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Final Journal

Week 5

1. What do you learn about God the Father in these first 9 chapters?

I see how He prepared His people about His coming by giving the birth prophecies. He then gave them up to 30 years to examine and think about all the prophetic Scriptures to confirm to them in their minds. He made it clear enough that Israel should have been looking for the promised SEED. His will is that all be saved and this shows His provision for that.

2. What do you learn about Jesus in these first 9 chapters? What kind of a person is He?

Jesus taught so deeply on important things of life (through parables) - especially the concept of what you believe in regards to God- in fact He is confrontational about it- who did you come to see? It shows that what you believe now on earth will determine your future- His will that all would be saved. His showing of miracles and healings reveals His character in relation to others. He cares enough that all can be healed - His desire for that. And He affirmed also before the people that He was NO ORDINARY man - so pay attention- He did teach openly often, not hiding. He embraced His disciples and prepared them with understanding for carrying on. He prepared them by giving the disciples insight into the hearts of men- who could do that? He also gave the ultimate insight to the 3 disciples by the vision of the glory of Jesus transfiguration.

3. What do we learn about the disciples from their interactions with Jesus? (Think about their behavior, attitudes, etc. that are revealed throughout this section).

I think we see the humanness of the disciples, especially as the ask- who is the greatest? They also dealt with the natural elements of this world, and sleep, and tiredness and hunger (feeding of 5000), and fear (where is your faith?). But the

Lord provided insight and compassion and moves forward with them to embrace and grow in faith (trusting God).

4. What do we learn about the religious leaders from their interactions with people and with Jesus?

I think as soon as they realized that this Jesus- was NOT who they thought He would be - and He did not give them positive feedback in regard to how they themselves were acting and ruling, and then He didn't act like they thought He should - they came against Him and FOUND ways to test Him. Now examination of Him would have been OK - we don't believe blindly, but they refused to be open and examine their own hearts- they left offended.

Week 6

1. We cannot escape the awareness that Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem. Earlier in 9:51 we learned that Jesus “set his face” resolutely to go and fulfill His destiny. What topics does Jesus cover in 9:51-12:48? As we get closer and closer, what topics does Jesus cover in 12:49-14:35? Do you see a pattern? Does the shadow of the cross add something to this teachings.

inclusion of Samaritans for Jesus teaching and presence

commitment and cost of discipleship

disciples to focus on Kingdom not on the world

total dependence on God

Gospel is message of peace and grace to all

power (for disciples) in the Kingdom for healing and deliverance

emphasis on eternal versus temporal

relationship between believer and Father, Son, and Holy Sprit

Good Samaritan and human love and responsibility

confidence on prayer

spiritual warfare and prayer

either with God or against

warning of sign of Jonah

teachings and woes on hypocrisy

we are valuable to God

parable on value of eternal kingdom values versus wasteful selfish and uncaring living toward others

true treasure in the Kingdom

In these earlier topics of Jesus teaching I see the path of focus, strengthening of prayer, and the extent of Jesus message - all can be included.

be ready and warnings for Kings return

responsibility and accountability

mustard seed faith

narrow door to enter kingdom

rich people's hindrance to enter narrow door - pull of temporal riches

impartiality toward others

In these messages they include strong warnings of the response to the gospel of the kingdom- and the sense of the requirement to respond. Some people will accept God's kingdom- others view it as unimportant.

The shadow of the cross emphasizes the love of God and the sacrifice God has given - the strong opportunity to enter kingdom. No one will have excuse. The greatness of God's provision is incredible - that many don't seem to care is equally incredible.

1. Apply the parable of the barren fig tree (Luke 13:6-9) to the Church today. Can we mistake activity for productivity? Can there be visible signs of tender growth that the Church is compassionate and productive, but the reality is something different? What does repeated failure to reproduce say about the Church and it's teachings?

The Church can be a viable or a dead fig tree as well. The principle of the response of the Church to the living God is based upon a dynamic ongoing breathing of the word of God and the Spirit of God. WE must all rely on the prompting and motivation of true spiritual leadership- not what we think- our works must be led by God.

There is an ability to compassionate that is natural- but in the end- the compassion that flows form a heart connected to God should lead to a true growth. (difficult to explain- not sure what you mean).

When churches fail to stimulate growth in believing people or don't attract believers, then it is reasonable for

the church to evaluate what it is they are teaching and holding to.

Week 7

1. Make a list of the characteristics of a disciple according to Luke's Gospel.

Care for the Lost -- God reveals His heart through the parables- disciples are to understand God's heart so that they can embrace that and carry it forward- His revealing of the LOSTs- sheep, coins, sons are integral to our focus within the kingdom- this is the primary goal of all we do.

Good management of resources- wealth and money - the priorities that we have responsibility to choose to invest in shallow temporal things without lasting value or the kingdom-(people). This includes an absolute responsibility to use resources to help people (Lazarus at gate of rich man) and being a good steward over the resources God has provided us.

Understanding of God's word to carry forth - the warning that man's eternal destiny is tied to God's word- Moses and the Prophets. But now is tied to the word of Jesus. It is not our word but the Lord's that matters. His word is Spirit and Life.

Disciples are to be Forgiving

Disciples are to not to create roadblocks for others

Disciples have duty to serve God, obey. God provides for us talents to use in the kingdom- we are without excuse.

