



Faith



Love



Flying Water



The Feet of the Cross



Good Shepherd - Lost & Found

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The Sower



Joyful

TO.....S
A CLOSER WALK

WRITTEN BY CATHERINE PRICE
ILLUSTRATED BY CONNIE RHODES



Wise & Foolish



Widow's Offering



Fishes of Net



Come Follow Me



Prayer & Care



Hi! I am Catherine Price and I live in the small town of Aliceville, Kansas. I am a member of the Mont Ida Church of the Brethren. I have been married to my husband, James, for 28 years. I have just recently retired from Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation in Burlington, Kansas where I worked in the Accounting Dept. for 17 years. For the last 10 years, I have taught the Young Adult Sunday School Class and I also help to lead the singing. I began writing a newsletter for our church in September of 2007, shortly after my "inspiration" came at the Western Plains District Conference. Connie Rhodes' Footprint Art was displayed in the sanctuary of the McPherson Church of the Brethren and our theme was "Come...Follow Jesus."

Connie has graciously allowed me to use her art in the Newsletter and I have done so through 2007 and 2008. In 2009, I published several newsletters that were consolidations of several months. My last newsletter was in August 2009. After this I felt God's calling to begin a Daily Devotional Book based on these Footprints. I talked to Connie about my idea and she was very excited about it and has been a constant inspiration in her willingness to share all of her art so freely. Since that time I have been working on each month's devotionals which, looking at the cover of the book, you can see on your top left, the theme of "Faith" and going across the top, you see the themes of "Love", and "The Foot of the Cross" "The Living Water -The Holy Spirit". Next, is "The Sower" and on down the right side; "The Wise and Foolish Virgins". This is the first Volume.

Second Volume: May 1, 2013 Update: I am now finished with the Second Volume. These are the Footprint Titles: Prayer & Care; Come, Follow Me & I Will Make You Fishers of Men; The Widow's Mite (Giving); Joy; The Good Shepherd. I am very grateful to God for allowing me to learn these truths as I write down what He has given me to say. I pray that many of you will open up your hearts and allow ALL of His Love to Come In! In Loving Service,

Cathy

If you have comments or questions, please feel free to call or text me at: 1-785-204-2938.



Connie Rhodes would like to extend her greetings to you all. In the above photo, she is doing her art presentation before an audience at Salina, Kansas in April of 2008, at the Western Plains District Ladies Retreat. Her talents became apparent to many of the “Brethren” when we came to the District Conference in July, 2007. She had been given the task of creating art work that depicted the Conference theme: “Come, Follow Jesus” Each of her original designs were in the form of a footprint and artistically portrayed a Bible story or theme. The original paintings were displayed around the sanctuary of the McPherson Church of the Brethren where the Conference was held. As we saw at the Ladies’ Retreat the next year, she is so much more talented. Her presentation includes; painting a beautiful scene while talking to the audience. This usually takes about 30 to 45 minutes. She is a very funny lady. You can see all of her art work on her website: www.artbyrhodes.com. Connie has been a member of the Newton Church of the Brethren for 22 years and is also the Church Clerk, as well as serving on the Church Board and teaching Sunday School where needed.

(this was written in 2011)

FOOTPRINTS TO...
A CLOSER WALK

AUGUST DEVOTIONAL

CHAPTER EIGHT

“COME AND FOLLOW JESUS”



Come Follow Me...and I will make you...Fishers of Men

Mark 1: 16-18; "Now as He walked by the sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, "Come ye after Me, and I will make you become fishers of men!" - They immediately left their nets and followed Him."

"And they dropped everything and left it behind. What a pure example of commitment to serve others." Connie Rhodes

These two footprints go hand in hand, or "foot to foot" if you will. When we come to Jesus we must follow Him. This indicates that He does not stand still. He keeps going, and if we are to keep up with Him we must follow after Him. As in the footprints above, we must jump in there with both feet as He immediately starts teaching us how to be fishers of men. When we come to Christ, we are forgiven, we are cleansed, we feel a wonderful sense of freedom and joy! This automatically causes us to tell someone. (I've got to tell somebody!) We have already begun to follow Him by telling others of the joys of knowing Him! The Great Commission is Jesus' commandment to all of His followers to "go and make disciples!" Once we have accepted His offer of Living Water, His Holy Spirit comes into our hearts to lead us onward to enable us to fulfill and obey this commandment.

FOOTPRINTS TO...
A CLOSER WALK

AUGUST DEVOTIONAL

CHAPTER EIGHT

“COME AND FOLLOW JESUS”

FIRST WEEK

“FOLLOWING”



Come Follow Me
Mark 1

DAY ONE.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

HOW DO WE FOLLOW HIM?

Scripture Reading: Mark 1: (I am using the Sub-headings of each segment of scripture as a guideline of events in Jesus' life) "John baptizes Jesus; Jesus Begins His Galilean Ministry; Four Fishermen called as Disciples; Jesus Casts out an unclean Spirit; Peter's Mother-in-Law Healed; Many Healed after Sabbath sunset; Preaching in Galilee; Jesus Cleanses a Leper; (to be continued)

Ok. Pretend that you have just started your journey of following Jesus. You have done the first step; which is to Come to Him and accept Him as your Savior. Now, He says, "Follow me..." Our example is what the first men did when He called them to come. This in itself was very amazing! Four fishermen, leaving their nets? When my husband goes fishing, there is nothing that is going to distract him, much less, something that so compels him that he would drop his fishing pole immediately! Especially if the fishing is really good, and he is about to get a bite! But, here were these men, who were very special. They somehow discerned that this man was someone very unique. It had to have been partly their own curiosity. But something drew them to Him. We will study all four gospels to understand this better. Are you drawn to Jesus? We follow Him because we know who He is and what it means to follow Him. But, they followed Him, unsure of where He would take them or what He would require of them. Jesus immediately started healing people. This would have given the fishermen some encouragement that they had done the right thing! Peter already had enough confidence in Him to ask Him to heal his sick mother-in-law. She immediately got up out of the sickbed and started serving the others.

