

AVE FAITH IN GOD. TRULY, I SAY
IS MOUNTAIN, 'BE TAKEN UP AND
DOES NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART,
YS WILL COME TO PASS, IT WILL
TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU ASK
AVE RECEIVED IT, AND IT WILL BE
PRAYING, FORGIVE, IT ALSO
SO THAT YOUR FATHER ALSO
YOU YOUR TRESPAS



OCTOBER
2022

MARK

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

“...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

Who I Will Reach	How I Will Do It	How It Went

Other Requests	Date Answered	How It Was Answered

MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

Name: _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will **help you grow in your walk with God**. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my commitment last month? _____

I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____ day(s) each week this month.

Church Attendance:

How did I do last month with my attendance? _____

I will attend church _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend small group _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

(List any other activities you will participate in this month—Bible study, church events, etc.)

Bible Memory:

How did I do with Bible memory last month? _____

I will memorize _____ verse(s) this month.

Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Jesus? _____

I will share Jesus with _____ this month.

I will serve my local church this month by _____

What does it take to be a fisher of men? What did it take for James and John? In today's passage, we read the details of James' and John's calling. In this account, we learn something interesting. We discover that Jesus called them in front of their father and other hired hands and that they immediately decided to leave home to follow Him. In order for them to be fishers of men, they had to leave their father and walk away from a successful family business. A business that not only involved family but other partners and boats. Their fishing business must have been a large part of everyday discussions with their father and a source of security for their future. To follow Jesus, in their case, meant to leave it all behind. Amazingly, they made a monumental decision on the spot and left without hesitation. They left it all behind to follow Jesus, because the thought of becoming a fisher of men was more compelling than being a fisher of fish. Which option would be more exciting to you? Being a fisher of men or running the family business? Following Jesus is the most exciting life anyone can have. Do you believe that enough to be willing to leave it all if that is what Jesus asked?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
MARK 1

PROVERBS 14

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in “gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young.” As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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Have you ever had to obey someone even though it made no sense at all? How did you respond? In today's reading, we see an example of that. A man with leprosy came to Jesus to be healed. He had a disease that meant that he was going to die a terribly painful death and would be an outcast forever. He would have to move out of his home and never have contact with people again. When someone came near him, he would have to call out "Unclean, unclean." No wonder he wanted to be healed. However, after he was healed, Jesus gave him surprising instructions. Jesus told him to say nothing to anyone about what had happened, but to show himself to the priest. He couldn't tell anyone. But, he went out and told his story anyway. As a result, Jesus' ministry was changed. He was no longer able to go into the towns, but had to stay out in lonely places. When we find ourselves in similar situations, we need to trust what God tells us even when it seems to make no sense. Use the questions today to help you take steps to obey even when it doesn't make sense.

SAY WHAT?

In what way have you had to obey even though it made no sense at all?

SO WHAT?

What did you later discover was the purpose?

NOW WHAT?

Are you struggling to obey in a situation right now?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
MARK 1

MARK 2:1-12

DIETY

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

The Bible reveals to us that Jesus Christ was not just a prophet or a good teacher—He was God. Do you know where to go if you have questions about this truth? You could go to this chapter. Jesus healed the paralytic and told him that his sins were forgiven. When the people heard this, they thought Jesus was claiming to be God because only God can forgive sins. Mark tells us that Jesus knew what they were thinking. If He were only a teacher or a prophet, He would have corrected their thoughts and told them that they had misunderstood what He had said. But He did not do that. In fact, He explained to them that He forgave the paralytic's sins so that they would know He was God. That was the whole point of His miracle. Jesus claimed, on a number of occasions, to be God. He knew what He was doing and what people thought. If He wasn't God, He would have been a false prophet intentionally leading people astray. How do you respond to the fact that Jesus Christ is God? Who in your world needs to know who He is and what He has done for them?

