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BEREAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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The Season of Lent

A 40 DAY DEVOTIONAL

*Focusing on Maturing Like the Master
through close reading and reflection.*

Day 40
The Sword of Jesus

“Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.” Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.” Matthew 4:10-11 (NIV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records the tool that Jesus used to fight off Satan in the wilderness. The Word of God was both the defensive and offensive component that brought victory over the Devil.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

How has the Word of God helped you in your encounters with Satan?

NOTES:

Day 1
The Sabbath of Jesus

“When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures.” Luke 4:16 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records that Jesus not only prioritized going to church on a weekly basis but also taking an active role in the service. His commitment to church was his attendance and Jesus reading during the gathering was his ministry involvement.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

Please list what you can do to make attending church worship a priority as well as being actively engaged in the service.

NOTES:

Day 2
The Sacrifices of Jesus

“No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.” John 10:18 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records the ultimate Saviors offering, dying on the cross for the sins of the world, Jesus made of his own accord. No one had to make Jesus do this, but he did it of his own volition.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What sacrifices are you willing to make for the glory of God and good of others?

NOTES:

Day 39
The Survival of Jesus

“They got up, forced Jesus out of town, and took him to the edge of the cliff on which the town was built. They plan to throw him off the edge, but Jesus walked through the crowd and went on his way.” Luke 4:29-30 (NCV)

Biblical Illumination:

These verses record when Jesus was in the midst of a dangerous situation. However, he got through it without any hurt, harm or misfortune.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in these verses?

Practical Application:

Describe a time when danger was imminent for you but God helped you to survive.

NOTES:

Day 38
The Support of Jesus

“Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s business manager; Susanna; and many others who were contributing their own resources to support Jesus and his disciples.” Luke 8:3 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records how others gave back to Jesus in a tangible way. The individuals who took the lead to be a blessing towards Jesus were women.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What are some ways you can tangibly advance the ministry of Jesus today?

NOTES:

Day 3
The Sadness of Jesus

“As Jesus came near Jerusalem, he saw the city and cried for it.” Luke 19:41 (NCV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records the negative emotions Jesus experienced as he saw all the wickedness taking place in the city of Jerusalem. As Jesus looked at the city of Jerusalem, all he saw was ungodliness behind, around and ahead of him.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What do you see that brings about sad and woeful emotions to your life?

NOTES:

Day 4
The Sageness of Jesus

“When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue and many who heard him were amazed. “When did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?” Mark 6:2 (NIV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records two glowing traits about Jesus. The first was his wonderful wisdom and the second was his mighty works. Both of these were on display as the Master ministered in his hometown synagogue.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application: Please list what you can do to operate in a more wise way in the local church.

NOTES:

Day 37
The Suffering of Jesus

“And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” Luke 9:22 (NIV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records Jesus speaking about his impending death, burial and resurrection. He was well aware that along with that assignment came much suffering.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

How have you suffered for your faith in Jesus?

NOTES:

Day 36
The Success of Jesus

“As the sun went down that evening, people throughout the village brought sick family members to Jesus. No matter what their diseases were, the touch of his hand healed everyone.” Luke 4:40 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records the victory Jesus had over sickness and diseases. His success in performing miracles helped to set many families free from pain and suffering.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What type of sickness would you like to see Jesus handle for you and why?

NOTES:

Day 5
The Sanctification of Jesus

“And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.” John 17:19 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records that Jesus lived a life set apart for the good of others. Jesus’ life of sanctification was for the sole purpose of his disciples and them being set apart for him.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What will it take for you to live a more sanctified life, set apart for the glory of God and good of others?

NOTES:

Day 6
The Sanction of Jesus

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven opened, and he saw God’s Spirit, coming down on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love, and I am very pleased with him.” Matthew 3:16-17 (NCV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records a highlight in the life of Jesus, before he began his earthly ministry. God speaks words of approval and acceptance about Jesus

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What specific areas of your life would you like to get God’s approval?

NOTES:

Day 35
The Students of Jesus

“One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them.” Matthew 5:1-2 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

These verses record the Savior instructing and his followers hungry for the Word of God. Whether Jesus was outdoor or in the synagogue, crowds gathered to hear what he had to say.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in these verses?

Practical Application:

Share when and how your thirst for the Lord started.

NOTES:

Day 34
The Stress of Jesus

“Jacob’s well was there; and Jesus tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime.” John 4:6 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records a time when Jesus was tired, hungry and thirsty. How good it is to know that the Master can identify fully with the frailties of life.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What are some common stress factors for your life?

