. Our Lord corrects the disciples on their dispute about who is the greatest among them, but assures them they will eat and drink at His table in the kingdom (vv. 14-30). Jesus tells Peter of his denial of Him, but Peter can’t believe he would do such a thing. Leaving the upper room, Jesus brings His disciples to the Mount of Olives where He prays that, if the Father wills, He will take away this cup of suffering from Him. Awakening His disciples, Judas and the mob come to arrest Jesus and take Him away to the high priest’s house where Peter denies that he knows Jesus, and the temple guards mock and beat Him. Upon hearing from Jesus that He is the Son of God, the Jewish leaders have the evidence they need to accuse Him of blasphemy, and then bring Him to Pilate (vv. 31-71). **What ungodly or worldly attitudes do you see in the disciples in this chapter? See verses 23-46. Extra Question: What are the three interpretations of the meaning of the commemoration of the Lord’s Supper in the Christian church? What do you believe, and why do you believe it?**

**Psalm 47** — This is a joyous song remembering the victories of God when He subdued the land of Canaan (vv. 1-4). God’s dominion over the whole earth concludes the Psalm (vv. 5-9). **What are the actions attributed to God?**

### **Week 25 Psalm 48, Luke 23-24, John 1- 3 Psalm 49**

**Psalm 48** — The sons of Korah give us a song about Jerusalem, the city where God dwells as their ultimate fortress. Contrast this Psalm with Nehemiah 1:3, 8-9. **How did Jerusalem go from a city of joy and victory to one of disgrace and destruction?**

**Luke 23**— The assembly of Jewish leaders take Jesus to Pilate accusing Him of subverting the nation, but neither Pilate nor Herod Antipas can find any grounds to charge Him (vv. 1-16). Pilate tried to liberate Jesus, offering to release Him instead of the evil Barabbas, but religious leaders would have none of it. Because of the continual cries of the mob to crucify Jesus, Pilate gave Him over to their will and delivered Him up to be crucified (17-25). As Jesus was led away towards the place called “The Skull” (Golgotha/Calvary), He speaks to the women who are mourning His crucifixion. Jesus is hanged between two criminals and forgives those who participated in His crucifixion. Some were taunting Him to come off the cross and save Himself if He truly was the Messiah. Jesus promised one criminal that he would be with Him in paradise that very day after giving his request to remember him when Jesus comes into His kingdom (vv. 26-43). At three in the afternoon, after three hours of darkness, Jesus cries with a loud voice and dies. Joseph of Arimathea asks Pilate for the body of Jesus and hurries to wrap Him in fine linen, and place Him in the tomb before the Sabbath begins at sundown (vv. 44-56). As we meditate on the story of the criminal (thief) that believed on Jesus, **what lessons are we taught**

**about salvation and forgiveness? Extra Question: What did Jesus mean by the words (Verse 31), “For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when the wood is dry?”**

**Luke 24**— The bleakness and blackness of Christ’s death on Friday is gradually transformed into extreme joy and celebration upon the discovery that Jesus had risen from the dead. As the women of Galilee go to the tomb early Sunday morning to prepare His body, two angels announce to them the resurrection of Jesus. The women return to the apostles to tell them the good news, but their words seemed like nonsense to them (vv. 1-12). As two of the disciples head home to the village of Emmaus for the evening, Jesus began to walk along with them without them recognizing Him. Their hearts burn within them as He unfolds the Old Testament scriptures about the need of the Messiah to suffer and die. After their eyes were opened as to who Jesus was, he disappeared from their sight, and they returned to the apostles in Jerusalem (vv. 13-35). Jesus then appears to the whole group in the upper room showing them the marks of His crucifixion, and opening up to them their understanding of the scriptures concerning His suffering, resurrection, and their mission to proclaim the gospel (vv. 36-53). Part two of this book is to be continued by Luke as the book of Acts. **1. Why is the resurrection of Jesus the key to our faith? 2. How was the resurrected body of Jesus the same as our body, and how was it different?**

**John**— This amazing gospel of John is so simple that anyone can read it, understand it, believe it, and be born again. At the same time this gospel is so profound that the greatest theologians cannot fully plumb its depths. Our Lord Jesus Christ is declared to be God, the creator of the world, and the great “I am”. This gospel was written by John in approximately 80 AD and gives a great deal of new material about Christ’s life that the Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) had not previously given. John 20:31 declares the purpose of the book, which is for the reader’s to believe on Christ Jesus and have eternal life. The great themes of this book are; Jesus the Eternal Word, the new birth, the relationship of Jesus with the Father, the seven “I am” teachings of Jesus, resurrection of Lazarus, the great discourses of Jesus, the teaching of Jesus on the Holy Spirit, and His death and resurrection. This book is powerful and life transforming.

**John 1**— In this grand prologue, there is no doubt of who Jesus Christ is. He is declared to be the eternal, preexistent creator and now incarnate Word, who brings light and life to all who believe and receive Him. This unique Son, who fully reveals His heavenly Father, tabernacled among us and gave grace and truth, thus making us children of God through faith in Him (vv. 1-18). First, John the Baptist gives a testimony that he is not the messiah or Elijah but one who is called to prepare the way for the messiah who is Jesus Christ (vv. 19-34). Then, John the Apostle gives the testimonies of five of the disciples, who declare that Jesus truly is the Messiah (vv. 35-51). **What does this chapter say and what words describe the person and work of Jesus Christ?**

**John 2**— Jesus and His disciples go to Cana of Galilee to a wedding feast, and He performs His first miracle by changing the water into wine (vv. 1-12). Jesus travels to Jerusalem for the Passover and in the temple finds merchants selling animals for sacrifice as well as money

changers. Making a whip from some ropes, He drives all of them out of the temple, being righteously angry for their changing His Father's house into commercial profiteering instead of a Holy temple for worship and prayer (vv. 13-22). Although many believed on Jesus, He didn't entrust Himself to them (vv. 23-25). Verse 24 says, "Jesus would not entrust Himself to them."

***What did Jesus know about these people that believed on Him?***

**John 3**— The most famous verse in the Bible is found in this chapter (3:16). A Pharisee and leader of the Jews named Nicodemus visits Jesus by night to have a dialogue on spiritual matters. Jesus quickly makes it plain that the only way to see the kingdom of God is through spiritual birth. After a life-long belief in salvation by human effort, Nicodemus finds it hard to believe this new teaching of Christ. Using the illustration of Moses lifting up the snake on a pole in the wilderness, Jesus make it clear that those who look to Him for salvation and believe in Him will have eternal life (vv. 1-21). The disciples of John the Baptist tell him that Jesus is now becoming very popular and everyone is flocking to Him. John says that as the groom's friend, he is filled with joy because of His increased following (vv. 22-30). The chapter ends with a powerful statement against those who teach universalism. "The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who refuses to believe in the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him (HCSB)." ***1. What did Jesus mean when He told Nicodemus that "no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and of the Spirit."? 2. Read John 3:14-18, 36. Using these verses only, how would you explain the gospel to another person, including the consequences of not believing?***

**Psalm 49**— The climate end of mankind is discussed in this psalm. All men perish but the upright have a hope beyond the grave. Considering verse 15, **where does the author's confidence come from? See Genesis 5:24, Psalms 16:11; 17:15 & 73:24.**

### ***Week 26 Psalm 50, John 4- 8, Psalm 51***

**Psalm 50**— This psalm starts with God's issuing a judicial summons to the inhabitants of the earth (vv 1-6). He then proclaims His decree against Israel (vv 7-13), offering a remedy for the righteous (vv 14-15), and for those who repent of their wickedness (vv 22-23). **Why is thankfulness so important (see verse 23)?**

**John 4**— While traveling through Samaria to get to Galilee, Jesus and His disciples stop at Jacob's well in Sychar. The disciples went to town to buy food and Jesus had a conversation with a woman of Samaria at the well. Jesus peaks her interest by first asking for water, and then tells her about living water she can have if she comes to Him (vv. 1-26). Jesus declares that His food is the winning of lost souls and challenges His men to make themselves aware of the great harvest of souls. The Samaritan woman brings many from Sychar to hear Jesus and they believe on Him, calling Him the Savior of the world (vv. 27-45). A royal officer (most likely a high ranking civil or military Gentile under Herod Antipas) came to Jesus in Cana, pleading for Him to come to Capernaum to heal his son who was dying. The officer believed Jesus when He said, "Your son will live." The next day it was confirmed that his son was indeed healed that very hour he believed Christ's words (46-54). **Read verse 24. What does it mean to worship God "in spirit and in truth"?**

**John 5**— Returning to Jerusalem for one of the three Jewish festivals, Jesus heals a man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. When Jesus commanded him to get up, take up his mat and walk, the man was instantly healed. From the time that Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began persecuting Him (vv. 1-15). Jesus then begins to declare his relationship and equality with the Father in one of the strongest Christological discourses in the Bible (vv. 16-30). To back up His statements about His person, deity, and sovereignty, Jesus gives several witnesses (vv. 31-46). After reading verses 19 to 30, ***What are the seven declarations Jesus gave about His relationship and equality with the Father? Extra Question: The Old and New testaments clearly say that two or three witnesses are needed to put a man to death or to discipline a church member (Deuteronomy 17:6, Matthew 18:16). Who or what are the five witnesses to the identity of Jesus as the Son of God (vv. 31-47)?***

