

Lutheran Church of Australia

How to read the Bible

April

Read through the New Testament

Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer

□ Pastor Richard Haar

Get Into It Any Way You Can!

April 1st - Matthew 23:1-22.

Reflect: Do you practice what you preach? Are you making it harder or easier for others to come to Jesus and believe in him? Think of a few specific examples.

Prayer: "Lord, help me to be a servant and a blessing to others! Amen."

April 2nd - Matthew 23:23-39.

Reflect: How would Jesus rate your justice, mercy and faithfulness? How beautiful are you on the inside? How willing are you to let Jesus gather you under his wings?

Prayer: "Lord, please forgive my many failings and increase my faith in you! Amen."

April 3rd - Matthew 24:1-28.

Reflect: If you knew for sure that the world was going to end tomorrow, what changes would you make in your life today? These changes are what being "ready" is all about!

Prayer: "Lord, help me to be ready for your return at all times. Amen."

April 4th - Matthew 24:29-51.

Reflect: Watching and waiting requires faithfulness and wisdom. How would you rate your present state of readiness for Christ's return?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me remain faithful to you as I wait for your return. Amen."

April 5th - Matthew 25:1-30.

Reflect: What talents has Jesus entrusted to you? How faithfully are you using these gifts? What new ways could you use your resources and abilities to glorify God?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to faithfully use my talents in your service! Amen."

April 6th - Matthew 25:31-46.

Reflect: When was the last time you fed the hungry; befriended a stranger; clothed the poor; cared for the sick; or visited someone in prison? Are you more sheep or goat?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to serve you through caring for people in need. Amen."

April 7th - Matthew 26:1-25.

Reflect: How have you shown Jesus that you love him this past week? Could some of your actions this past week been less than loyal to Jesus? Even a betrayal of Jesus?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may my heart always be true to you! Amen."

April 8th - Matthew 26:26-46.

Reflect: Every time we go to Holy Communion we share in Jesus' body and blood "poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Poured out for YOU!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for the precious gift of your Supper! Amen."

April 9th - Matthew 26:47-75.

Reflect: All that happened to Jesus, went according to God's plan to save us. Jesus knew what was going to happen, but still went through with it, for YOUR sake!

Prayer: "Lord, thank you for all that you went through for MY sake. Amen."

April 10th - Matthew 27:1-26.

Reflect: How was Judas' remorse very different from true repentance? Remorse leads to despair (death), but repentance leads to trust in Jesus' forgiveness (life).

Prayer: "Lord, when I fail you, help me turn to you in repentance and faith. Amen."

April 11th - Matthew 27:27-44.

Reflect: How do you feel inside when you read how badly Jesus was treated? How does your heart respond when you remember that he went through this because of your sin?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, words can not express the debt of gratitude I owe you! Amen."

April 12th - Matthew 27:45-66.

Reflect: Jesus had always been at one with his Father, but on the cross he felt forsaken. Jesus was rejected and condemned so that WE might be accepted and forgiven by God!

Prayer: "Lord, you gave yourself for me, now I give myself to you. Amen."

April 13th - Matthew 28:1-20.

Reflect: Jesus' resurrection was not merely the reversal of his death, it was the death of death (the basis of our future resurrection!) and the reason Jesus can be with us always.

Prayer: "Risen Lord, help me to remember that you are always with me. Amen."

April 14th - Mark 1:1-20.

Reflect: Jesus' message and call is still the same today: "Repent and believe the good news!" and "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Prayer: "Lord, make me a faithful follower and a successful fisherman! Amen."

April 15th - Mark 1:21-45.

Reflect: Jesus not only preached the good news, he demonstrated it by bringing healing and freedom. How can our witness to Christ be better backed up with action?

Prayer: "Lord, help me to spread your love by my witness and by my actions. Amen."

April 16th - Mark 2:1-28.

Reflect: Who needs you to carry them to Jesus so they might be healed and forgiven? Remember that Jesus calls the most unlikely people (like Levi) to follow him!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to bring those in need to you for healing. Amen."

April 17th - Mark 3:1-19.

Reflect: The evil spirits were smart enough to recognise Jesus when he came, but the religious leaders rejected him! What about you? How keen are you to follow him?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, you are the Son of God and I trust in you to save me! Amen."

April 18th - Mark 3:20-35.

Reflect: The unforgivable sin is to reject the Holy Spirit and the faith in Jesus he wishes to give us. Without that we stand condemned for our sin with no hope at all!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, fill me with your Spirit and increase my faith in you. Amen."

April 19th - Mark 4:1-20.

Reflect: How deeply rooted is God's Word in your life? What cares of this world tend to block it out so that you no longer listen to it or allow it to direct your life?

Prayer: "Lord, make my heart receptive to your life-giving Word. Amen."

April 20th - Mark 4:21-41.

Reflect: How do you react when Jesus seems to be asleep when you need him the most? How does this story of Jesus calming the storm encourage you in times like this?

Prayer: "Lord, teach me to trust in you, no matter how big the waves get! Amen."

April 21st - Mark 5:1-20.

Reflect: Mission work doesn't just occur elsewhere in foreign lands, Jesus calls us all to, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you."

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to tell those around me about your mercy. Amen."

April 22nd - Mark 5:21-43.

Reflect: When facing death (either our own or that of a loved one) Jesus' words here are spoken also for us: "Don't be afraid; just believe." Jesus is the Lord of life!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me not to be afraid of death, but to trust in you. Amen."

April 23rd - Mark 6:1-29.

Reflect: Is it easier to witness at home (to your family and friends) or to those who don't know you so well? Why is that? How could you be more effective at home?

Prayer: "Lord, you understand my struggles in witnessing. Please help me! Amen."

April 24th - Mark 6:30-56.

Reflect: More often than not we would prefer to send people away to buy their own food. How do you react when Jesus suggests that you should feed (help) them?

Prayer: "Lord, give me your compassion for lost sheep and people in need. Amen."

April 25th - Mark 7:1-23.

Reflect: Do you honour God with your heart as well as with your lips? Is it obvious to others that the way you live is consistent with what you say you believe?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, protect me from the sin of hypocrisy. Amen."

April 26th - Mark 7:24-37.

Reflect: How does your faith measure up to that of the woman in this chapter? She refused to be put off! What an encouragement for us to keep praying for God's help.

Prayer: "Lord, strengthen my faith that you are willing and able to help me. Amen."

April 27th - Mark 8:1-21.

Reflect: These (hungry) people had come along way to hear Jesus.

Are you as eager (and patient) to sit at Jesus feet? How is this reflected in your worship patterns?

Prayer: "Lord, thank you for feeding me both in body and soul! Amen."

April 28th - Mark 8:22-38.

Reflect: Who do you say Jesus is? If you answer (correctly) that he is the Christ, are you also willing to show you know who he is by following in his footsteps?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to take up my cross and follow you. Amen."

April 29th - Mark 9:1-29.

Reflect: God speaks from heaven and what does he say? He says, "Listen to Jesus!" That heavenly advice will see us in good stead in every situation in life!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to always keep my focus on you. Amen."

April 30th - Mark 9:30-50.

Reflect: How would you describe true greatness? How do you feel about Jesus' call to servanthood? How do you link servanthood and greatness in your own mind?

Prayer: "Lord, please give me a servant's heart. Amen."