NOTES:

Day 7
The Sanity of Jesus

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:5 (KJV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records the type of attitude Jesus possessed while living on earth. According to the writer of this passage, all believers should seek to possess the same mentality of the Master.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What changes do you need to make in order to serve with the right mindset?

NOTES:

Day 8
The Schedule of Jesus

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4 (KJV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records what and who Jesus prioritized during his earthly ministry. His main goal was to do what God assigned and to do it in a timely manner.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Biblical Application:

How can you better manage your time in order to fulfill God's assignment for your life .

NOTES:

Day 33
The Strength of Jesus

"Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him." Luke 22:42-43 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

These verses record a very trying time during the last week of Jesus' life on earth. However, he received supernatural assistance to endure from heaven.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Observation:

When was the last time you felt strengthened by God to accomplish a major task?

NOTES:

Day 32
The Status of Jesus

“The woman said’ “I know the Messiah is coming the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Did Jesus told her, “I AM the Messiah!” John 4:25-26 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

These verses record Jesus’ dialogue with the Samaritan woman at the well. The Master did not have to be told who he was because he already knew for himself.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in these verses?

Practical Application:

How secure are you with your status as a Christian and why?

NOTES:

Day 9
The Scholarship of Jesus

“Three days later, they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.” Luke 2:46-47 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination: This verse records how Jesus astonished synagogue leaders with his vast knowledge regarding Old Testament history. There is no way Jesus could have impressed them, if he had not spent time learning the Word of God beforehand.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you about this verse?

Practical Application:

How much time would you like to spend studying the Word of God on a weekly basis.

NOTES:

Day 10
The Scrutiny of Jesus

“Since it was the Sabbath, Jesus’ enemies watched him closely. If he healed the man’s hand, they plan to accuse him of working on the Sabbath.” Mark 3:2 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records the goal of the enemies of Jesus. Their sole purpose was to see him do something against their tradition in order to find fault in him.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

How would you have handled people watching your every move in an attempt to accuse you?

NOTES:

Day 31
The Speech of Jesus

“All the people spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at the words of grace he spoke. They asked, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” Luke 4:22 (NCV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records how others felt after hearing Jesus speak. According to them, he spoke in such a gracious way.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

In what arenas would you like your speech to be more refined?

NOTES:

Day 30

The Sovereignty of Jesus

“In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.” John 1:1-3 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records the Supremacy of Jesus. He was not just a part of creation, but was also responsible for everything that is seen.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What has been the toughest areas of your life to let Jesus reign?

NOTES:

Day 11

The Seduction of Jesus

“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.” Matthew 4:1 (KJV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records the encounter Jesus had with Satan. The devil’s plan was to try and attack the Master at a vulnerable and opportune time in his life.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Illumination:

When do you find yourself most vulnerable to be attacked by Satan?

NOTES:

Day 12
The Self-Control of Jesus

“When the other disciples saw what was about to happen, they exclaimed, “Lord should we fight? We brought the swords!” And one of them struck the high priest’s slave, slashing off his right ear. But Jesus said, “No more of this.” And he touched the man’s ear’s and healed him.” Luke 22:49-51 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

These verses record how Jesus stayed calm during his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. Instead of becoming revengeful, Jesus took the approach of a healer and peacemaker.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in these verses?

Practical Illumination:

How would you have responded to your enemies in the same situation from Luke 22:49-51?

NOTES:

Day 29
The Source of Jesus

“Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God.” John 13:3 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records how keenly aware Jesus was of all his resources. Jesus understood that with God he had everything and without the Lord, he had nothing.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

How long have you known that the Lord is the source of all you are and have?

NOTES:

Day 28
The Sorrow of Jesus

“He said to them, “My heart is full of sorrow, to the point of death. Stay here and watch.” Mark 14:34 (NCV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records how Jesus was feeling about dying on the cross for the sins of the world. Although Jesus was the God on earth, he still experienced human emotions.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What would have been the hardest part about dying on the cross for you?

NOTES:

Day 13
The Selflessness of Jesus

“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.” Mark 10:45 (NIV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records that Jesus was other person centered. He did not live life to please himself, but his intent was to give his very life for humankind.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What are the biggest changes you can make to become less selfish and more giving for humankind?

NOTES:

Day 14
The Sentiment of Jesus

“Jesus Wept.” John 11:35 (KJV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records the humanity of Jesus. After the death of Lazarus, Jesus expressed his true feelings by crying.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

List some things in life that can cause you to shed tears?