Do we see a pattern here, when people are touched by the Master, they immediately begin serving. We want to take a closer look at the men that Jesus called to be His disciples, because it is interesting when we realize that we are also called to be His disciples. Everyone who is a follower of Jesus is also a disciple of His. In the next two months, we will take a look at discipleship, and from that we will begin working on our own spiritual disciplines. Did you know that the word disciple means "disciplined one?"

Why else would there be a derivative word such as "disciple" unless it came from the word "discipline?" I often wonder how many different definitions people could come up with, if we were to ask what "Christian" means. I believe that it means that we are His disciples, His followers and His students and slaves.

Prayer

Lord, I love You and adore You. Thank You for all of Your infinite wisdom in everything that You did while on earth. Thank You that everything that You did was a teaching lesson for us, as well as, taking care of all of our needs. In Your name, Amen

DAY TWO.....CHAPTER EIGHT

EIGHTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

DISCIPLES ARE CALLED

Scripture Reading: (NIV) John 1: 35-42: ANDREW AND SIMON PETER: "The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, 'Look, the Lamb of God!' When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, 'What do you want?' They said, 'Rabbi' (which means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' 'Come' He replied, 'and you will see!' So they went and saw where He was staying, and spent the day with Him. It was about the tenth hour. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah!' (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, 'You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas' (which, when translated, is Peter)"

I am using the Chronological Bible (The Daily Bible is the actual title) for this study because I trust it to have the order correct in the events that are recorded throughout the Gospels but are put together so beautifully and is profoundly knowledgeable in showing us what happened first and then next. This has helped me to see that before these disciples were called to follow Him, they were John the Baptist's disciples, and therefore, were informed of Jesus before this and had knowledge of who He really was. We can most assuredly assume that they were in the number who had repented and were baptized by John, to be prepared for the coming of the Messiah. It is a great place to start, looking at Andrew and seeing what he did as soon as he found the Messiah. He wanted to find his brother and tell him, and then he brought him to Jesus and introduced him. This is our clue for the day. Go tell someone that you have found the Messiah, the Christ, the Savior of the World! And then, bring them to Him and introduce them to Him.

Prayer

Precious Lord, I Praise You for coming to this earth and living here among us. That is so awesome, and how blessed would be those who followed Him and had the blessed privilege of serving along side Him. I see that I have that privilege now as well. Help me to understand more about discipleship. In Your name, Amen

DAY THREE.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

PHILIP AND NATHANAEL

Scripture Reading: John 1:43-51: "The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, He said to him, 'Follow Me!' Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' 'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked. 'Come and see' said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, He said to him, 'Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.' 'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel!" Jesus said, 'You believe because I said I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that.' He then added, 'I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.'"

Here again we see Philip telling Nathanael to come and meet Jesus. Jesus told Nathanael that He knew who he was. That is so exciting! Because we see here that all kinds of places in the Bible we read about God's omniscience and how He watches us and plans our lives, and this is also seen in Jesus as He treads the earth. I think that Jesus knew exactly who He wanted to be His disciples and hand-picked them. That means that He did the same thing with me, and you. Jesus' encouragement to Nathanael that he will see heaven open and angels coming and going is enough to keep Nathanael's attention and motivation razor sharp! What will keep your own attention and motivation and devotion going strong? Find out what it is so that you can be ready for the Master's voice in your heart when He calls you to "follow Him."

Prayer

Lord, I want to follow You into areas that I do not know as yet. Help me to listen closely to Your voice in my heart through the Holy Spirit's leading. In Your name, Amen

DAY FOUR.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)
WATER INTO WINE

Scripture Reading: John 2:1-11: " On the third day a wedding took place in Cana, in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there and Jesus and His disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to Him, 'They have no more wine.' 'Dear woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied, 'my time has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever He tells you.' Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim. Then He told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.' They did so and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.' This the first of His miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him."

This was the first miracle that was performed by our Lord. We see also, that this was when the disciples put their faith in Jesus. "It took a miracle" is the phrase that comes to my mind. They had been told that Jesus was the Lamb of God, and the Holy One prophesied by Isaiah, and that is why they followed Him, but now they saw Him so much more clearly and believed in Him. And so Jesus began His great Galilean Ministry, in the city streets and roads of Palestine, to homes and fields and wherever else the common people might be found. He was particularly fond of attending the Jewish Synagogues, where the common man is permitted to discuss the meaning of Jewish scripture. Using the city of Capernaum as a base for His travels, Jesus teaches and performs around the Sea of Galilee (Lake of Gennesaret) and throughout the entire province.

Prayer

Father, how I long to know so many things that are recorded in scripture but need much more of an understanding for me to grasp the full scope and significance of it all. Fill me with Your love, In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY FIVE.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

JESUS AND JOHN BAPTIZE

Scripture Reading: John 3:22-24; 4:1-3: "After this, Jesus and His disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where He spent some time with them, and baptized. Now

John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized. (This was before John was put in prison)."

"The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John, although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but His disciples. When the Lord learned of this, He left Judea and went back once more to Galilee."

These two scriptures are telling us that there were many disciples coming to Jesus, and being baptized. Also, that it was important to John to point out in his writings, that Jesus was not the one baptizing people, it was the disciples. So, this confirms the fact that all of His disciples had to believe and be baptized to become disciples, and that they had the authority to baptize others. John 4:46-54: "Once more He visited Cana in Galilee, where He had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to Him and begged Him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. 'Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders,' Jesus told him, 'you will never believe.' The royal official said, 'Sir, come down before my child dies.' Jesus replied, 'You may go. Your son will live.' The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, the fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour. Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, 'Your son will live.' So he and all his household believed. This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed, having come from Judea to Galilee."

Prayer

Father, Thank You that we have a Savior that heals and even brings the dead back to life. Oh the Power of Jesus Name, Amen

DAY SIX.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK

(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

JESUS PREACHES THE KINGDOM

Scripture Reading:

Chronological scriptures (Matt. 4:12-17, Mk. 1:14-15; Lk. 4:14-16) (Lk. 4:16-30)

“When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He returned to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, He went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.’ From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near!” And news of Him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised Him.” “He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath Day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. And He stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Then He said, ‘today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’ (They were very angry when He said this and much more and tried to kill Him.)