EXTRA READING
MARK 2

If you were to list the top three things that Jesus and His disciples did, what would they be? Would you put healing or casting out demons at the top of the list? Where would you put performing miracles? The item that occupied most of their time and was their number one priority might not even end up on some of our lists. It may be a surprise to know that preaching and teaching was the most significant thing they did. We learn, in verse 15, that Jesus first sent the disciples out to preach. It was their primary responsibility. We often think they were sent to heal the sick and cast out demons. While they did those things, their main concern was to communicate the Gospel message to those who would listen. Jesus Himself set that as His priority. In fact, one reason He often told those He healed not to tell what He had done was so that He could continue preaching. If communicating the Gospel was the priority while Jesus was on the earth, how important should it be for us today? Is it your priority? Use today's questions to help you think through the priorities of your life and what needs to change.

SAY WHAT?

How can you tell if the Gospel has priority in your life?

SO WHAT?

Why is it so easy for us to allow other things to become a priority over the Gospel?

NOW WHAT?

What needs to change in your life so the Gospel has greater priority?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
MARK 3

MARK 3:20-34

GOD'S FAMILY

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Have you ever wanted to be part of another family? As you watch this family, you realize that they are committed to each other and you want that for yourself. In these verses, we discover that we can be a part of the greatest family there is—the family of God. In verse 31, we read that Jesus' family stood outside waiting for Him. Jesus responded to their arrival by looking at those seated there and telling them they could be a part of His family if they would do the will of His Father. This same truth applies to us also. If we do His will, we are His brothers and sisters. How incredible! We become a member of a family like no other. God is our Father, and we can go to Him as His child with anything. He cares for us because we are literally His children. Other followers of Jesus from around the world become our brothers and sisters. We have a bond the world knows nothing about. Are you in God's family? How should you respond to such incredible truth? Will it impact your behavior today?

EXTRA READING
MARK 3

How do we come to be able to understand spiritual truth? Why do some people seem to get it while others just become confused? The answer is found in today's reading, and it should be an encouragement to you. Jesus taught the crowd about the kingdom of God. He did so by using a parable. Later, when He was alone with His disciples, they asked Him to explain the parable. In His answer, we discover an important principle. Jesus told them, in verse 11, that the truth has been given to them. God planted it in their hearts. It did not come from superior intellect, but from God. Jesus revealed that understanding spiritual truth is a gift from God. While it is true that we need to work hard to learn skills that will enable us to better understand what the Bible says, it is God who gives us the understanding. Therefore, we must walk closely with Him so that we can receive understanding from Him. If we are not walking with Him, we deprive ourselves of spiritual understanding. What an awesome privilege.

SAY WHAT?

What spiritual truths has God revealed to you recently?

SO WHAT?

How can you take advantage of the opportunities God gives to teach you truth?

NOW WHAT?

In what ways do you hinder God's revelation of spiritual truth in your life?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
MARK 4

MARK 4:21-29

LET IT SHINE

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Why is it that some people seem to have more ability to comprehend spiritual truth than others? Today's reading gives us an answer. Jesus followed up His discussion from yesterday's reading with the illustration of a lamp. He said that you do not take a lamp and put it in a place where it's light isn't seen. Why? It's light is meant to shine and not be hidden. In the same way, we are to take the light that God gives us, our spiritual understanding, and shine it—not keep it to ourselves or hide it. Jesus said that when God gives us spiritual understanding, we need to share it with others both verbally and by the way we live. If we use what we have been given as light, then He will give us more understanding. If we do not and keep it inside or not allow it to impact the way we live, even the understanding we have will be taken away. Have you discovered a truth about God recently that you could share with someone? Is what you are learning impacting the way you live? How are you going to let it shine? Spiritual truth was never meant to be hidden but to be acted upon and shared.

