

Lent
2024

COME & SEE WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE

Week 4 - 2024 Devotionals For Lent

Welcome to week 4 of the Lent 2024 devotionals. In keeping with our theme of come and see what the Lord has done, we will focus on scriptures from the New Testament. We will be examining instances in the life of Jesus where those encounters changed the lives of the people whom Jesus encountered. We will also look at how their encounters reflect in our lives today. We will take a break from looking into the Book of Matthew and see what we can find in the Book of Mark for the devotionals this week. Our verses will capture Jesus' interactions with many and some of the parables He shared.

Lent is a time for reflection. It is a time when we can reflect on our lives in Christ. The people we encounter, the places we go, and how people see us live our lives can be part and parcel of our walk-in faith. Periodically, we should consider how our lives are going and whether we are on the right path. That right path is being laid out for us by the Lord.

Pam and I hope you are blessed by your time in reflection and study of His word during this season of Lent.

Leaning on Jesus

Forest & Pam Holmes

All scriptural references are from the English Standard Version of the Holy Bible.

Much of the technical and theological practices of biblical times used in these devotionals come from the Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary.

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Jesus Models Prayer.

Jesus, the Messiah, and the consummate teacher, shares an essential aspect of a healthy prayer life in Mark 1:35. And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. Do you find it challenging to find a quiet place to pray? Do you find your mind wandering while you pray? If this describes your prayer life, take comfort. Many of us experience the same difficulties.

We live in a busy world. Sadly, much of the busyness is self-inflicted. Many have an overriding desire to be productive during waking hours. Most of us will also try to cram as much life into the few short hours of downtime each day as possible. Sadly, many will find themselves exhausted from their busy day. We can take a lesson from Jesus in His prayer life.

If we prioritize prayer in our lives, we need consistency in the timing and the execution. How many times have you set a goal to pray daily, only to miss that goal because your day(s) got away from you? It may sound too simple, but what if we followed Jesus' example and prayed first thing in the morning? It's a simple solution to a simple problem. Pray before events distract us. I need to be more diligent in my morning prayers. All too often, I find myself distracted and then forgetful. Let's try the simple solution together.

Another lesson from Jesus' approach to prayer is to remove ourselves from distractions when we pray. Put away the electronic devices, turn off the music, and quiet your mind. When praying, we seek to enter a meaningful conversation with God. Our focus needs to be narrowed to just that activity. Finding a quiet place can be difficult in a busy household. It takes perseverance and just a bit of patience, but it can be done. Some will go into a room, shut the door, and pray. It's not so strange to do this. Jesus shared this wisdom in His Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 6:6. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Prayer can be a deeply personal time in conversation with God. Too often, we forget to let God speak to us during our prayer time. Our busy thoughts and impatience can drown out his often-quiet voice. But, when we take the time to listen, we allow that voice to be heard. Jesus used His time in prayer to stay connected to His Father. That is the lesson Jesus shares with us for our prayer life. In prayer, we allow the Lord to speak to us, and we can share our hearts. We can often see what the Lord can or has done in our lives through prayer.

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