

Day One: Job 8

1. In replying to Job, what rhetorical questions did Bildad initially ask (2-3)? What did he claim about Job's deceased children (4)? What advice did he offer to Job (5-6)? How did he think God would respond to such actions (6-7)? What else did Bildad suggest (8-10)? What warnings did he give about "all who forget God" (11-19)? What about the "one who is blameless" (20-22)?
2. Bildad came alongside Job, a friend who lost everything. In chapter 2, we read that for the first seven days of Job's grief, Bildad didn't say a word. Contrast that silence with what he said here in chapter 8. Was Bildad acting as a loving friend to Job? Why or why not? Pray for your own communication in friendships: that you would be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading on when to stay silent and when to speak boldly.

Day Two: Isaiah 55

1. Describe the experience of coming to "the waters" (1-3). What is said about King David (3-4)? Who will come to God's people (5)? Why (5)? What advice is given for finding the Lord (6)? What should "the wicked" do (7)? Why (7)? How do God's thoughts compare to ours (8-9)? How does he describe the delivery and the power of his word (10-11)? What type of environment does he promise to us (12-13)? Why will he do this (13)?
2. Consider the experiential commands of this prophecy: buy, eat, delight, seek, call, go out, etc. What does this communicate to you about God's love? In this moment, besides just believing it, how does he want you to deeply experience his love? Now, meditate on verses 8-9. Which of your ways and thoughts interfere with encountering God's love? Repent of any disobedience and ask for grace to align all areas of your life with the Lord's commands.

Day Three: Mark 1:16-20

1. Set the scene of this text (16). What were Simon and Andrew doing (16)? What did Jesus say to them (17)? How did they respond (18)? What happened next (19)? Describe what Jesus saw (19)? How did he call to James and John (20)? How did they respond (20)? Why do you think these four men were so quick to follow Jesus?
2. Read John 15:16. How do you think it relates to this passage here in Mark? Reflect on Jesus' initial call on your own life. What exactly did you feel invited into at that time? What was he initiating? Did it at all feel like an invitation to friendship with him? Why or why not? Talk to God about the friendship you have with him today: thank him for the good and ask him to shed light on the bad. What do you sense him speaking in response?

Day Four: 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

1. What is distinct about living in the world as Christians (3-4)? Describe the power and purpose of the spiritual weapons believers use (4)? What do believers demolish (5)? What do they do with each thought (5)? What is Paul ready to do (5)? When (5)? What do you think he means here? If he was insinuating that his readers must work hard to make up for time lost to disobedience, how do you think they responded?
2. Consider the relationship between being obedient to Jesus and enjoying his friendship love. How is this evident in your own life? What does John 15:14 teach you about this? Here in 2 Corinthians, Paul discusses intellectual disobedience to the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit to examine your mind and reveal pretensions and thoughts that do not align with the heart of God. How do you think the Lord wants you to respond to this new awareness?

Day Five: Hebrews 4:14-16

1. How is Jesus initially described in this passage (14)? What do all of these attributes embolden us to do (14)? What is Jesus able to do (15)? How was his time on earth like ours (15)? How was it different (15)? Since Jesus can empathize with us, how should we approach God (16)? Why (16)? What do you think the writer means by "time of need"?
2. Empathy and approachability are essential parts of being a good friend. Regarding these qualities, how has Jesus specifically been a good friend to you? What do you want to say to the Lord about this? If you are reluctant to approach God with confidence, offer this struggle up to him. How is he responding to you? Finally, pray that as a friend you too would exude empathy and approachability. What is the first step you will take to try to walk this out?