EXTRA READING
MARK 4

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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MARK 5:1-20

FEAR OR FORGIVENESS?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

If you saw a man's life totally changed, what would your response be? Would it be fear? As we read the account in today's passage, we see that the townspeople responded to the demon possessed man's miracle with that emotion. This man had lived a life of misery for years. In fact, the passage says that night and day he would cry out in his pain. How chilling those sounds must have been. It must have been frightening to see a man so bound by Satan. Then one day, Jesus came along and the man's life radically changed. When the people saw him, they were afraid. What could they have feared? They weren't afraid because the pigs died. They didn't know about that until after they had seen that the man was changed. Why didn't they respond with joy or seek their own change? Could it be because of sin in their own lives. A stranger who could free a demon-possessed man could surely see into their hearts. Often seeing Jesus for who He is causes us to see ourselves for who we are. This can cause us to run in fear and not approach Him with humility and repentance. Do not allow your fear to cause you to miss an opportunity for God to change your life.

EXTRA READING
MARK 5

Have you ever faced a situation that seemed hopeless? You prayed and asked God to move on your behalf, and it seems as though He has done nothing. You keep praying but before God responds, it is too late. If so, you must have identified with the synagogue ruler in today's reading. He risked a great deal by coming to Jesus in the first place. His situation was desperate, and his only concern was that his daughter be healed. He knew Jesus could heal her, but she died before He responded. Jairus was told that it was too late, and he should leave the teacher alone. Jesus ignored what was said and turned to him with these words, "Don't be afraid, just believe." It is never too late for God. The ruler, his heart gripped with fear and despair, was told by Jesus to just believe. He went with Jesus into his home while those around laughed. As a result of his belief, the man's daughter was healed. Are you facing a hopeless circumstance in your life? Ready to give up? Like Jairus, don't fear, just believe. Remember that God is still in control and able to respond to your needs.

SAY WHAT?

Is there a hopeless circumstance in your life right now?

SO WHAT?

What are you afraid will happen?

NOW WHAT?

How can today's reading encourage you?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
MARK 5

MARK 6:14-29

RESPECT

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

How would those who dislike you describe you to others? What words would they use? Would they use words similar to those Herod used to describe John the Baptist? Even though Herod disliked him, he knew that John was a righteous and holy man. Herod did not like John because John confronted him with his sin. Herod had married his brother's wife, Herodias. John knew it was sin and was not afraid to tell Herod so. As a result, both Herod and his wife were angry with him. John was in prison because Herodias pressured Herod into having him arrested. While in prison, Herod sent for John and listened to him explain spiritual truth. It is important for us to understand that while we may say things that anger people, their anger must be because of our stand for the truth, not because we are stubborn, rude, unkind, or hypocritical. Would those who dislike you still have to admit you are righteous and holy? Would they value your words even if their initial response was anger? Would they come to you in crisis because they know you love them? They should, if your attitude and actions are like John's. How can you become that kind of a person?

EXTRA READING

MARK 6

Do you have friends that seem to only like you because of what you can do for them? You know they spend time with you just to get something from you. If you answered yes, then you know exactly how Jesus felt in this passage. This chapter ends with a scene that is repeated throughout the Gospels. People flocked to see Jesus because of what He could do for them, not because they loved Him or wanted to spend time with Him. The crowd wanted only what He could give them. Jesus must have longed for those in the crowd to love Him for who He was and not for what He could do. Is your relationship with Jesus like the one in today's reading? Do you only talk to Him in prayer when you need help or want something? Do you ever pray without asking for something? We ought to love Him for who He is, not for what He does for us. Why not spend some time today talking with God about why you love Him? That alone could take hours!

SAY WHAT?

What reasons do you have for loving God besides what He does for you?

SO WHAT?

In what ways can you show Him how much you love Him today?

NOW WHAT?

