



ontrack devotions

MARK

SEPTEMBER 2024

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16

Who I Will Reach

How I Will Do It

How It Went

Other Requests

Date Answered

How It Was Answered

MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

Name: _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will **help you grow in your walk with God**. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my commitment last month? _____

I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____ day(s) each week this month.

Church Attendance:

How did I do last month with my attendance? _____

I will attend church _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend small group _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

(List any other activities you will participate in this month—Bible study, church events, etc.)

Bible Memory:

How did I do with Bible memory last month? _____

I will memorize _____ verse(s) this month.

Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Jesus? _____

I will share Jesus with _____ this month.

I will serve my local church this month by _____

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

Imagine while walking, a stranger comes to you and asks you to follow him. What would you do? What questions would you ask before making a decision? In today's reading, that is what happened to the disciples. What questions do you think they might have asked before making a commitment? From this passage, we learn that these men left everything to follow Jesus. They left their homes, families, jobs, and friends to follow Him. In fact, Scripture says that they not only left, but they did it without delay. They had to be very committed. Stop right now and make a list of three important priorities in your life. Look at them and ask yourself, "Am I willing to leave these to follow Jesus?" Is there an area of your life that you are unwilling to leave behind in order to follow Jesus—your friends, a job, or your family? God may never ask us to leave our lives behind, but we must be willing to do just that.

SAY WHAT?

What things are people unwilling to leave to follow Jesus?

SO WHAT?

Why do you think it is difficult for people to leave those things?

NOW WHAT?

What areas do you need to evaluate in order to be more like the disciples in this passage?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING

MARK 1

Why did Jesus get up "very early in the morning, while it was still dark" to pray (vs35)? Could it be that it was the only time that He could be alone, without distractions? Or maybe because He knew it was important and didn't want to begin a day without time with the Father? Jesus knew each day would be filled with opportunities and He wanted to be ready to take advantage of them. He knew each day would be filled with temptations and He wanted to be prepared to resist them. His personal time with God was so important that even though it meant getting up very early in the morning, He did so. If it were that important to Jesus, how important does that make it for you and me? We often wait until the last part of the day to spend time with God, after we have finished everything else. We rarely sacrifice a favorite TV show, social media, or work, but we don't mind if it's our time with God. How important is your time with God each day? Should you spend time with God in the morning or more often each week? What changes do you need to make?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

MARK 1

What thoughts do you suppose went through the minds of the men who brought the paralytic to Jesus and then found out that they could not get in? Once they realized it, they did not give up. They found another way to get the man to Jesus. They were so convinced that Jesus could heal him and so committed to helping their friend that they didn't give up even when it got tough. It is obvious that these men not only believed that Jesus could heal their friend, but were willing to go the extra mile to make it happen. Jesus was so impressed with their actions that He healed the paralytic because of the faith of the men on the roof, not the paralyzed man(vs5). What a thrill to know that my faith can impact those around me. God may respond to others because of my faith. What a great opportunity this gives us. What actions have you recently taken on behalf of someone else? Who are you burdened for? What steps can you take to reach out to them? Who can you encourage today?

SAY WHAT?

Write down the names of some friends you are burdened for.

SO WHAT?

What specifically would you like to see God do in their lives?

NOW WHAT?

What steps can you take to encourage them?

THEN WHAT?

What commitment can you make about what you have written above?

EXTRA READING
MARK 2

Why did Jesus become angry with the Pharisees (vs5)? In what way did they demonstrate this attitude in the account that Mark records for us? Jesus performed a miracle right before their eyes, and instead of seeing it for what it was, they saw it as a violation of the law. Unbelievable! In fact, they were so stubborn that they were willing to join forces with the terrorists of their day, the Herodians, who were willing to murder people in order to overthrow Rome. These Pharisees missed a miracle because their stubborn hearts would not allow them to see it. How blind they were to the needs of hurting people and even to their own need for Jesus. Jesus chose to meet the needs of people even if it violated religious traditions and customs. In what way do you demonstrate a stubborn unbelieving heart? Do you look beyond the circumstances to see the lives of hurting people? Are you refusing to take the steps necessary to follow Jesus? If you see signs of a stubborn heart, begin to change it today.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

MARK 3

How do you think Jesus' mother and brothers felt when they heard Him say what He did in verses 33-35? What did Jesus mean when He spoke of doing God's will? Sometimes we make doing God's will so much more complicated than it should be. When someone mentions the will of God, some of us get nervous or imagine it as the future. We think it implies life changing decisions like who to marry, where to go to college, and what job to pursue. God's will is simply doing what He says each day of my life. It is living my life every day to please Him and obeying what He tells me in His Word. Who to marry, what school to go to, and what job to pursue are decisions based on God's will, but I can be sure I am choosing God's will in those future decisions by making sure I do what He says each day. It means being faithful today by spending time in God's Word, living consistently at work, resisting temptation, obeying authorities, and fulfilling commitments I have made. What area of your life should you completely submit to God's control? Begin doing what you know His will is for today and let tomorrow take care of itself.