God cares so much for people He heals on Sabbath- God does want people well.

He has mercy and compassion.

Stay humble, don't lift yourself up.

The need to be prepared and ready- God can come at any time and you can't go back.

He has given us enough faith.

Be focused on God's plan for your life.

2. Write out a prayer that you can keep with you always as a guide for your walk with Jesus. Using your list, are there areas you need to grow in? Are there areas you need to rejoice in and realize just how much the Lord has done in and through you, adding deep gratitude to the faith you have thus far? In it, answer the question Jesus asked the blind man, "**What do you want me to do for you**?"

prayer- Lord keep my eyes open that I may see clearly and understand You and Your word and my part in the life You've given me in the society I'm in now. Help me so I don't fail. Help me grow more in caring for the lost. Help me decrease my possessions and straighten out my home so that I am not so distracted.

Thank You Lord that I have been able to use some resources (predominately money) that I know have brought help to people. I am not as selfish as in my old life. I have also been able to use some spiritual insight to aid in hurting believers or answer their questions. With these, for example I have received feedback from the Lord that He has been pleased with me- what more could count than that? Which spurs me on.

Lord please bring full healing to me quickly as my life has become so small.

week 8

1. **What frightens me most** is that as I can see humanity in our world becoming so divisive, full of hate. and lawless. I used to think I would escape all this by being raptured then all this awfulness would start in the Tribulation time. I believe now that we are descending into the platform upon which the Tribulation will start. I don't like all this evil stuff between people- it's becoming a WAR between and among people. I feel myself pulling away from people a bit and sort of not caring as much for them. I am frightened more for my own safety than I did not previously and I do fear not fully fulfilling what the Lord may want me to do or where I go because of this.

2. **What does following verse mean to you:** I have confidence in facing God and not facing ultimate judgment because I am so assured of my salvation and His acceptance and love toward me. However, I do see that I could find myself in fearful situations before then and may disappoint the Lord.

3. I would want to accomplish finishing my last days in peace between myself, family and family of God- having no offence or disharmony that would bother me or someone else- not a good loose thread to leave behind. **Jesus desired to accomplish God's** purpose for His life and that was His absolute focus - He gave His life for this. I hope that I may fulfill much of what God gives me to do without any problems or distractions of faltering that might distract or limit me or others from their purpose.

4. **Prayer: Lord,** I see how much focus Jesus gave to You thru His life- His obedience and suffering of course brought about the greatness of Your will that I also partake this great salvation. Lord help me be more focused and will to suffer for Your Kingdom and less selfish. Help me see more clearly what I should do in these remaining years that You would be pleased with me about. Thank You, my Redeemer and Savior. I know Thou hearest my prayer so I will trust You to continue to guide me despite my failings in the flesh.

Week 9

- Read the account of Jesus' revelation of betrayal at the Passover meal and Peter's denial (Luke 22:31-34; 54-62)

D. Read through the story and experience it as Peter. Use your heart, mind, and imagination to let the story unfold within you. Now enter into prayer and imagine that this story is addressing something specific that you believe is a personal failure. What is God telling you?

- a. Where and when does it take place? after the Passover meal in the upper room.
- b. Who is there? all the disciples and Jesus
- c. What happens? Jesus is revealing to Simon and also all the disciples satan's plan to sift him= (testing- severe)now He's addressing Peter in particular, and that Jesus had prayed for him that his faith would not fail- and predicting/warning that he should repent and return to Jesus and strengthen his brothers. and predicted Simon would deny Jesus
- Then Simon in the courtyard denies Jesus- knowing Him, denying himself as a disciple, and not even knowing what the servant was talking about. and he cries bitterly for what he had done. and left the courtyard near where Jesus was.
- a. Who are the major players? Jesus and Simon and the remaining 11 disciples then in the courtyard- the servant girl, the guards, and Simon Peter
- b. Who else is there? someone else x 2
- c. What are they doing? sitting around fire in courtyard
- d. How do they interact? didn't see any particular interactions
- e. What is the setting like? dark- nighttime, outside
- f. What time of day is it? roosters crow in early morning- so this would have been late in the night
- g. What is the mood, the atmosphere? 3 people accused Peter of knowing Jesus- it was not friendly
- a. Who are you? Choose Peter unless you feel compelled to be another character.

- b. What are you doing, thinking, feeling? Peter- very sorrowful the Jesus their Messiah and Teacher had been arrested and he knew it was not going to go well for Him- and he may have also thought that he might never see Him again
- c. What are the sounds, the smells, and the other details about the location that you notice? darkness of night usually makes people quiet and flickering fire makes one pensive. Outside of the high priest's home- odd place for an arrest ?
- d. What are the motions and the undertones that you notice? I think it was quiet with an undertone of fear - there were Roman guard's there. Peter had no friends there- this is a contribution to fear.
- Prayer- Lord even Peter had significant weakness that was revealed in the night- I see this as the deep inner self that doesn't show outwardly- but is within our/my inner self- that even I would like to hide and not address even openly with You. What is so bothersome about it is that You did ALL for me and suffered ALL for me and I don't measure up to what I know I should do- that which You have asked me to do. I see that even Peter's failure and likewise mine- will NOT separate me from Your love. That even our/my weakness might be used to strengthen others - if I learn from it- I think that's the goal is to learn from failure- but Not give up. That You never give up on me.