How can you avoid having motives similar to the ones we see in this passage?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
MARK 6



MARK 7:1-23

JUSTIFYING SIN

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

It is obvious in today's reading that Jesus was upset at the Pharisees. What was he upset about and why was it so terrible? In verse 11, we learn that the Pharisees were compelling people to give an extra amount of money to the temple. This caused hardship on the families who needed that extra money to take care of their elderly parents. Any money that they could give to help their parents was given to the Synagogue. Jesus confronted them about setting aside the commands of God in order to observe their own traditions. They deliberately chose to ignore the Word of God and honor the traditions of men instead. God would never ask us to violate one part of Scripture in order to obey another. We must never allow ourselves to justify our sin in this way. We will be held to the standard of God's choosing, not our own. God has clear expectations for our lives, and He provided the Bible for us to know what they are. Is there an area of your life that you have justified your disobedience? What are you going to do about it?

EXTRA READING

MARK 7

What kind of response does God look for from us? What kind of response was He looking for from people who observed the miracle in today's reading? It was not the one He got. Jesus, in an amazing way, healed the man who was deaf and mute. Think about this miracle. This man had never heard speech before, yet Jesus loosened his tongue so that he could speak. He could suddenly hear and understand and then speak clearly. What a miracle! Jesus asked the man not to tell anyone. However, he did not restrain himself and told his story over and over. Everyone was overwhelmed with amazement. Their response was "He has done everything well", not "He must be God." They saw the miraculous, but it did not compel them to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Nor did they come to Him to have their sins forgiven. Repentance was not part of their response to His work. Amazement and being overwhelmed is not what God wants. He wants us to respond with repentance, and come to Him in humble obedience. Is your response to God the same as these people? Are you amazed but not humbled?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
MARK 7

PROVERBS 16

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in “gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young.” As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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What kind of sign do you think the Pharisees had in mind in verse 11? What was it that they wanted Jesus to do that would indicate who He was? Did they want Him to perform a miracle? Did they want Him to do something that no human could possibly do so that they would know for certain that He was God? Would feeding 4,000 people with seven loaves of bread qualify as a sign from heaven? It is unbelievable that they could have seen this amazing sign and yet ask for more. How could they not see that Jesus gave them more than enough evidence to demonstrate who He was. It is obvious that no sign would have convinced them He was the Messiah. That is true even today. People are waiting for God to give them some sign of who He is so they can know whether or not to believe on Him. He gives us signs everywhere and yet we miss them. Could you be looking for a sign that He has already given? What exactly are you waiting for?

SAY WHAT?

What kind of signs do people look for to determine if God is real?

SO WHAT?

What signs has God given you to show you He is real?

NOW WHAT?

Examine your life. What direction is God moving you in light of what He is currently doing in your life?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
MARK 8

MARK 9:2-13

STAY OR RETURN

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

When Peter suggested building three shelters, what was he really asking to do? Think about it for a moment. He saw Jesus transfigured before his eyes, which meant He saw Jesus in His glorified state. Not only that, but he also saw Moses and Elijah who were talking with Jesus. He must have wanted to stay there and find a way to keep it going. That could be why he suggested building the three shelters. He wanted to stay up there and not have to go back. He must have wanted the moment to never end. Jesus, however, did not take them up the mountain to stay. He wanted them to learn and then return home to impact their worlds with the message of Jesus. We, likewise, will have incredible spiritual moments. We may sense the presence of God at a conference, in church, or during our time with Him. We may even feel like Peter and not want the moment to end, but it must. We must go back to the world God has called us to influence. These moments are designed by God to affect us in ways that enable us to better influence our worlds. How are you using your experiences to influence your world?

EXTRA READING

MARK 9

What words would you use to describe your prayer life? How similar are your requests to the one made in today's reading by the father of the boy with an evil spirit? He came to Jesus because he hoped He could heal his son. He asked Jesus if He would heal his son, but he added a phrase that Jesus picked up on. It is the phrase, "If you can." Jesus responded by repeating this phrase and pointing out to the man that his comment indicated unbelief. The man agreed and pleaded with Jesus to give him faith and help him believe. Jesus did and the boy was healed. In what ways are you like this father? When you pray, do you ask God to move on your behalf but what you really mean is if you can? You do not possess the real assurance that God will move but have a hope-so kind of attitude. How often could Jesus respond to you by repeating the question, "If you can?" We need to be people who come to the Father with hearts that are filled with confidence and assurance that He can and does accomplish His will. Do you really believe that? If not, why not begin today by asking Jesus to help you overcome your unbelief like this father did?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
MARK 9

MARK 9:30-37

VERY LAST

SAY WHAT?

