

Day One: Matthew 9:18-26

- As Jesus was teaching, what happened (18-19)? How do you think it felt for a formal religious leader to call out to subversive Jesus for help? For spiritual needs, assess your own comfort with pursuing unconventional paths instead of official channels. Where does Jesus fit into your approach?
- What happened on the way to Jairus' house (20-21)? The woman seemed just as desperate as Jairus, but less up front about it. Why do you think so? How did Jesus respond to what she did (22)? En route to answering a dire request, Jesus "turned and saw her." What is your response to this moment? Ask Jesus to empower you to do subversive justice in one of the ways he did: to focus your attention on the person in front of you.
- Describe the scene at Jairus' house (23-24). Would you have joined the crowd in laughing at Jesus? Why or why not? How did Jesus heal the girl (24-25)? What was the ripple effect (26)?

Day Two: Matthew 23:13-39

- Summarize each of the "Seven Woes on the Teachers of The Law and the Pharisees" (13-32). Focus on verses 23-24. Obsession with personal purity keeps one from partnering with Jesus to bring justice to the world. If these verses bring conviction, repent and commit to "practicing the latter, without neglecting the former."
- Re-read verses 25-28. Like the preceding two verses, Jesus is exposing the Pharisees' misguided focus on purity. He desires purity on the inside, not the outside, and *only* he can do that transforming work to the heart. Ask God for a pure heart, and that out of it would flow a great desire to do the justice work of Jesus.
- How did Jesus sum up these accusations (33)? What did he say will happen (34-36)? How did he broaden this declaration (37-39)? Right now, allow Jesus your protector to gather you into his arms. What is he speaking to you, and what is he sending you out to do?

Day Three: Matthew 26:47-56

- Set the scene of this text (47). Picture it in your mind's eye; what does it remind you of? How was Jesus identified (48-49)? What did he say to Judas (50)? Why do you think he said that?
- What happened next (50)? Describe what one of Jesus' companions did (51). What did Jesus say in response (52-54)? What is the takeaway for those who think violence is the way to achieve justice? In verse 54, Jesus let us know that this moment is the prelude to his most subversive act: conquering sin through suffering. Hindsight helps us to understand that; what do you think the original audience understood his words to mean?
- Describe the puzzling way the crowd treated Jesus (55). What bigger picture did Jesus see (56)? What did the disciples do (56)? Read John 16:33. You may react to injustice by escaping, like the disciples, or with violence, like in verse 51. There is a better way. By clinging to Jesus, he gives us peace *and* empowers us to change the world. Pray for grace to take him up on this offer.

Day Four: Luke 3:1-20

- Describe the politics surrounding John's fledgling ministry (1-2). What was the gist of his mission (3)? What did Isaiah prophesy about him (4-5)? How does John's ministry point to the subversive justice of God's coming kingdom?
- What did John say to the baptism-seekers (7-9)? Why would he attack these religious leaders? He then offered real-life examples of producing "good fruit"; describe them (11-14). What small yet subversive deeds of justice would he urge you to do?
- Describe the people's thoughts and feelings (15). What insight did John offer (16-18)? Imagine the crowd's reaction. What is your own response to this intense imagery? Finally, why did John rebuke Herod, and what was the aftermath (19-20)? Pray for bravery to similarly disrupt the status quo with subversive justice.

Day Five: Acts 10:23-48

- Where was Peter going (23-24)? Describe his arrival (24-25). Explain his newfound willingness to enter a Gentile's house (27-29). What has God spoken to you about showing his love to outsiders? How did you respond?
- Why did Cornelius call for Peter (30-33)? Consider how the Lord gave each man a vision in order to bring them together. Pray God would also give you visions as he calls you to welcome others in.
- Summarize "everything the Lord commanded" Peter to tell Cornelius (34-43). Re-read verse 38. With neither the Holy Spirit's power nor God's presence, what do you think Jesus' ministry would've been like? Subversive justice is always God's initiative, not our own. Pray you'd follow the Spirit's leading accordingly.
- What happened while Peter was speaking (44, 46)? How did the Jews react (45)? What did Peter then say and do (47-48)? Re-read verse 47 alongside verse 34. Pray God's love, mercy and power would fall on all people across the globe.