Jesus has been going from place to place gathering His disciples around Him. We can only assume that He has been teaching them as He goes, but the scripture above indicates that He is just now beginning to actually “preach” publicly. Though there were many who praised Him we see that many also rejected Him. Some people loved Him and some people hated Him. As we see from this last scripture, He was rejected in His hometown and even predicted this when He said, ‘No prophet is accepted in his hometown.’ He knew their hearts. Just as He knows our hearts. Just as He knows my heart, I hope that I never reject Him in anyway. But, I have to remember that if I have ever rejected even the least of these my brethren, I have rejected Him.

Prayer

Father, Jesus has shown me that Your love was perfected in Him, in that He came to earth as a man to live among us and heal and save those who were so needy, just like me.
In Jesus Mighty Name, Amen

DAY SEVEN.....CHAPTER EIGHT

EIGHTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

GO FISH!

Chronological scripture; Lk. 5:1-10: "One day while Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around Him and listening to the Word of God, He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then He sat down and taught the people from the boat. When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because You say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!' For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men.' 'Come, follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him."

This is the longer version of our introductory scripture from Mark. It is only now that this takes place; after all of the other events that we have progressively been reading about, as we follow along in the "Daily Bible" and see that this is the reasonable way that things happened. Now, Jesus has collected together Andrew, Simon Peter, Philip, Nathanael (or Bartholomew, he is called later), James and John. This was a wonderful demonstration of His Power and also that of showing them that He intended for them to continue sharing with others the wonderful news of the Messiah's presence with them and that there would be many opportunities to continue this ministry, with His help, just as with the fish. All along this journey, we see Jesus' encouragement and provision for His followers. Next week, we will continue that journey, as we watch what the disciples do, so that we can learn from them to also be His disciples.

Prayer

Lord, lead on to greater knowledge and guidance about being a disciple that You can be very pleased with. In Jesus Name, Amen

FOOTPRINTS TO...
A CLOSER WALK

AUGUST DEVOTIONAL

CHAPTER EIGHT

“COME AND FOLLOW JESUS”

SECOND WEEK

“MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE”

DAY EIGHT.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

MATTHEW (LEVI) IS CALLED

Scripture Reading: NIV(Daily Bible) Matt. 9:9; Mark 2:13-14; Lk.5:27-28

"Once again, Jesus went out beside the Lake. A large crowd called to Him, and He began to teach them. As He walked along, He saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow Me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed Him."

After Jesus calls Matthew to follow Him, Matthew throws a big party for Jesus, and invited all of his friends, and isn't this a great picture of evangelism. As disciples of Christ we must also share our joy and delight in knowing Him as our Savior with our families and friends. Why not have a big party and introduce everyone there to Jesus and let them know about how He has changed your life? As usual, the Pharisees were all over His case, pointing out that He was carousing with sinners, and the fact that John's disciples were fasting, and His' were partying. His answers to both were, "It is not the healthy that need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but the sinners!" "Can you make the guests of the Bridegroom fast while He is with them? But the time will come when the Bridegroom will be taken from them, in those days they will fast."

Jesus continued His healing and teaching, even going up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. There is where He healed the paralyzed man lying beside the Pool of Bethesda, which was where many had found healing for their ailments. But the man could not get anyone to help him into the Pool so that he could be healed.

Jesus healed him and the man picked up his mat and walked away. But he didn't know who it was that had healed him for Jesus had slipped away in the crowd. But later he saw Him in the Temple, and Jesus spoke to him about his healing, and the man knew it was Jesus who had healed him. How many times have you been healed by Jesus? We tend to give the doctors all the credit, or the medicine, but healing comes from God and we must give the credit to Him and the praise.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for all of the times that you have healed me. Over and over You have shown mercy upon me, help me to tell others of Your wonderful healing power. In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY NINE.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

JESUS CHOOSES THE TWELVE

Scripture Reading: Mk.3:13-19;Lk.6:12-16; Lk.6:17-19: "One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also designated apostles: Simon (whom He named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor." "He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of His disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch Him, because power was coming from Him and healing them all."

The momentum is building as He becomes widely known and has many more following after Him, He prays all night before making His choice of His twelve Apostles. These were His closest allies, and He was preparing them for His greater ministry, as the crowds came from farther and farther away and became larger, He needed these Apostles to help Him with crowd control and many other things that are not recorded but one can speculate as to all of the functions that they fulfilled. For now, Jesus was preparing for His Big Open Air Revival Meeting—The Sermon on the Mount. This was as much for His own Apostles teaching as it was for everyone else, and of course, we who are now able to study all that was preached that day are helped immensely by it, thus we are doubly blessed. Since we are studying about the disciples and what they can teach us about discipleship, we must heed the words of Christ on the subject more than on the disciples themselves. For He has many things to teach us about these "Be-Attitudes." There are also a list of Be Not-Attitudes. Tomorrow we will examine them in this light. We must have the right attitude, to be effective as disciples.
Attitude determines our Altitude!

Prayer

Lord, help us as we examine the "Beatitudes" and see them as teaching points for all of us to live by. For we long to please You, our Lord and King. In Jesus Name,
Amen

DAY TEN.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

Scripture Reference: Mt. 5-7; Lk.6

THE BE-ATTITUDES

Be humble; you will have the Kingdom.
Be mournful; you will be comforted.
Be meek and mild; the whole wide world is yours.
Be hungry and thirsty for righteousness;
You shall be filled and satisfied.
Be merciful; you will be given more mercy
Be pure in heart; you shall see God.
Be full of peace; you will be called a son of God.
Be good to those who persecute you;
You have the kingdom.
Be glad when persecution comes;
You have a great reward in heaven.
Be salt and light; they shall see your good works
And give God the glory.
Obey the law; you shall be called great in the Kingdom.
Be righteous; you will find entrance into the Kingdom.
Be diligent in prayer; ask, seek, and knock;
He will give good gifts to His children.
Seek first the Kingdom; and all these things will be added
Unto you.
Forgive others where they have wronged you;
And your heavenly Father will forgive you.
Be discerning, you shall know them by their fruits;
You shall find the narrow gate that leads into the Kingdom.
Be wise and build on solid ground; you will never fall.

