

# Lutheran Church of Australia

## How to read the Bible

### March Readings

## Read through the New Testament

Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer

□ Pastor Richard Haar

*Get Into It Any Way You Can!*

#### **March 1 - Matthew 5:1-26.**

Reflect: Compare Jesus' description of what being "blessed" means with what most people think. The blessing is in God's promise to save!

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to live as one of your blessed people! Amen."*

#### **March 2 - Matthew 5:27-48.**

Reflect: The Pharisees thought they were good enough to earn a place in God's kingdom. Jesus showed them (and us) their need of forgiveness.

*Prayer: "Lord, I can never be perfect. Please forgive me! Amen."*

#### **March 3 - Matthew 6:1-18.**

Reflect: Jesus tells us to give, pray, and fast in secret. There is no room for "piously showing off" in the Christian life. Why not?

*Prayer: "Lord, may all I do be done for YOUR glory. Amen."*

#### **March 4 - Matthew 6:19-34.**

Reflect: What is your greatest treasure in life? Where does Jesus come in your set of priorities? (Honestly!?!?) What is Jesus saying to you here?

*Prayer: "God, help me to gladly give you top priority in my life. Amen."*

#### **March 5 - Matthew 7:1-29.**

Reflect: Are you ever guilty of having a judgemental attitude? What can be done about it? How does this compare to God's attitude towards us?

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to be more accepting of others! Amen."*

#### **March 6 - Matthew 8:1-17.**

Reflect: Jesus is the Great Healer. Do you believe he can still heal today? What would you have said if you were the leper? Centurion?

Peter?

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for your help and healing. Amen."*

**March 7 - Matthew 8:18-34.**

Reflect: How much does it cost to follow Jesus? How much have you given up? How does this compare with the benefits of being a Christian?

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may I always be glad to be your follower! Amen."*

**March 8 - Matthew 9:1-17.**

Reflect: The first step in becoming spiritually healthy is admitting you are sick and need help from Doctor Jesus. We call this "repentance."

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for your healing forgiveness! Amen."*

**March 9 - Matthew 9:18-38.**

Reflect: God has already prepared the harvest of those touched by Jesus. The question remains: Are you willing to work in his harvest field?

*Prayer: "Here I am, Lord, send me, use me, in Christ's name. Amen."*

**March 10 - Matthew 10:1-25.**

Reflect: Jesus calls us to share in his mission and suffering. That's both thrilling and frightening. It'll work out: God promises to see us through!

*Prayer: "Lord, help me not be afraid to tell others about you. Amen."*

**March 11 - Matthew 10:26-42.**

Reflect: Are you determined to follow Jesus, no matter what? Meditating on how Jesus went to the cross for us, helps us to bear our own cross.

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to find true life by giving my life to you. Amen."*

**March 12 - Matthew 11:1-30.**

Reflect: What things in life make you start doubting about Jesus? In those times of discouragement, what most renews your hope and faith?

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, give me your rest, comfort and renewal. Amen."*

**March 13 - Matthew 12:1-32.**

Reflect: People were more important to Jesus than the Jewish Law. Do you have a similar love and concern for people? How do you show it?

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, fill me with your love and compassion. Amen."*

**March 14 - Matthew 12:33-50.**

Reflect: What kind of fruit does your heart produce? Christ has made us into good trees! Doing our Father's will shows we are his children!

*Prayer: "Heavenly Father, help me do your will in all things! Amen."*

**March 15 - Matthew 13:1-30.**

Reflect: How receptive a soil is your heart to God's Word? Do you hear it gladly? Do you believe it? Trust in it? And do you act on it?

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to be good soil and to bear a rich crop. Amen."*

**March 16 - Matthew 13:31-58.**

Reflect: How full of joy are you about the Gospel? Can others see that for you Christ's love and forgiveness is "the pearl of great price"?

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, let me never lose my "first-love" for you. Amen."*

**March 17 - Matthew 14:1-21.**

Reflect: Things that God calls us to do seem impossible at first, but the feeding of the 5,000 is a reminder that nothing is too hard for God!

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to trust in your goodness and power. Amen."*

**March 18 - Matthew 14:22-36.**

Reflect: When the waves of life threaten to drown you, remember to keep your focus on Jesus rather than on the problems you are struggling with!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, increase my faith in you. Amen."*

**March 19 - Matthew 15:1-20.**

Reflect: What has been coming out of your mouth lately? Are there things that God needs to clean up? Where is this uncleanness rooted?

*Prayer: "Lord, make my heart clean, inside and out! Amen."*

**March 20 - Matthew 15:21-39.**

Reflect: How quickly do you give up asking if God doesn't answer your prayers straight away? Consider this Canaanite woman's example!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, teach me to more trusting when I pray. Amen."*

**March 21 - Matthew 16:1-28.**

Reflect: If someone came up to you unexpectedly and asked you who you think Jesus is, and what he means to you, what would you say?

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, yes, you are the Christ, the Son of God. Amen."*

**March 22 - Matthew 17:1-27.**

Reflect: Can you name a time in your life when God was especially close? In which areas of your life would you like to have more faith?

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, increase my faith in you. Amen."*

**March 23 - Matthew 18:1-14.**

Reflect: What things in your life need amputating? What is presently standing in the way of you growing more as a Christian? Get rid of it!!

*Prayer: "Good Shepherd, thank you for bringing me back home!*

*Amen."*

**March 24 - Matthew 18:15-35.**

Reflect: When was the last time you forgave someone who had wronged you in a major way? Did you do it grudgingly or gladly? Why?

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to forgive others, as you forgive me! Amen."*

**March 25 - Matthew 19:1-30.**

Reflect: Jesus challenged this man where it hurt the most - in his wallet! Most Western Christians struggle with this exact issue. How about you?

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, free me from the love of money. Please! Amen."*

**March 26 - Matthew 20:1-19.**

Reflect: How do you feel about the first being last and the last being first? Honestly?!? Read this passage again focusing on God's generosity!

*Prayer: "Lord, thank you for being so generous to me! Amen."*

**March 27 - Matthew 20:20-34.**

Reflect: In what ways could you grow in serving others? How do you relate your service of others with Christ's service of you?

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to grow in servanthood. Amen."*

**March 28 - Matthew 21:1-22.**

Reflect: If Jesus were to visit your Church, what tables would he turn over? How would people react? What would Jesus overturn (change) in your life? Why?

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, forgive, heal, renew and bless me. Amen."*

**March 29 - Matthew 21:23-46.**

Reflect: Can you think of a time when you said to Jesus, "Yes, I will do it." But you didn't? There's still time to be like the first son in the parable, so why not do it today?!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to do your will, both willingly and faithfully. Amen."*

**March 30 - Matthew 22:1-22.**

Reflect: None of us deserve to attend God's wedding banquet. We are invited by God's grace. God even provides the wedding clothes (Jesus' righteousness) for us to wear!

*Prayer: "Heavenly Father, help me to respond to your call with faith in Jesus. Amen."*

**March 31 - Matthew 22:23-46.**

Reflect: Loving God totally and loving others as ourselves, sums up the Law. We sinners are incapable of such perfect love. Thank God, we live by God's forgiveness!

*Prayer: "Jesus, my Saviour, fill me with your love. Amen."*