

**EVERY DAY WITH JESUS** (August 10- 16)

Savor a segment of the gospel each day so that you may...

“...grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ.” “II Peter 3:18)

**Devotional Hints:** Daily ask the Spirit to open your heart and guide you as you read. Also, read the passages out loud. When we *hear* the passage, at times, details will come out that we have missed or not thought of before, or thought of *in that way* before.

**10 August Luke** In the opening three chapters of his Gospel Luke spent considerable time laying a firm foundation about the historicity and the wondrous twofold nature (true God/true Man) of the person of Christ, “that (we) may have certainly concerning the things (we) have been taught”. Having established Jesus’ credentials, he now tells about how *this* Jesus went about his saving work.

Please read **Luke 4:1-13** Temptations often sound so innocent that we think, “It’s no big deal.” “I’m only using my common sense.” “Who will get hurt?” When tempted Jesus considered the source of those temptations and he knew that they and the tempter were not innocent at all. Jesus knew “that every act not based on loyalty to God will end in disaster.” (Oswald Chambers, adapted). Thank God he knew that, for any disloyalty in Jesus’ life would not only have brought disaster to him, but to us. Marvel, *marvel*, at the fact that even though Jesus faced the same temptations we face, in his entire life, he never, ever, gave in to satan (Heb. 4:14-16). Find peace in the fact that Jesus has forgiven all your fallings for temptation, and rejoice that in him you are empowered to say, “No,” to satan and his lies.

Lord Jesus, thank you for successfully facing satan and dealing with his temptations on our behalf. Because of your saving work and grace one day I will be able to see you face-to-face to sing to you my thanks and praise eternally. Amen

**11 August Luke 4:14-30** Jesus went about doing his work in the power of the Spirit – and people marveled. Except in his own hometown. When he gave the people of his town the wondrous message that in him Scripture was being fulfilled before their very eyes, what was their response? (“We know you.” “Who do you think you are?” “You’re no different from any of us; so what makes you so high and mighty?”) Familiarity does breed contempt. We need to be aware that this can happen in us as well. What might be signs of contempt for Jesus? (Failure to be in worship and at the Lord’s Supper. Boredom with Bible reading and the Gospel. Not following his words and commands, or treating them with little or no respect. Having a superficial, just going through the motions, religious relationship with Jesus. etc.) What is the ‘cure’ for such spiritual sickness? (Praying that the Spirit would help us recognize the symptoms of such illness, then move us to go to Jesus for the forgiveness, and the healing that only he and his Spirit can give. Asking God to create in us a new heart and give us a right spirit. Confessing that sin to a brother or sister in Christ and asking him or her to forgive us and pray for us. Prayerfully being in the Word, in worship and partaking of his Supper.)

Brother Jesus, forgive me where I have failed to give you the honor and respect you deserve. You, thank God, are my Brother, but also my God and Savior. May I ever remember that. Amen.

**12 August Luke 4:31-37** The man in today's reading had a demon – but note how the demon spoke of itself in both the plural and singular (“us”, and “I”. In another place when Jesus asked a demon *his* name, the demon replied, “Legion, for *we* are many.” Mk. 5, Lk. 8) The fact that a demon can be singular and plural at the same time indicates that satan and his forces of evil are beyond our comprehension and power. We should carefully heed Paul when he said,

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

To play with such evil is to toy with dangers beyond our imagination. Note that Jesus did not do that – when tempted he did not entertain satan or his statements for a second. Satan and his evil are as real as God and his goodness are. As this is true; how should we consider and handle materials that deal with satanism, the occult, demons, witches, spells, etc? (To use extreme caution with such things is wise. To avoid them totally is best.)