Prayer

Father thank you for teaching us what we need to know so that we will be useful and fruitful disciples of Christ. Thank you also, that these things will lead us into complete joy and rest. You provide all of this so that we can be with You. In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY ELEVEN.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

Scripture Reference: Mt. 5-7; Lk.6

“BE NOT—ATTITUDES”

Be not angry with anyone; you will be saved from judgment & Hell.

Be not lustful or adulterous; you will be saved from Hell.

Be not an oath-taker or swearer; you will be kept from the evil one.

Be not vengeful; God will avenge the evil done to you.

Be not prejudiced or biased; you will be a son of God and perfect.

Be not a showoff; do good in secret; your reward will be in the open.

Be not unforgiving, but forgive; the Lord will forgive you.

Be not greedy; do not store up treasures on earth; but store up treasures in
heaven;

For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.

Be not in the darkness; keep your eyes on the Light (Jesus);

The Lord will fill you with light.

Be not pluralistic (duplistic) you cannot serve two masters;

You will hate the one and love the other. You cannot serve both
God and Money.

Be not worried; trust God; He will provide all your needs,

According to His riches in Heaven.

Be not judgmental; therefore, God will not judge you.

Be not hypocritical; be true to yourself; change your own life;

You will see clearly to help others.

Be not a worrier, be a prayer warrior.

Prayer

Father, I praise You for Your guidance and counsel to us today. Help each of us
to take these instructions to heart and to live them out in our spirits. In Jesus
Name, Amen


DAY TWELVE.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE TWELVE APOSTLES ARE SENT OUT

Scripture Readings: Mat.8:18-22; Lk. 9:57-62: "When Jesus saw the crowd around Him, He gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. Then a teacher of the law came to Him and said, 'Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go,' Jesus replied, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.' He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury the dead, but you go and proclaim the Kingdom of God.' Still another said, 'I will follow You Lord, but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family.' Jesus replied, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom of God.' After this there were many events such as these sub-headings in the Bible indicate: Jesus Calms the Sea; Demon-Possessed Gerasene; Jairus begs Jesus to Heal; Woman touches Garment; Jairus' Daughter raised; Two Blind Men Healed; Mute made to Speak; Jesus Rejected Again.

After His second rejection in His hometown of Nazareth, Jesus gains renewed encouragement as He is met by crowds in other parts of Galilee. Keenly aware of their need for spiritual guidance, Jesus calls for those who are willing to work among the multitudes for the sake of His kingdom. The time is especially appropriate, then, for sending out the twelve apostles on a special mission of teaching and performing miracles with the power He gives them. He warns them that they, like all who would work in the Lord's name, will be persecuted and will face the need for sacrifice. Tomorrow we will see what is going on with His Apostles. The above scriptures are just an object lesson to all of us, for all of the excuses we come up with to not follow Jesus when He calls us. They seem like such logical reasons to us. But I think that there is so much severity here just to emphasize the importance of the mission. It takes ALL of our commitment to Him, in order for us to understand the urgency of the times that we are living in and the fact that we won't be here forever, some day we will be called to go home to be with Him in Heaven. If we are already being diligent enough to follow Him in any ministry He is leading in, we are going to be able to much more easily follow Him all the way home. I think that is what I had in mind when I wrote the poem that I would like to share in between today and tomorrow's devotional.

ART BY CONNIE RHODES
POETRY BY CATHY PRICE

FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE 

If I should die tomorrow and leave you all bereaved;
I want to take away your sorrow by saying just before I leave,
That I was ready and willing to go, the Lord knew this, I told Him so.
I thanked Him for His gifts bestowed in love and grace so free, as I passed beyond
this life, you see.

Beyond the sun which rules the day and counts out the beat of Time;
Beyond time's bonds, with it's decay, its' slaves kept chained till death tolls chime.
Life is just a vapor, and yet we'll all agree, it seems sometimes to be a rough and
troubled sea.

But don't forget the plan and promise in God's Word declared,
Don't overlook the Truth in life and stumble unprepared;
Into a hopeless death of sin where God can never reach you,
For all of life would be a joke, meant to just confuse you.

Look at what is written and you will find within,
All the beauty and the purpose that God has planned for men.
It's worth is far beyond compare, it's the Alpha and Omega for all who dare;
To reach God's truth there is no price, but just to claim the key of Christ!
It's found in faith, in hope, in love; so lift them up to God above.
He'll give you a life devoid of fear, and a promise in death you'll ever hold dear.

Yes, if I should die tomorrow, to go where sin can't follow,
I hope these words express God's will, the Truth, which is for God to instill.
There'll be a sweet communion, between the Lord and I,
And all those things on earth I questioned, will He answer in one sigh!


CRudis

DAY THIRTEEN.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE TWELVE APOSTLES ARE GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS

Scripture Reading: (Chronological Bible)Mt.10:5-15;Mk.6:8-11;Lk.9:3-5:
"These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach the message: "The kingdom of heaven is near!"
'Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the house, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.'"

Are these our instructions? Not necessarily. These were Jesus' instructions for those specific Apostles in that day and time. For instance, we know that His instruction to exclude Gentiles is no longer in effect. Jesus was to go to the lost sheep of Israel FIRST and then came the dispensation of grace upon all people and the gentile nations were all included. Also, the message that He gave them to preach was one of "The Kingdom of Heaven is Near!" Now, Jesus has given us the Great Commission that tells us to go and preach the Gospel; the truth of the gospel is the message about Jesus Christ; and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But, in that day the Apostles were to heal the sick, cast out demons and raise the dead! I often wonder if He means for us to have the same power that the Apostles received from Him, or was it only because Jesus was there in the flesh that they were given that kind of power?