NOTES:

Day 27
The Sonship of Jesus

“While Peter was talking, a bright cloud covered them. A voice came from the cloud and said, “This is my Son, whom I love and I am very pleased with him. Listen to him.” Matthew 17:5 (NCV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records how God identified His relationship with Jesus. God is Jesus’ Heavenly Father and Jesus is God’s Son.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

How did you become a child of God?

NOTES:

Day 26
The Solitude of Jesus

“As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns.” Matthew 14:13 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records Jesus’ desire to be all by himself to process some information he received. The news he heard was that John the Baptist, his first cousin, had been killed.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What normally causes you to want to be by yourself in a remote place?

NOTES:

Day 15
The Serenity of Jesus

“I leave you peace; my peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world does. So don’t let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” John 14:27 (NCV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records words Jesus shared with his disciples on the way to the cross. The peace that Jesus possessed was the type able to keep one sane in the midst of adverse situations.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What situations or environments would you like to remain more peaceful?

NOTES:

Day 16
The Sermons of Jesus

“From then on Jesus, began to preach, Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” Matthew 4:17 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records the theme of Jesus’ public speaking about God. He challenged listeners to change their evil ways and turn to the Lord as well as embrace God’s Kingdom.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What themes would you like to hear more of from 21st Century preachers of the Gospel?

NOTES:

Day 25
The Solicitation of Jesus

“One day Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, “Come follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” Matthew 4:18-19 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

These verses record an invitation extended by Jesus to two guys who were relatives. Along with the invitation, came a promise from Jesus if they accepted his offer.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in these verses?

Practical Application:

Describe how you would have felt to be hand picked by Jesus to be one of his disciples.

NOTES:

Day 24
The Snub of Jesus

“After Jesus said this, many of his followers left him and stopped following him.” John 6:66 (NCC)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records Jesus being rejected by some of his own followers. Words that Jesus spoke did not always sit well with those around him.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

List a time you were rejected by someone and how it made you feel.

NOTES:

Day 17
The Service of Jesus

“So during the meal Jesus stood up and took off his outer clothing. Taking a towel, he wrapped it around his waist. Then he poured water into a bowl and began to wash the followers’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.” John 13:4-5 (NCV)

Biblical Illumination:

These verses record Jesus serving his disciples by washing their feet. Washing their feet showed the Master being willing to stoop as low as possible to serve them.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in these verses?

Practical Application:

What are some tasks you can perform to display servanthood to people around you?

NOTES:

Day 18
The Sheep of Jesus

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”
John 10:27 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records words from the Master regarding his followers. Those who are a part of the family of Jesus are referred to as sheep and have a keen awareness to his voice.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What distracts you most from hearing the words and voice of Jesus?

NOTES:

Day 23
The Sleep of Jesus

“Jesus was at the back of the boat, sleeping with his head on a cushion. His followers woke him and said, “Teacher don’t you care that we are drowning!” Mark 4:38 (NCV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records the Master sleep during a storm and his followers scared of the storm. Even Jesus took time to rest of his physical body.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you about this verse?

Practical Application:

List what you can do to get more rest on a weekly basis.

NOTES:

Day 22
The Slaughter of Jesus

“It was 9 o’clock in the morning when they crucified Jesus .”
Mark 15:25 (NCV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records the way in which the King of Kings and Lord of Lords died. He was crucified, which was a method of execution where a person was hung from a cross or similar structure until dead.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

What would have been your thoughts viewing the crucifixion of Christ?

NOTES:

Day 19
The Siblings of Jesus

“Then they scoffed, “He’s just the carpenter’s son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all of these things?” Matthew 13:55-56 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

These verses record words spoken about the relatives of Jesus. His three brothers are listed but no names given for the sisters of Jesus, which happened to be at least two.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in these verses?

Practical Application:

List the names of your siblings and the type of relationship you had with each one.

NOTES:

Day 20
The Silence of Jesus

“Then the high priest stood up before the others and asked Jesus, “Well, aren’t you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?” But Jesus was silent and made no reply. Then the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” Mark 14:60-61 (NLT)

Biblical Illumination:

These verses record words spoken to Jesus by a religious leader after the Master was arrested on false charges. Jesus refused to defend himself or dignify his accusers with his own words.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in these verses?

Practical Application:

When is it most hardest for you to remain silent and wait on God?

NOTES:

Day 21
The Skill of Jesus

Jesus stood up and commanded the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still.” Then the wind stopped, and it became completely calm.” Mark 4:39 (NCV)

Biblical Illumination:

This verse records an amazing ability of the Savior. His power and influence is clearly seen even over nature.

Personal Observation:

What stands out for you in this verse?

Practical Application:

Which skill set of Jesus have you most appreciated in your life?

NOTES:
