

Luke Journaling Record Weeks 1-4

Week 1 Journaling

Describe what you learn from this character, what qualities you would like to develop spiritually in our own life, and why this character captured your imagination.

Judah Davis' response: *God brought Zacharias to mind. He had knowledge, life experience (and endurance under Rome) but he lacked maturity in the living faith in God. He didn't seem to remember the many times throughout he and Elizabeth's life when there was need, concern, heartache, fear and God answered them, carried them, guided them, strengthened them. With the experience of Abraham before him, how much more, as a priest, he should have jumped at the opportunity to trust God in this...This was his Eureka moment! Instead, his head-heart was in distrust rather than the joy of answered prayer. And so his voice was taken. In Jeremiah chapter 15, God told Jeremiah to say worthy, not worthless things...to extract the precious from the worthless and then God will have him be God's spokesman.*

Lessons from Zacharias: We are to live every day seeing God's lead, help, guidance and repair...to tune our heart ears to His ways. The evidences of his leading are everywhere. The more we see them (and acknowledge them) the more loved and led we feel. Thank you Lord, for reminding me to check the heart of what my mouth says (and my mind is thinking) ...and I ask you to clean it, clear it and attune it to the awesome worthy things You do every day...just to show us God that you are there and love us! I do not want to stumble in my Abraham moment in doubt!

WEEK 2

For this week's journaling, consider the following. You can choose to do one or all the tasks below. It is up to you and the time you have available to put into this assignment this week:

- ➔ 3. Set aside a time of reflection. Choose this week to focus NOT on doing God's will but seeking God's will. Write out a short paragraph of what you learned from this time.

Judah Davis' response:

What I heard from God: Focus on seeking (hearing, knowing) God's will

Scripture to focus on:

Rom 12:1-2

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

What I heard in seeking the Lord:

"Go to the basics...not just know, but bring the into everyday action and heart. Ponder throughout the day. Hear God's heart in the message.

Seek what God wants... and what God us to understand and live...what kind of wholeness."

WEEK 3

1. Luke 6:20-26 is a section of the Sermon that speaks both comfort and discomfort.
 - a. Jesus is speaking to different groups, addressing them as “**you.**” Describe these 2 groups in your own words, thinking about who they would represent today in our own lives.
 - b. Do you find this section comforting or disturbing? Explain in a couple of sentences why you find these statements by Jesus to be comforting or disturbing.

Judah Davis' Response: (a) *The ones blessed are the disciples who are poor, hunger etc. The ones who receive the woes are the wealthy who have no room in their heart for God's word or for their fellow man.* (b) *I find this grounding and truthful. Jesus knew the suffering of his followers and he knew the selfishness of others. God is not against the abundant life, his kingdom calls to attend to God and to our fellow man.*

2. Luke 6:27-31. This section begins with Jesus speaking to “you who are listening”/“willing to listen.”
 - a. Why does Jesus draw attention to this group? What kind of people are these?
 - b. What command does Jesus give to this group?
 - c. What kinds of actions do enemies do? Is there anyone like that in your life?
 - d. What kinds of responses are we to make? How might you start to respond this way to the people you listed in question c?

Judah Davis' response: (a) *Jesus points out that many people are not willing to listen...their hearts do not allow God's words and way into it.* (b) *Command: To be perfect like our heavenly father is perfect and* (c) *not return animosity for animosity,* (d) *but to keep holding onto God's ground of agape love and forgiveness. It gives both us and the other person a chance—again—to step into God's kingdom.*

(c) *Our 'enemies' speak the words of the devil...anything to undermine, disenfranchise, separate—and steal, kill and destroy.*

3. An important section of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain is Luke 6:32-38.
 - a. Compare the actions of the **you** and the **sinner**s, then respond to what Jesus means by this way of saying this teaching (“If you...even sinners”).
 - b. What do we learn about the nature of love Jesus wants us to have? What are some ways you could become a more loving person?
 - c. Try putting one insight you gained from this section into practice this week and write out what you learned about yourself and God.

Judah Davis response: (a) *“You ...even sinners!” gives their worst case scenario in a moral sermon!* (b) *Nature of love: not to be dragged into the devil's thinking, speaking and reaction...to stay in God's kingdom!!* (c) *Locating our heart, our thinking and our actions in God's kingdom and staying there is the whole battle. Also remember God is looking to win people's hearts by our perseverance of love.*

WEEK 4

As part of your spiritual journey this week, set aside time to talk with God about these things.

1. Start each morning when you wake up with a simple, "Good morning, Jesus." This will help you to be conscious of Jesus' presence with you from the very start.
2. When you go to bed each evening, let your last thoughts be of Jesus, perhaps even saying, "Good night, Lord."
3. Let the Spirit guide you in setting aside a few minutes of uninterrupted awareness of God's Presence in your day.
4. Take time to be still and listen only, asking for nothing, just being with God.
5. For those of you who can, find the time once this week to pray about what it is you desperately want from God, naming the things you need to let go of, identifying the spiritual values you want for your life, etc.

Then, at the end of the week, write out in 1 or 2 paragraphs what you learned from this time with God.

Judah Davis' response: *God asked for more quiet, being/listening time to ponder what I study in the Word to give God time to impress me with his thoughts. This is one of the things God brought to mind:*

I had been reading a book that discussed law versus works and heard "Law is a grace." Believers are called to obedience, and we need law to help us understand what love is. But law's grace isn't complete without the grace of mercy...which teaches us the next step in love. There was more eventually explained but it is not important to share here the theological comments as for me to recognize the process God wanted to establish. Thank you for this exercise!