Prayer

Lord, if it be possible, help me to know if there are limitations on we who would be Your disciples, or is it only from our own lack of faith? In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY FOURTEEN.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE TWELVE APOSTLES ARE WARNED

Scripture Reading: (Chronological) Mt.10:16-23: "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking; but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

Here, Jesus sees ahead to all of the disciples who will be going out from here on out and cannot help but give them His advice as well; He tells us how things will be in the "future" as well as in the Apostle's day. This last prophecy of going through all of Israel is for our day; or the Last Days when the Son of Man comes back. In Rev. 14:14: "Then the scene changed and I saw a White Cloud, and someone sitting on it who looked like Jesus, who was called "The Son of Man," with a Crown of Solid Gold upon His head and a sharp sickle in His hand." We know that the Apostles were not able to reach such a vast amount of people as all of Israel would be. So this is also for our day. But now we have a vast array of media to relay the message by satellite all over Israel. Why would it not be already covering all of Israel? I suppose that it would be because of their ears being stopped and their eyes covered because of the unbelief still there today. Not just Israel, but the whole world full of people who cannot listen to the truth, or discern it as truth.

Prayer

Lord, help me not to grow weary of well doing and trying to complete my mission, no matter if anyone listens, or persecutes me for proclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord. Let me still keep on going and never stop. In Jesus Name, Amen

FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK

AUGUST DEVOTIONALS

EIGHTH MONTH

THIRD WEEK

"THE APOSTLES' TRAINING CAMP"

DAY FIFTEEN.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

JESUS TEACHES THE FEAR OF GOD

Scripture Reading: Mt.10:24-33: "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!

Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore, you are of more value than many sparrows. Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

This is their "Pep Talk" before departing from Jesus to go and preach the Gospel and heal many people. We are assuming that this was their first mission trip. It is not recorded, how it all came out. But there is much to learn afterward; this was just their "initiation." We see in Mk.6:30-32: "Then the Apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile." This was a time of rest. They had done well, and now they were rewarded with a time of rest with the Lord.

Prayer

Thank You Lord that we have as much of a record as we do of the activities of Jesus and His Apostles so that we can learn all we can from them. In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY SIXTEEN.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE 5,000 WERE FED

Scripture Reading: Mt.14:15-21; Mk.6:35-44;Lk.9:12-17; Jn.6:5-14

Chronological Bible

"By this time it was late in the day, so His disciples came to Him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what He was going to do. Philip answered Him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each to have a bite!" Another of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then He gave them to His disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand. After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

As we observe this miracle again, in the reading of the Word, we see in the Living Bread of the Word, that Jesus has done this miracle for us as well, as we have gleaned from the Word many "meals" as we have feasted on Him.

Prayer

Lord, we want to come alive in You! Feed us the "Hidden Manna" of Your glorious Word, that we shall be filled! In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY SEVENTEEN.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

Scripture Reading: Mt. 14:23b-27; Mk.6:47-50; Jn. 6:17b-21: "By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night He went out to them, walking on the lake. When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water...He was about to pass by them, but when they saw Him walking on the lake, they thought He was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw Him and were terrified. Immediately He spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid!" Next, we see the whole story unfold. (Chronological scriptures continue) "Lord, if it's You," Peter replied, "tell me to come to You on the water." "Come" He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. "You of little faith," He said, "why did you doubt?"

And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened. Then those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly

You are the Son of God."

This is a very good object lesson for the disciples. We are included in that, of course. When we see Jesus, and He says, "Come" and we get out of the boat of safety and comfort, and walk out onto the water of uncertainty and danger, do we sink? Now we find out that the disciples that had fed the hungry crowd, had still not believed. But after they saw the miracle on the water, they did believe. There was no longer any doubt. Peter doubted when he was sinking. But the other disciples did not doubt that Jesus was able to walk on water and that He calmed the sea. It is hard for us to believe that the disciples still had many areas of unbelief. But we need to come to the place of transparency in Jesus, and realize how many times we disbelieve what Jesus will do for us, if only we would get out of our boat or comfort zone, to meet Him where He is.

If we want His help we need to be close enough for Him to catch us if we start to sink from lack of faith.

Prayer

Lord, give me courage and boldness and most of all FAITH! TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT! In Jesus Name, Amen

Get out of the boat...Sink it and get a better one. Don't leave it all up to Peter.
...Connie Rhodes

It's Wrapper Time 913.908.4322 itswrapperdine@hotmail.com



Get Out of the Boat
Mark 6

This Footprint is so closely relating to the other two that we are studying in August and September that I just had to add it as well. Connie's statement above seems to mean moving on to better things. We must get out of our boats of complacency and perhaps we are stuck in the mud of self-pity or regrets about our past. Let us just sink that old boat and get us a better one, one that will bring us to fresh water and brighter skies.

DAY EIGHTEEN.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

MANY DISCIPLES TURN AWAY

Scripture Reading: Jn.6:39-51: (Jesus has been explaining to a crowd of Jews about the Bread of Heaven is He who comes down from Heaven and gives Life to the World.)

"Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen Me and still you do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him who sent Me. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I shall lose none of all that He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever. He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum." On hearing it, many of His disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"From this time many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him." "For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray Him."

So, there was a "falling away" that occurred in that day. I often wonder if these that turned away came to believe after the Resurrection of Jesus. There are times coming, when people are prophesied to turn away from Jesus. Do not let this happen in your life! There is a point of "no return" I am afraid.

I could quote many scriptures to explain this further, but I think we know.

Jesus then asked His disciples, the twelve Apostles, if they were going to desert Him too. Simon Peter has a great answer, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God." A little later on, when Jesus asks the disciples who they say He is, it is again Peter who speaks up. "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!" This was a very special time, and this portion of scripture has been gone over so many times that I think I had better wait until tomorrow to expound on it further.

Prayer

Oh Lord, it is getting to the most exciting part of the disciples training now.
Let us all take notice, let us awake! Amen

DAY NINETEEN.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH
(Using Chronological Bible Commentary)

Jesus is nearing the time that He must prepare His disciples for His departure. The Gospel accounts record here a confession by Peter that Jesus is the Christ. Using the word "ROCK" symbolically (since Peter's name means "rock"), Jesus says that it is upon this rock of Peter's confession of Christ that Jesus' kingdom will be established.

