

Day One: Matthew 25:31-46

- Set the scene of the “Son of Man coming in his glory” (31-32). What will he do with the people (32-33)? What will he say to those on his right (34-36)? How would you sum the “sheep’s” treatment of others? Perhaps “offering unconditional honor” comes to mind. What will confuse the sheep (37-39)? How will Jesus clarify (40)?
- Next, Jesus will address the “goats.” What will he say (41-43)? Similar to the “sheep,” what confusion will they express (44)? How will he make things clear to them (45)? Describe how the “sheep” and the “goats” will experience eternity differently (46).
- All people are worthy of honor because they bear the image of God. Ask the Lord to highlight your successes and failures to abide by this value. What is he speaking? Perhaps this moment calls for repentance. Or maybe you feel led to picture yourself before Jesus as he says to you, “You did it for me.” Whatever you’re experiencing, keep inviting the Lord into this reflection.

Day Two: Mark 10:35-45

- Who approached Jesus, and what did they say to him (35)? How did Jesus initially respond (36)? What did James and John want him to do for them (37)? Why do you think they wanted this?
- What did Jesus say next (38)? What do “cup” and “baptism” symbolize? What made the men feel up this challenge? What would happen, and what was Jesus unable to grant (39-40)?
- How did the other disciples respond to this interaction (41)? Jesus then took this opportunity to explain “servant leadership” to his followers; summarize what he said (42-45). How did he explicitly address the importance of humility? What about sacrifice?
- Now, consider the leadership roles in your life. What opportunities are there for you to take on the mantle of servanthood in both attitude and action? Ask the Lord to bless you in these endeavors and to continue to speak to you about Godly leadership.

Day Three: Mark 15:21-42

- Who carried Jesus’ cross (21)? What did the soldiers do to Jesus (23-24)? What other details does the gospel writer include (25-27)? Describe the way different people treated Jesus (29-32). What happened from noon to 3pm (33-34)? How did people respond (35-36)? Describe the moment of Jesus’ death (37-39).
- During this time, what were Jesus’ female friends doing (40-41)? Imagine yourself as one of these women. What are you thinking? Do you view Jesus’ submission to death as an act of sacrificial love and leadership? Why or why not? How do you feel, emotionally and physically?
- Now, read John 15:13. What is Jesus telling us about his work on the cross? Both the style and depth of his love and leadership are unlike anything we’ve ever experienced. Ask the Holy Spirit to impart a deeper understanding of it to you. And what is one way you can share even just a taste of this with others?

Day Four: John 13:1-17

- Set the scene of this text (1-2). Describe Jesus’ love (1). What is your response to this sort of love? What was Judas planning to do (2)? What did Jesus know about this plan (10-11)? During the meal, what did he do (4-5)? Why (3)?

- Summarize Jesus' conversation with Peter (6-10). What did he then explain to the disciples (12-17)? What does he want them to do (14-15)? How does Jesus, in both the disciples' eyes and your own, challenge the notion of what it means to be a leader? Which imagery or phrases especially capture this? Explain.
- Think about how this applies to your own life and what God desires of you. How exactly does Jesus want you to be blessed by "doing as he has done for you"? In what specific ways can you use any position of leadership to express the sacrificial love of Jesus to others? Pray for grace to walk this out.

Day Five: John 15:9-17

- Describe the love between the Father, the Son, and those who follow God (9-10). Why did Jesus share this information with his disciples (11)? What is his command to us (12)? What is the greatest act of love (13)? Meditate on verses 12-13. What do you think of Jesus' standard of love? How do you think he wants you to express it to others?
- Describe what it means to be Jesus' friend (14-15). According to this definition, can you count yourself among Jesus' friends? Mull over this with the Lord; what does he have to say? Why does Jesus call people to himself (16)?
- What command did Jesus then reiterate (17)? Honestly consider your willingness to sacrifice or to experience pain, even lay down your life, in order to "love each other." Do you heed this call? Or does something cause you to stumble? What might that be? As you reflect, ask Jesus to meet you and visualize him extending his sacrificial love to you. In this space, what is he saying to you?