How would someone act who is a servant?

SO WHAT?

How would someone demonstrate that he is not a servant?

NOW WHAT?

How can you develop a servant's heart?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Before leaving this great chapter, let's look at one more important truth. Did you ever notice how God puts what appears to be one simple word in a sentence and it causes the sentence to take on a whole new meaning? In today's reading, we find one of those words. Jesus was attempting to teach the disciples about being a servant. They had just spent time arguing about who would be the greatest in the kingdom. Each disciple must have tried to present his case as to what made him a likely candidate for greatness. Jesus sat them down and told them that if they wanted to be great, they must be last. But did you notice the word He used before last in verse 35? He said they must not just be last, but be the "very" last. They were not to be towards the end or in the middle of the pack, but very last. Is this your attitude? Do you try to always step to the forefront and get all the attention, or do you strive to be very last? Are you a servant? Use today's questions to help you evaluate how you are doing at being a true servant.

EXTRA READING

MARK 9

What does it take to receive eternal life? Can a person earn his way into heaven? In today's reading, we discover the answer to both of these questions. In Jesus' conversation with the rich young man, He reveals an important truth about salvation. If you do not understand it, you could come to some wrong conclusions about what it takes to be saved. The disciples listened to what Jesus said to the rich man and were astonished. If what Jesus said was true, His words would mean that no one could be saved. Jesus answered them by saying that they were right to assume that no one can be saved, if it depends on something we do. We are saved when God moves in our hearts and we respond to it, not by something we do. Followers of Jesus have understood their need because God revealed it to them. They chose to accept Jesus because God gave them the desire. God must do a work in our hearts for us to be saved. No one can ever earn their way to heaven. It isn't anything we do, but what God does. How humble and thankful we should be for God's gift of salvation. Are you?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
MARK 10

MARK 11:1-11

NEVER RIDDEN

SAY WHAT?

How have you clearly seen the hand of God at work in your life?

SO WHAT?

What was God working to accomplish?

NOW WHAT?

How can those experiences help you face your current circumstance?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Why did Mark feel that it was important to add the phrase, "Which no one has ever ridden" to verse 2? Is that fact significant? This is a remarkable series of events that we can read and easily miss the significance. Jesus gave instructions to two of His disciples. He told them to go into the village where they would find a colt that had been tied up. Matthew tells us that the mother of the colt was there as well. They were to untie the colt and bring it to Jesus to ride. How did He know it would be there? How did He know that He would have permission to untie and ride the colt? That is a miracle! But, it was not just any colt. It was one that had never been ridden. It is incredible that Jesus knew that, but even more amazing that the colt was there just for Him to ride. How did the owner know to keep it from being ridden? God was so clearly in control of this situation. It is inconceivable at times to see how God controls the smallest details of our lives to provide for us and accomplish His will! Use today's questions to help you think through this truth in your own life.

EXTRA READING

MARK 11

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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MARK 12:1-12

RESPONDING

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What point do you suppose Jesus was trying to make to the Pharisees when He used the parable found in this passage? The point was that the Pharisees responded to God the way the people in the parable responded to the owner of the vineyard. As you read this parable, you can feel the emotion. A land-owner graciously allowed people to farm his land in return for a portion of the crop. He first sent a servant to collect his payment. The people not only refused payment, but beat the servant before sending him back. He continued to send servants to collect payment, and they beat and even killed some of them. The Pharisees and other listeners must have been amazed at the unbelievable cruelty of these people. The land-owner finally sent his son to collect payment. They responded by killing his son with the mistaken idea that they would just take the land. Hearing this parable must have filled the listeners with anger. The Pharisees, however, knew that Jesus was talking about them. But knowing Jesus was speaking to them, they still did not repent. Could you be like the Pharisees? When God speaks to you, do not resist! Are you responding?