Scripture Reading: Mat.16:13-20; Mk.8:27-30; Lk.9:18-20: "When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ."

It is helpful to consult the commentaries about this event to understand that the rock that Jesus is to build His church upon is not Peter, even though that is what his name means. It is upon the "confession of Christ" that Jesus' kingdom (Church) is established. What an awesome moment in time! Now, we are given the unmistakable Truth from scripture that the Church was a "New establishment" and called "The Kingdom of Heaven!" This is the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. In the Lord's Prayer, we are to understand that there is a Kingdom of Heaven "on Earth as it is in Heaven." Jesus came to establish His Kingdom on Earth. This is the Kingdom that He was constantly talking in parables about and explaining to anyone who had ears to listen. Now, He was making it clear that the establishment of this Kingdom on Earth was manifested by each individual's "CONFESSION OF FAITH IN JESUS' SAVING THEM FROM SIN."

Prayer

Lord, how awesome are Your ways! Teach us to be your disciples, that we might continue building Your Kingdom in our own sheep-fold (church). Amen

DAY TWENTY.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

(continuing from yesterdays thoughts on the Kingdom)

This is differentiated from the "Tabernacle or Temple" way of worship where it was through the Law and Ritual that God would give acceptance (atonement) to the worshipper, that only covered his sin until the day of Christ. There was clearly a "NEW WAY" being established into His Kingdom. Let no one misunderstand this statement; for we learn through study of the Old Testament that His Kingdom on Earth was established through Moses and God's Ten Commandments given on Mt. Sinai and also the instructions for the building of His First Church—the Tabernacle! This was all a foreshadowing of the work of Christ's REAL Atonement made with His own Blood upon the Mercy Seat in heaven, that occurred upon His ascension to His Father's Throne. It is all wonderfully explained for us in Hebrews. Refresh yourselves in this Book, so that you will again see His Glory! Never lose sight of the Truth and Light of God's Word. He will never forsake you—He keeps on giving and giving—Light.

Now, we are given, along with Peter, the Keys of the Kingdom. I have expounded upon this in many of the devotionals, but here we are again. So, I have another opportunity to share God's wonderful Word. Peter passed on the wonderful Keys in his own epistles that he wrote to the Church. Check out 1 and 11 Peter and bask in the Son Light! It will open doors, it will open your understanding, and your heart. The doors will be opened when you allow His light to go before you right into heaven. There will be doors of hatred, anger, doubt and fear and unforgiveness that will be closed at the same time you do not open them, and will be closed (remembered no more) in heaven. Hallelujah!

Scripture Prayer from Hebrews

Thank You, Lord, for giving us the boldness to enter the Holiest by the Blood of Jesus, by a NEW AND LIVING WAY; which You have consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, Your Flesh, and having You as High Priest over the House of God, let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering for You who promised is faithful!" In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY TWENTY-ONE.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

PREPARING HIS APOSTLES FOR HIS DEATH

Scripture Reading from Chrono.Bible: Mt.16:21-28; Mk.8:31-38, Mk.9:1; Lk.9:21-27

"From that time on, Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels. And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

No matter how much Light Jesus shined around Him, it seemed that the Apostles were still in the dark—so the next object lesson was a BIG one and was actually fulfilling what Jesus had said about them not tasting death until the Kingdom would come in power! "After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus."

FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK

AUGUST DEVOTIONAL

EIGHTH MONTH

FOURTH WEEK

"THE APOSTLES LAST LESSONS"

DAY TWENTY-TWO.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

MANY TEACHINGS ARE MENTIONED

Let us just go through the sub-headings of the next few months of Jesus' Life: EPILEPTIC BOY IS HEALED; COIN FROM THE FISH'S MOUTH; BROTHERS TAUNT JESUS; JESUS TEACHES IN TEMPLE; WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY; JESUS DECLARES HE IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD; JESUS DECLARES ETERNAL EXISTENCE; HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN; HE IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD; TEN LEPERS ARE HEALED; SEVENTY TWO ARE SENT OUT TO MINISTER IN HIS NAME.

So much to do before that final day. Jesus was very concerned about His disciples being ready for His death. As Jesus goes into the area beyond the Jordan River, he is entering the Perea province ruled by the tetrarch Herod Antipas, who also rules in Galilee. It is this same Herod who had earlier beheaded John the Baptist, and he probably now fears a popular uprising of the people in response to Jesus' presence in that territory. Jesus does not fear Herod, however, because he knows that his end will come only in Jerusalem. It is unclear whether a warning about Herod comes from Pharisees who really believe in Jesus or whether they are simply trying to get Jesus to leave their area. During this period of his ministry Jesus once again teaches through numerous parables. His parables cover a wide range of subjects, including the cost of discipleship, the value of lost souls, the rejection of his kingdom, the need for humility, and the unrighteousness of hypocritical religion. It is while Jesus is in Perea that he learns of his friend Lazarus' serious illness in Bethany. Knowing that Lazarus has died, Jesus immediately sets out for Bethany. This is not only a demonstration of His Power but also, is a demonstration of what lies ahead, as well, for Him. This, is the most powerful demonstration that is perhaps all for the purpose of helping His disciples faith to grow and their understanding begin to open up within them. John 11:14-16: "Then Jesus said to the disciples plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe." But, it was for Mary and Martha to also believe as we see in the following scriptures. Then Jesus proclaims: "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE! He who believes in Me though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die" And Martha said when He asked her if she believed this, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." Jesus was to interact with Mary next. This is when He wept. We do not see Mary's reaction to Jesus Miracle in raising Lazarus until later. And what a reaction!