Lord, with regard to satan and his forces of darkness, let me be innocent. When confronted with such evil may I immediately flee from it and seek help and refuge in you. Amen

**13 August Luke 4:38-41** Simon Peter had a mother-in-law (see also I Cor. 9:5). That's just another of those 'trivial' small biblical details, or is it? Rome, which holds that Peter was the first pope, denies clergy the right to marry. This is not what Scripture teaches. St. Paul actually states that such a teaching is one of the “teachings of demons” (1 Tim. 4:1-5, see also Article 23 of the Apology to the Augsburg Confession). To deny clergy the right to marry is not a small wrong. We can learn much from the seemingly 'trivial' details the Holy Spirit saw fit to have recorded in Scripture for our learning.

In this reading we also see Jesus healing and casting out demons. His acts point out and confirm that the Jesus Luke spoke of is exactly who Luke said he was – God and man, whose person, words and ministry are to be taken seriously. As he is the Savior, why would Jesus tell demons not tell of who he is? Couldn't he use all the publicity he could get? (Consider – would you want to be 'endorsed' by your enemies? Such 'praise' would not have advanced his mission and ministry.)

Father, as we read your Word, give us your Spirit so we may understand what you are saying. Let our souls absorb its truth for the nourishing of our faith. Then as your people, may we treasure and hold fast to each truth and faithfully teach them to others – especially telling them the truths about Jesus is our Savior - to the honor of your name and for the saving of souls. Amen.

**14 August Luke 4:42-46** “Stay with us,” the people said to Jesus. It is tempting to stay where we are welcomed and appreciated. But Jesus knew his purpose – to preach, here, there and everywhere in Judah and its surrounding regions. So we see him teaching in synagogues, the local community religious centers of his day. Where are we to carry on his teaching ministry today? (In our home, with our family, neighbors, in our community, supporting missions, and wherever and whenever the opportunity presents itself.)

Lord Jesus, we like to be safe. We are fearful of new, unknown or challenging situations. What is true in our daily life is also true when it comes to the sharing you and your Gospel with others. Forgive us for our fearfulness and timidity. Trusting in you and our Father, as you did, and trusting in you our God and Savior, may we follow you and boldly go and tell your good news to all nations. Amen.

**15 August Luke 5:1-11** Teaching whenever and wherever is what Jesus did, in synagogues and from boats. (Again, a lesson for us, about where we may speak the Word!). His teaching did not end with the nameless masses of people, he also taught fishermen with whom he was familiar and knew personally. Note how Jesus took his awareness of Peter as a person and used Peter's understanding of fishing to help Peter understand what kind of work Jesus desired Peter to do in his kingdom. How might we use our understanding of the people around us, and our awareness of their interests, to communicate to them eternal truths? (Answers will vary).

Lord Jesus, we thank you for knowing us as well as you knew Peter and his interests. As you taught him, so teach us, that we too may be effective 'fishers of men' wherever we might be. Amen.

**16 August Luke 5:12-16** Each of us at times has felt like an outcast – we wished to belong, but no one wanted us. We wanted to fit in and at least be on the edge of a 'crowd', but were rebuffed. Remember what it was like to just want to feel a friendly touch and hear a friendly word? Remember what it is like longing for someone to care?

In today's reading such a person, a leper, an outcast of outcasts, makes a plea, "Lord, if you are willing." And finally, finally, he felt a touch, knew someone cared, and heard and experienced the healing words, "Be clean." Each of us, hear and know that that same Jesus, who cared, touched and healed a leper then, is here *for you* today. KNOW YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO LOVES YOU SO MUCH HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR YOU. KNOW that because of him you are forgiven and cured of the leprosy of sin. KNOW because of him you are loved by the Father. KNOW because of him you are a member in God's family! KNOW that he is with you always. Thank him by showing the same love and care Christ has shown to you to that person around you who needs a friend, who needs someone to care, who needs to be touched - that person who needs to know of the One who healed and touched you.

Lord, thank you for speaking words of comfort and life to me; for touching and healing me. Through my hands and mouth touch, comfort and heal the hearts and lives of hurting, lonely, sin-sick people. Amen.