SAY WHAT?

What are some things you can do this week to please God?

SO WHAT?

How can you make sure you do the things you listed above?

NOW WHAT?

What can you do to make sure you stay consistent in those areas?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

MARK 3

What is the seed in this parable? Who is the farmer? What do the soils illustrate? This parable demonstrates to us that people respond to the Gospel message in very different ways. The first example is people who reject it immediately after they hear it. The second example is people who may appear as if they have accepted it, but over time we see that they did not. The third group we see in this parable are those who walk away from their commitment to Jesus when trouble or persecution comes. Others get caught up in the desire for money, acceptance, or success and soon those things take God's place in their lives. In this parable, we see that over a period of time a person's true response to the Gospel is revealed. What kind of response have you had to the message of Jesus? Has time revealed that you really are following Jesus or is time telling you that maybe you are not? Take a few minutes today to examine your life and see what it tells you about your faith. What kind of soil are you? What conclusion have you come to and what are you going to do about it?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

MARK 4

PROVERBS 19

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

Do you remember the last time you were so frightened that you thought your heart would beat right through your chest or may even stop? What thoughts went through your mind? What do you think went through the minds of the disciples when the storm hit and they were out in the middle of the water? From their response, we see that they thought they were going to die and they were terrified. Why were they so afraid even though Jesus was in the boat? Is it possible that even after spending so much time with Him they did not really understand His abilities or remembered what He told them? He told them they were going to the other side (vs35). They had either forgotten what He said or did not trust what He said. In the storm, they did not believe He would protect them. They saw Him sleeping and assumed He did not know or care about what was going on in their lives. Are you facing a storm? If it appears that Jesus is unaware, remember He still has it under control. Don't ignore or forget what He has told you!

SAY WHAT?

What frightening circumstances are you facing?

SO WHAT?

What are you afraid will happen?

NOW WHAT?

What has God said in His Word about those things?

THEN WHAT?

What do you need to do to trust Him with this circumstance?

EXTRA READING

MARK 4

Can you imagine the anguish this demon-possessed man must have experienced living in such torment? How horrible his cries in the night must have sounded! No wonder he came running to Jesus. He knew that Jesus could deliver him from his torment and restore him to a new life. Realizing what Jesus had done for him by healing him, he came to Jesus later and begged to go with Him. Why do you think Jesus said no? Could it be that this man had a story to tell? It was the story about what Jesus Christ did in his life, which is the story he could tell better than anyone else. Going away with Jesus would take him from the very people God wanted him to reach. So Jesus said no and sent him back to his world to tell them what God had done for him. He did and Scripture tells us that all the people were amazed when they realized what God had done for him. Have you allowed Jesus to change your life? If He has changed your life, when was the last time you told someone? People desperately need to hear that Jesus will change their lives.

SAY WHAT?

Write down the names of people you know Jesus has changed.

SO WHAT?

In what way is your story similar to theirs? In what way is your story different than theirs?

NOW WHAT?

In what ways does your life demonstrate that Jesus changes lives?

THEN WHAT?

What should your next step be?

EXTRA READING
MARK 5

Have you ever faced a problem that just never seemed to go away? If so, there is encouragement in today's reading. In this section of Scripture, we read of a woman who had been struggling with a health problem for a very long time. In fact, she had been struggling with it for 12 years and, although she had tried everything to fix it, she found no relief from her suffering. Why do you think she went to Jesus? All too often we treat our problems this same way. We struggle and struggle trying to fix the problem and never seem to be able to. As a last resort, we take it to God. Then we wonder why we waited so long to give it to Him. What problem are you now facing that you need to turn over to God? It is awesome to finally find relief when we give it to Him! Write down some problems you are facing that you need to give to God and then pray, asking Him to take them from you.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

MARK 5

What specific instructions did Jesus give to the twelve in today's reading? Why did He give those particular instructions to them? Jesus had a goal in mind for the disciples. He knew what they would face and what they would need to do in order to be successful. According to the passage, they went out and followed His instructions, and as a result, many people were helped. How would the results have been different if they had not obeyed? What if the disciples thought Jesus' instructions were stupid and didn't make sense? What if they thought the instructions were unnecessary? Had they not responded to His instructions as they did, they would not have been successful. How well do you follow and obey your parents, pastors, bosses, teachers, or other authorities? Maybe the reason you are struggling in certain areas is that you are not following instructions. Today, follow instructions with an attitude that God would approve of. He has a purpose for everything He does. You will be amazed with the results!