Prayer

Lord, it overwhelms me the way that Your love and power were such that You are able to raise us from the dead! Some of us are even stinking by now, but You turn us into a sweet fragrance for You and give us Eternal Life! Praise You my Lord and King! Amen

DAY TWENTY-THREE.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE ANOINTING

(FROM THE Chronological Daily Bible Commentary): "Surely it is a constant source of discouragement to Jesus—even in these last days, and after repeated lessons on humility—that His disciples are still seeking personal glory in the Kingdom. Even now the Apostles continue to think only in terms of an earthly kingdom. James and John, prompted by their mother, ask that they be given special positions. Jesus admonishes them once again, pointing to the spiritual nature of His Kingdom and to the need for humility and service. Yet the time is short now, and Jesus knows that they will soon understand. There is at least one person who already seems to understand about Jesus' mission and His call for humility. That person is Mary, the sister of Lazarus. As Jesus' journey to Jerusalem comes to an end, the Gospel accounts tell the beautiful story of Mary anointing Jesus with precious ointments. It will be a touching prelude to the brutal events of the final week." (Mt.26:6-13;Mk.14:3-9;Jn.12:1-8): "Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here (in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper) a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray Him, objected. "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me. I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." The lessons are endless that the Lord is teaching His disciples. This one is also teaching and ministering to many other would-be disciples who became followers of Christ after His death. Everywhere, there are words of Jesus that go out to a hurting world; this one as a special encouragement to women who are to also be lights of God's truth. No one is exempt! In the Christian Family of God there are no differences between slave or free, black or white, rich or poor, and also, men and women.

Awesome!

DAY TWENTY-FOUR.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

PALM SUNDAY

Scripture Reading: Jn.12:12-13: "The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" (The Chronological Daily Bible tells us the actual day of this happening and it is actually on Sunday. Therefore, this is exactly one week before Jesus' Resurrection! Just like it is on the calendar! It is not ever on any other day, as the Jewish Feasts are. They are calculated by the signs of the moon, and therefore, each year we see the Feasts of Israel being on a different day and sometimes a different month. It is so prophetic to see the triumphant entry of Jesus and of the people calling Him the King of Israel and the praises and the joy. It is the way that it "should have been" AFTER HIS RESURRECTION! God allows Him this special tribute now, keeping Him encouraged and strong for what He was to face shortly. Let us read in Mt.21:1-2;Mk.11:1-7;Lk.19:29-35;Jn.12:14-16: "As He approached Bethphage and Bethany; at the hill called the Mt. Of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "why are you untying it" tell him, 'The Lord needs it."

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Zechariah: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your King comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" At first

His disciples did not understand all of this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about Him and that they had done these things to Him." Next, the scriptures talk of the "whole crowd of disciples who began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in Heaven and Glory in the Highest!" Some Pharisees rebuked them, but Jesus said that if they kept quiet, the rocks would cry out!" Praise Him now!

DAY TWENTY-FIVE.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

JESUS WEPT AGAIN

Scripture Reading: Luke 19:41-44: Mt.23:37-39: "As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, "If you—even you, had even known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you." "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together; as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

The hurt of rejection and sorrow over their blindness seems to be boiling up to the surface in the emotions of Jesus. He is passionate as He tells some parables about unworthy servants and people say one thing and do another. Mt.21:30-32:"I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him." Mt.21:45-46:"Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.?" "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. He who falls on the stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed." He then told the parable of the wedding banquet. His comment after this parable was: "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

Prayer

Lord, I praise You for your love and endurance, Your patience with men as they are so insensitive and so slow to understand. I know that there were many times that You felt a deep sense of futility. I know that my feelings of these same things are so I can understand how You felt. Amen

DAY TWENTY-SIX.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

Scripture Reading: Mk.21:12-13; Mk.11:15-17; Lk.19:45-46; "On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as He taught them He said, "Is it not written; 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.' " Mk.11:18; Lk.19:47,48; "The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

The blind and the lame came to Him at the Temple and He healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the Temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, 'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise?'"(Mt. 21:14-16) From the Chronological Bible Commentary we read: "On the next day after the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus' popularity is still at a high peak, and children sing his praises as if to thank him for his continual remembrance of them. In a contrasting mood of the day, Matthew, Mark, and Luke each record an incident almost identical to one recorded by John at the beginning of Jesus' ministry—that is, throwing out of the temple merchants. If this is in fact a separate incident, it just may be that Jesus is taking this last opportunity to "purify" the Temple. Enraged as they must be, the merchants and the money changers, like the religious leaders, fear the people and will bide their time."

In the account of the first time Jesus drove out the merchants from the Temple, He actually prophesied as well: (Jn.2:13-25 portions) "When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts He found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So He made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn My Father's house into a market!"

The Jews demanded of Him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple; and I will raise it again in three days." The temple He had spoken of was His body; after He was raised from the dead, His disciples recalled what he had said."

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

Preparing His Disciples for His Death

Scripture Reading: Jn.12:20-26: "Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request, "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me." I want to also quote this next scripture because it is definitely predicting in what manner Jesus is to die. Luke 9:23-26: "Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." Jesus tells us Why: Jn.12:27-33: "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to Him. Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Prayer

Lord, as I write these words of scripture I am again going through the 40 days of Lent, preparing for the Crucifixion and Resurrection of My Lord. I praise you for this time of deep reflection. Amen

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE LAST SUPPER
LESSONS MOST PRECIOUS

Scripture Readings based upon: Lk.22:7-18,24; Jn.13:1-17;