**John 6**— This chapter begins with Jesus feeding the 5000 (plus women and children) through the multiplication of five loaves and two fish. After experiencing this phenomenal miracle, the people try to take Jesus by force and make Him king, but He would have none of it (vv. 1-15). Getting into a boat that evening to cross over to

Capernaum, a mighty storm arose and Jesus comes to them walking on the water and calms the sea (vv. 16-21). In order to thin out the huge crowd of people, Jesus gives some very hard sayings as well as some very deep words regarding salvation and sovereignty. Knowing that the crowd was searching for Him because they had a full stomach, Jesus challenges the crowd to desire the food that lasts for eternal life which He provides to all who believe on Him (vv. 22-40). Jesus continues the same theme as in the previous verses by repeating that He is the bread of life (v. 48). Our Lord speaks of eating His flesh and drinking His blood in order to have eternal life. Because of these difficult words many left Him. He made it clear to His disciples that He was not talking about a literal eating of His flesh but spiritually believing in His sacrificial death for them (vv. 41-71). Read verses 26 to 58. This passage includes many promises linked with our relationship with Jesus. ***How many spiritual benefits can you find in these verses because of our relationship with Christ?***

**John 7**— As Jesus nears the time of His crucifixion, the antagonism of the Jewish leaders grows stronger. Because of this danger, Jesus quietly goes to Jerusalem in the middle of the seven-day Feast of the Tabernacles (Booths). His unbelieving earthly brothers urged Him to show Himself openly (vv. 1-13). The Jews were amazed at His ability to expound the scriptures, but Jesus made it clear that His teaching come from His Father, not from Himself. Because of their denunciation of Him for healing on the Sabbath, Jesus accuses the Jews of not making righteous judgment, but of judging according to outward appearances (vv. 14-24). Although the authorities wanted to arrest and kill Jesus, no one could lay a hand on Him because His hour had not come. Jesus invites all who are spiritually thirsty to come and drink, and streams of living water will flow deep from within them. Because of their ignorance of the birth and lineage of Jesus, the Jews argued that the Messiah couldn't come from Galilee (vv. 25-52). Verses 8 and 30 said concerning Jesus, His "time had not yet come." ***What would happen when His time did come? How does this speak to God's guidance and timing of the events of our lives?***

**John 8**— The chapter opens with the story of the women caught in the act of adultery. Although verses 7:53-8:11 are not found in the earliest manuscripts, they are in full “harmony with the character of Jesus and His opponents.” #6 p. 551. The evil hearts of the scribes and Pharisees and the wisdom, mercy, and compassion of Christ is displayed in this story (vv. 1-11). Jesus asserts strong declarations about Himself such as; “I am the light of the world, I and the Father who sent Me judge together, and, if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins (vv.12-30).” Jesus shows to those who believe and trust in Him that it is important to continue in obedience to His word, since it will reveal that they truly are His disciples. As they become His disciples they will possess real freedom. Jesus asserts that the Jewish leaders were not spiritually of Abraham, but in reality were children of the Devil, because of their rejection of Him and the truth He was speaking. Finally, Jesus says that He was even alive 2000 years earlier during Abraham’s time. Then, He unmistakably states that He is the “I am” of the Bible at which point the Jews picked up stones to kill Him, but He was hidden from them. **After reading verses 30 to 32, what is the evidence and result of being Christ’s disciple? How has Christ set you free? Is there any area of your life you are still in bondage? Extra question: Verse 59 says that the Jews picked up stones to kill Jesus. What motivated them to do this?**

**Psalm 51**— David pleads for forgiveness after his sins of adultery and murder are revealed by Nathan the prophet. **How does David request forgiveness and restoration?**

### **Week 27 Psalm 52, John 9- 13, Psalm 53**

**Psalm 52**— David laments the evil done by Doeg after the priests of Nob helped David during Saul’s murderous manhunt, but says that the one who trusts in the mercy of God is secure and productive like the olive tree. **What did Doeg the Edomite do that was so reprehensible, and what lesson does this teach us about evil men? See I Samuel 22:9-21**