EXTRA READING

MARK 12

How important are words? Can one word really make a difference? In today's reading, it makes a powerful illustration even more powerful. Jesus closed this chapter with the illustration of a poor widow who gave money to the treasury. Jesus was so impressed with her giving that He used her as an example to the disciples. His point was that God evaluates your gift by looking at how much you could have given, not by how much you gave. To further illustrate this, Jesus did something fascinating. In verse 42, He called her a poor widow. The Greek word He used meant that she had something, but it was not very much. In verse 43, He again called her a poor widow. But this time, He used a different Greek word for poor. This word meant she had nothing. Before she gave, she was poor, but at least had a little. After she gave, she had nothing. How sacrificial are you in your giving? Is the amount you give based on keeping back enough for yourself? How does Jesus respond when He sees what you give, knowing how much you could have given? What needs to change?

SAY WHAT?

What words would you use to describe your giving habits?

SO WHAT?

What is the most sacrificial gift you have ever given?

NOW WHAT?

What would need to change in your giving to be more like this widow?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
MARK 12

MARK 13:1-31

DISTRESS

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Think back over your life. What was the worst day you can remember? What is the worst day you have ever heard about? Imagine being able to say that the distress you experienced in one day was greater than any day that had ever been—not just in your life, but in anyone's life since the beginning of time. That would sure be one terrible day. That is what Mark wants us to understand about the tribulation in this chapter. In today's reading, he gives us details concerning the tribulation. He says, in verse 19, that the distress of those days will be unequalled from the beginning. Think about that for a moment. The distress of the tribulation will be greater than the distress of the Great Depression, when Rome persecuted Christians, or in the days of Hitler in Germany. This distress will be greater than any time in all of history. How does knowing this truth affect you? Does it motivate you to make any changes? It should!

EXTRA READING

MARK 13

What impact did the events of today's reading have on Judas? What impact did they have on what he did later that day? Do you think these events put him over the edge? Jesus was sitting at the table and Judas watched as a woman entered the room. She must have appeared very emotional in order for Judas to notice and wonder what she had come to do. To his amazement, she walked over to Jesus, broke the jar of perfume, and poured it on Jesus. The other gospel accounts record for us that she also wiped the feet of Jesus with her hair. Judas could not understand her actions or why Jesus allowed it. He did not love Jesus the way this woman did. He had no humble gratitude for what Jesus had done for him. He was following Jesus for the money and what he could get out of the relationship. In his anger, he left and went to the High Priest to betray Jesus. Are you at all like Judas? Is your relationship with Jesus leading you to respond like Judas or like this woman?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
MARK 14

MARK 14:32-52

COMMITMENTS

SAY WHAT?

What kind of commitments do people make and then neglect to follow through on?

SO WHAT?

What past commitments have you not followed through on?

NOW WHAT?

What steps do you need to take to follow through on those commitments?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage what personal commitment can you make?

When was the last time someone made a commitment to you and did not follow through on it? How did it make you feel? Imagine how Jesus felt as He listened to the disciples make commitments to follow Him to the death. He knew they would all desert Him when the critical moment came to stand with Him. Do you suppose His thoughts went back to the upper room? Do you imagine He thought about how passionately Peter declared that he would die with Him if necessary? Do you think He was reminded of their commitment to stand together as His disciples? It must have hurt to see them choose to save their own skin rather than follow through on their commitments. It must also hurt Him to see us do the exact same thing. We may commit to read our Bible, pray, go to church, love those around us, and follow Jesus. Is it possible you made a commitment that you have already forgotten? There is still time enough to follow through.

EXTRA READING

MARK 14

Of all the events that took place in these verses, which one was the hardest for Jesus to face? This chapter is filled with incredibly emotional moments. It is amazing to think that Jesus went through all that for you and for me. What goes through your mind as you read a chapter like this? Today, why not reflect on what Jesus has done for you instead of answering a few questions. Read the chapter again, and use the side of the page to write your thoughts. Then, spend some time thanking Him for what He did for you.

EXTRA READING
MARK 15



MARK 15:33-47

ANY MEN?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

As you read more details about the death of Jesus, what stands out to you? One thing you may have noticed is who was not mentioned. Beginning in verse 40, Mark records who was present during the crucifixion. He tells us that Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James were there. He also tells us that these women followed Jesus and cared for His needs. But, there is an obvious lack of men on the list. Where were the men? Why would the women be present but not the disciples. It would appear that we have the same problem today. Look around in your church and think about how many men are really following Jesus. Look around in the ministries of the church and ask yourself how many men you see actively serving compared to the number of women. We need men to step up and follow Jesus. Could you be a man who needs to take a stand? What would it take for you to get started? Where would you have been the day that Jesus Christ was crucified? Where you are now? Standing or hiding?

EXTRA READING

MARK 15

As you come to the end of this book, what have you learned? In what ways are you different because you read it? What have you learned about Jesus Christ? How about in this chapter? This book has been filled with so much. Why not take time to record the impact this book has had in your life. Don't be a hearer of the Word who walks away and forgets what you've learned. Be a doer who doesn't forget what you've learned because it's changed you. Use today's questions to help you get started.

SAY WHAT?

Why do you think this book was written?

SO WHAT?

What are key principles you can take with you from this book?

NOW WHAT?

What things about Jesus Christ and His ministry did you learn from reading this book?

THEN WHAT?

What do you need to do so this book changes you?