SAY WHAT?

What authorities do you have to obey?

SO WHAT?

How can you tell if you are obeying with a good attitude?

NOW WHAT?

What can you do to ensure that you are obeying the instructions God is giving to you?

THEN WHAT?

What can you do to make sure you follow through on your plan?

EXTRA READING

MARK 6

When was the last time you were asked to do something that seemed impossible? In fact, you wondered what in the world was wrong with the person who asked you to do it. For example, feeding 5,000 people when you had little money and almost no food? That is exactly what the disciples were asked to do in this passage. Jesus turned to them and said that He did not want to send the people home hungry and wanted the disciples to feed them all. Although it seemed impossible, the impossible was exactly what Jesus had in mind. They looked at the task and decided it could not be done. What they failed to see was the power of God in the midst of the impossible. What is impossible for man is possible with God. Is God asking you to do something you think is impossible? What miracle might you be missing because you think it's impossible? Ask God to enable you to trust Him and allow Him to do what might seem impossible.

SAY WHAT?

In what areas do you find it difficult to trust God?

SO WHAT?

Why is it so hard for you to trust God in those areas?

NOW WHAT?

How can you use today's reading to help you in those areas?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

MARK 6

What is a hypocrite? How close does the definition come to the one Isaiah gives in this passage (vs7)? He says that a hypocrite is someone who honors God with their lips, or by what they say, but their heart is far from God. A hypocrite is someone whose actions do not match their words. The way they act on the outside is not really what is going on inside. How close are you to the definition given here? If we could see the true condition of your heart, would we conclude that your actions match your words? Leading people to a wrong conclusion about you is wrong. What would it take for you to change your hypocrisy? Make a list of the areas of your life that you struggle the most in. Make a plan today to change all that and stop being a hypocrite.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

MARK 7

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

Where did Jesus take the deaf man in order to heal him? Why did Jesus give those instructions to him after He had healed him (vs36)? We might assume that Jesus would want everyone to see Him heal the deaf man. We might think that after Jesus healed the man, He would want him to tell everyone what Jesus had done for him. In this case, however, Jesus did not react that way. It must have been hard for the man to follow the instructions and hard to understand why they had been given. What do you imagine was on Jesus' mind? One thing we do know is that it was the best way to respond to what had happened. The hardest times to obey God's commands occur when they seem to make no sense to us. Or, as in this case, He asks us to do something that is difficult. It is important to remember that God knows what is best, and, while it might not make sense to you, His ways are always best. In what areas are you struggling to do what God has asked of you? Rather than try to figure out why He is asking that or trying to logically make sense of the situation, just determine to do it.

SAY WHAT?

What is the hardest thing God ever asked you to do? What made it hard?

SO WHAT?

As you look back on it now, why do you think God asked you to do it?

NOW WHAT?

What is the hardest thing for you to trust God with right now? Why is it hard?

THEN WHAT?

Write out a prayer of commitment to begin to obey and submit to God in this area.

EXTRA READING

MARK 7

Have you ever talked to someone about a concern you had with what they were doing and they just continued to repeat the behavior? How did it make you feel? How did you respond? In this passage, the disciples find themselves in the same position as earlier. Jesus wanted to feed a large group of people with little food. Obviously, they did not learn the lesson Jesus tried to teach them when He fed 5,000 people in Mark 6:30-44. It is interesting to observe Jesus' response to them. He did not get angry, defensive, or have any of the reactions we so often use when people don't listen to us. He is our example of how we need to respond to someone who does not listen to us. Who in your world needs to see a more Jesus-like response from you? Maybe you need to ask their forgiveness for your past responses. Start today to be more like Jesus when others don't listen to you.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

MARK 8

How did Peter react to what Jesus told the disciples about His future suffering and death? Why do you think Peter responded the way he did? Regardless of what we might think his motives were, his response was wrong. In fact, Jesus tells him that his response indicated that he did not have the things of God in mind. What things did Peter have in mind? Did he respond in that particular way because he did not want someone he loved to suffer? Was he considering the implications on his life were Jesus to die? Was he afraid to be left without Him? Peter was so intent on what Jesus said in the beginning that he missed what He said at the end. He told them "...and after three days I will rise again." He heard the first part, but totally missed the most important part. Do you see yourself making the same mistakes that Peter made here? Are you missing what God is doing in your life because you're convinced you already know? It is so sad to miss what God is trying to do in our lives.

SAY WHAT?

What thoughts seem to occupy your mind the most lately?

SO WHAT?

What impact do they have on your response to God's Word when you read it or hear it?

NOW WHAT?