The whole life of Christ had been a life of unselfish service. But the disciples had still not learned the lessons of humility and service that He desired them to learn. So at this Last Passover Supper Jesus repeated His teaching by an illustration that impressed it forever on their minds and hearts. As He met the disciples in the upper chamber, they perceived that something weighed heavily upon His mind, and although they didn't know its cause, they sympathized with His grief. For He was now in the shadow of the Cross, and the pain was torturing His heart. He knew that He would be deserted in the hour of His betrayal. He knew that by the most humiliating process to which criminals were subjected, He would be put to death. He knew the ingratitude and cruelty of those He had come to save. Knowing all this, He might have naturally been overwhelmed with the thought of His own humiliation and suffering. But He looked upon the Twelve, who had been with Him as His own, and who after His shame and sorrow and painful usage were over, would be left to struggle in the world. His thoughts of what He Himself must suffer were ever connected with His disciples. He did not think of Himself-- His care for them was uppermost in His mind. When the disciples entered the upper room, their hearts were full of resentful feelings. Judas pressed next to Christ on the left side; John was on the right. If there was a highest place, Judas was determined to have it, and that place was thought to be next to Christ. And Judas was a traitor. Another cause of dissension had arisen. At a feast it was customary for a servant to wash the feet of the guests, and on this occasion preparation had been made for the service. The pitcher, the basin, and the towel were there, in readiness for the feet washing; but no servant was present, and it was the disciples' part to perform it. But each of the disciples, yielding to wounded pride, determined not to act the part of a servant. All manifested a stoical unconcern, seemingly unconscious that there was anything for them to do. By their silence they refused to humble themselves. Then Jesus rose from the table. Laying aside His outer garments, He took a towel, and girded Himself. With surprised interest the disciples looked on, and in silence waited to see what was to follow. As Jesus moved from one to another, the disciples eyes were opened. They understood the unspoken rebuke, and saw themselves in an altogether new light. Bitter shame and humiliation filled their hearts. When Jesus girded Himself with a towel to wash the dust from their feet, He desired by that very act to wash the alienation, jealousy and pride from their hearts. Until brought into a state of humility and love, they were not prepared to partake in communion with Christ, or to share in the memorial service which Christ was about to institute.

FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK

AUGUST DEVOTIONALS

EIGHTH MONTH

FIFTH WEEK

"HIS PASSION"

DAY TWENTY-NINE.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FIFTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

INSTITUTING THE NEW COVENANT

Scripture Reading: Lk.22:14-16;Mt.26:26-29;Mk.14:22-25;Lk22:17-20:
"When the hour came, Jesus and His Apostles reclined at the table. And He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the Kingdom of God." After taking the Cup, He gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the Kingdom of God comes." And He took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, after the supper, He took the cup, saying, "This Cup is the New Covenant in My Blood, which is poured out for you." The Lamb of God was about to present Himself as a sin offering, and He would thus bring to an end the system of types and ceremonies that for four thousand years had pointed to His death. As He ate the Passover Meal with His disciples, He instituted in its' place the service that was to be the memorial of His great sacrifice. The national festival of the Jews was to pass away forever. The service which Christ established was to be observed by His followers in all lands and through all ages. Christ is still at the table on which the paschal supper is spread. The unleavened cakes are before Him, and the wine, untouched by fermentation is on the table. These emblems Christ employs to represent His own unblemished sacrifice. Nothing corrupted by fermentation, the symbol of sin and death, could represent the "Lamb without blemish and without spot." 1Peter 1:19. Christ's example forbids exclusiveness at the Lord's supper. But let a man examine himself and so eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. He that eats and drinks unworthily, eats and drinks damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." (1 Cor. 11:28,27,29) In partaking with His disciples of the bread and wine, Christ pledged Himself to them as their Redeemer. He committed to them the New Covenant, by which all who receive Him become children of God, and joint heirs with Christ. By this Covenant every blessing that heaven could bestow for this life and the life to come was theirs. This Covenant Deed was to be ratified with the Blood of Christ, and the administration of the sacrament was to keep before the disciples the infinite sacrifice made for each of them individually, as a part of the great whole of fallen humanity.

DAY THIRTY.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FIFTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

FOR THE JOY ENDURED THE CROSS

Scripture Reading: Heb. 12:2: "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the Joy that was set before Him, endured the Cross; despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God!"

Jesus knew all that was facing Him, but He also knew the wonderful things that would be put into place when He had accomplished His "Passion." He wanted the Apostles to know these wonderful things were to come so that they could have hope that would endure through all of the trials ahead. Jn.13:27-35: "What you are about to do, do quickly!" Jesus told Judas, but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."(Jn.14:15-21) "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am I you; Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him. (Jn.14:25-31) "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." "(Mt. 26:31,32;Mk.14:29-31)Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered." But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

Jesus just told them He will rise again. Tomorrow we will go over the "Final Word" of Jesus to His beloved disciples before He is arrested and brought to trial and crucified. I have chosen to cover the discourse to them instead of the crucifixion which has been covered so many times for us.

DAY THIRTY-ONE.....CHAPTER EIGHT
EIGHTH MONTH.....FIFTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

FINAL DISCOURSE OF JESUS TO HIS APOSTLES
BEFORE HIS DEATH

(Chron. Bible Commentary) John alone records the final discourse of Jesus with His chosen disciples. It comes as Jesus and His disciples continue toward the Mount of Olives, just before they cross the Kidron Valley, which forms the eastern border of Jerusalem. Each word Jesus speaks reflects the burden which He feels in leaving these men to finish the work which He has begun. Jesus encourages them in their faith and promises them that in His name they will perform great works. After reminding them that joy will come from sorrow they are about to bear, Jesus offers up a prayer. In that prayer Jesus asks for glorification and that the Father be glorified."

The vine and the branches allegory is the first thing that He wants the disciples to know. It is so Key in our being His disciples. We must abide in Him! But the reason for abiding in Him is that without Him we cannot bear fruit and we are commanded to bear fruit. It is in the bearing of the fruit that He calls us "Disciples!"

The second thing that Jesus is very adamant about is: To Love One Another. He said that He has told them this so that "My Joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. His command is this: Love each other as He has loved them. He tells them that no greater love has anyone than to lay down ones life for a friend. He no longer calls them servants, now He calls them His friends. Jesus chose them, they did not choose Him. He has appointed them to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. He tells us the secret promise! Then the Father will give them whatever they ask for, as long as it is in His name. The third thing Jesus told them was that they would be hated and persecuted because He was hated and persecuted. But when the Counselor comes, He will testify about Him. But the disciples must also testify about Him. They will be put out of the synagogue and anyone who kills them will think he is doing something for God. Jesus tells them that He is going away, but that that is a good thing; the Counselor will not come until He is gone. He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment; in regard to sin, because men do not believe in Him; in regard to righteousness, because He is going to the Father, where they can see Him no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. His disciples ask many questions and Jesus answers plainly and it is then that the disciples finally believe in Him. He said, "You believe at last!" " But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home."