**John 9**— After putting mud on his eyes, Jesus tells the man born blind from birth to go wash in the pool of Siloam. Upon obedience to Christ’s words, He comes back seeing. The former blind man then begins to tell everyone what had happened, including the Pharisees. The Jewish leaders interrogate the former blind man and his parents to see if he really had been born blind from birth and how he received his sight. After repeating again exactly what happened to him, the frustrated man made some strong statements against the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. Not accepting his sharp rebuke, the leaders excluded him from the temple (vv. 1-34). When Jesus found the man and revealed Himself to him, the healed man then declares his faith in Christ (vv. 35-41). **After reading this chapter, what insights do you see in the godly responses of the blind man (vv. 7, 25, 30, 38)? Extra Question: What principle about the way God judges do we see in verse 41? See Luke 12:47-48, Romans 2:12-16.**

**John 10**— In this chapter we see a beautiful picture of Jesus as the good shepherd and the door of the sheep. Jesus is contrasted with robbers and thieves that come only to kill, steal, and destroy. The sheep know and respond to the voice of the real Shepherd, and this Shepherd lays down His life for them (vv. 1-21). During the Festival of Dedication (Hanukkah) in the wintertime, Jesus returns to the temple complex and again clearly tells the Jews that He is the Messiah, one with the Father. Upon hearing this, the Jews take up rocks to stone Him because of His

so-called blasphemy of making Himself God, but He again eludes them (vv. 22-42). ***What does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, do for the sheep, and how do the sheep respond to the Shepherd (vv. 1-18)? Extra Question: When people are truly born again, can they ever lose their salvation (vv. 27-29)? Give other Biblical evidence.***

**John 11**— Jesus receives a message from the sisters of Lazarus that he is gravely sick, and they urge Him to come soon to heal him before he dies. To show His power to resurrect the dead, Jesus waited two days before leaving for Bethany (vv. 1-16). Jesus arrives at Bethany and comforts first Martha and then Mary as they profess their faith in Him as the Messiah, but share their disappointment that He hadn't come earlier so that Lazarus wouldn't have died. Upon seeing the grief of His friends and knowing what a great enemy death is, Jesus became angry and was moved to the point of tears (vv. 17-37). Over Martha's objection, Jesus calls for the removal of the large stone that was in front of the tomb, speaks, and Lazarus comes out of the grave alive (vv. 38-44). The resurrection of Lazarus caused many to believe on Him, but others went to the Pharisees to tell what had happened. The Jewish leaders decided that Jesus must be killed in order to save the nation, and then charges anyone who finds Him to immediately tell them so they can arrest Him (vv. 45-57). ***1. What did Jesus mean by His answer to the disciples when they feared His being killed in Jerusalem (vv. 8-10)? 2. What astonishing promise did Jesus make to those who believe on Him (vv. 25-26)?***

**John 12**— Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrives at Bethany and during dinner is anointed by Mary with expensive perfume. Although Judas Iscariot reprimanded Mary for wasting this pint of nard which was valued at one year's wages, Jesus made it clear that it was a sacrifice that honored Him for the day of His burial (vv. 1-11). Jesus enters Jerusalem on a young donkey, and the people come out to meet Him with palm branches, shouting "Hosanna to the King of Israel." The Pharisees are dismayed that the world has gone after Him (vv. 12-19). Jesus proclaims that now is the time for the Son of Man to be glorified through His coming death that will produce a great harvest of souls. For the third time during His ministry, the Father attests with an audible voice from heaven, giving honor to His Son (vv. 20-36). Jesus again makes it clear that each one must choose between believing in Him and coming into the light of eternal life or rejecting Him and be judged by His words on the last day (vv. 37-50). In verses 24 to 26, ***what is Christ calling His disciples to do, and what are the results and rewards for obeying Him?***

**John 13**— Now we come to the last night before the death of Jesus, where He is in the upper room with His disciples showing them a vivid example of what servanthood is all about. This dramatic act of washing the feet of His disciples powerfully teaches them that they are not to jockey for positions of authority and prominence, but rather serve others with acts of humility (vv. 1-20). Jesus had a troubled spirit when he announced to the rest of the disciples that one of them would betray Him. After Jesus gave the piece of bread to Judas, Satan entered Judas, and he went out into the night to betray Him (vv. 20-30). Now that Judas was gone the atmosphere is cleared, and Jesus now prepares His disciples for His crucifixion and their new life after His resurrection and ascension. The first and most important principle to teach them is the New Commandment to love each other in the same way Christ had modeled love to them (vv. 31-38). ***Why did Jesus wash the feet of the disciples (vv. 1-17)?***

**Psalm 53**— The utter depravity of man is lamented by David who yearns for God's salvation to be revealed. **How does David show his confidence in God's salvation and love? see verse 6.**