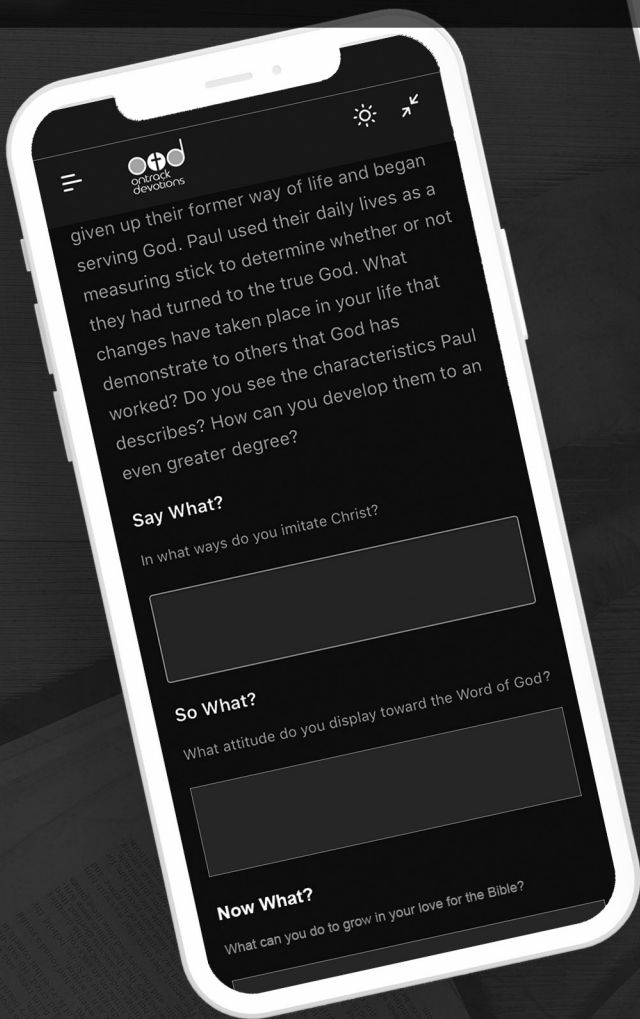
EXTRA READING
MARK 16





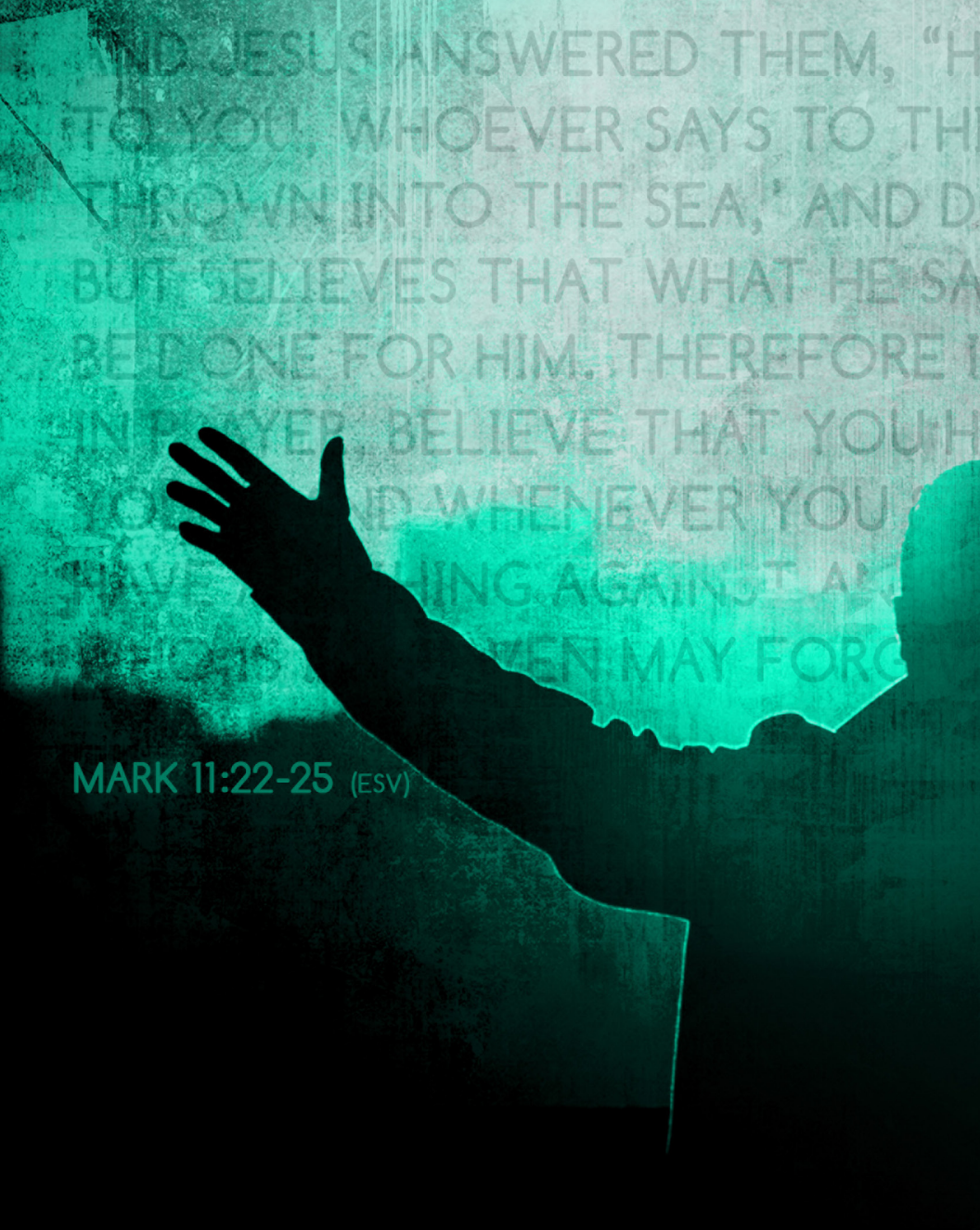
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MARK 11:22-25 (ESV)

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