How can you avoid missing what God may be doing in your life?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING

MARK 8

What do you suppose went through the minds of Peter, James, and John at the transfiguration? Think of how you would have felt at that moment, and then on top of everything else going on, Moses and Elijah appear! The privilege of witnessing that moment may have made those men wonder what God had in mind for them. Not only did they witness an unbelievable event and see Jesus in His supernatural form, but God the Father audibly spoke. Notice what God said in the midst of this awesome moment. He told the disciples to listen to Him. Could it be that the whole point of this moment was to get Peter, James, and John to listen to Jesus? How well do you listen to what God is saying to you through your time in God's Word or a message at church? We often have so much going on around us that we fail to listen to what God is saying to us. The more we realize who God is, the more it should motivate us to listen. In what ways can you improve your listening skills in your relationship with God today? He has much to say to us.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

MARK 9

Think of someone you really look up to. How have they impacted your life? What is it about them that has had an influence on you? Is it someone who has been with you through difficult times, someone who has given you some much-needed advice, or talked to you about Jesus? Who, when asked those same questions, would give your name as someone who has impacted them? If we could honestly look at the influence you have on the people in your world, would it be positive, negative, or just neutral? In today's reading, we hear from Jesus how He feels about those who use their influence on people to lead them into sin. How sobering to know that each of us have people watching us every day. Often we do not even realize the kind of influence we are having on the people around us. What do you need to change in your life to better influence people? Honestly examine your life and then make the changes in order to be an influence for good.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

MARK 9

If someone came to you and asked the same question that Jesus was asked in verse 17, what would you say? Would you give the answer that Jesus gave? While the man said he came to find eternal life, he left discouraged with the answer Jesus gave him. It would seem that although the man wanted to have eternal life, he did not want to give up what Jesus indicated was necessary in order to get it. Jesus clearly demands that we give up everything to follow Him. Following Jesus is not an easy thing to do. God does not want to just be part of our lives, He desires to be everything to us. When we come to Jesus, we are committing to allow Him to be the leader of our lives. What do you have right now that you have been unwilling to give up in order to follow Jesus with your whole heart? How comforting to then read verses 29-31 and realize that in reality we do not give anything up. Write down what you find the most difficult to give up in order to follow Jesus. Then pray that God will enable you to give it to Him.

SAY WHAT?

What is it that you think people feel they have to give up in order to follow Jesus?

SO WHAT?

Why would someone be unwilling to give up those things?

NOW WHAT?

What is keeping you from following Jesus?

THEN WHAT?

Write a prayer to God telling Him your fears and asking Him to enable you to give up whatever is necessary.

EXTRA READING

MARK 10



PROVERBS 21

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

When was the last time you became really upset about something? What does your response to that circumstance tell you about yourself? You can learn a lot about someone by looking at the things that make them angry. Some people get mad every time they do not get what they want. Some people get mad when someone does not do what they should've done. What conclusions can we come to about Jesus by looking at what made Him angry? We see that He cared deeply about the temple and, when the people disrespected it, He became angry. His anger was never caused by something that someone did or did not do for Him. It wasn't about getting His own way. He cared about how people treated and responded to each other. He demonstrated that He cared more about how people responded to God and others than He cared about Himself. Make a list today of the things that have made you angry in the past two weeks. Ask yourself why and what your anger tells you about yourself. What should you do in light of what you discovered?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

MARK 11



Why did the Pharisees ask the question they did in verse 28? Did they really want to know the answer? Although it is a very important question, they apparently did not want the answer. They did not like what Jesus was telling them, so by questioning His authority, they weren't obligated to listen to Him. People ask the same questions today, but usually when they do not want to do what the Bible requires. They say things like "Who gives you the right to tell me that?" or "Why should I listen to you?" The answer to those questions is the Bible. God has given us the Bible as the absolute authority in our lives and we must follow it. All the authorities in our lives have been placed there by God and we should treat them with the respect that He demands. We may not like that answer, but it should dictate our behavior. He expects our obedience.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

MARK 11

Why was Jesus so impressed with what the widow gave in today's reading? In what way was her offering different from the offerings of the rich? This section gives us an important and encouraging principle. Jesus was not impressed with the amount that the widow gave, but with the heart in which she gave it and in relation to how much she had. Although the rich people gave much more than the poor widow, Jesus knew how wealthy they were and how little she had. When Jesus compared what they had against what she had, He concluded that she gave much more. If that same standard were applied to your generosity, how would God feel about what you give? Maybe today would be a good time for you to think about what you give. Starting this week, give what would please God.

SAY WHAT?

List some reasons that God wants you to be generous.

SO WHAT?

What words would you use to describe your attitude towards generosity?

NOW WHAT?

What words would you use to describe how much you give in relationship to how much you have?

THEN WHAT?

What do you need to do in order to improve in the area of generosity?

EXTRA READING

MARK 12

What question did Peter, James, John, and Andrew ask Jesus in verse 4? How many different signs did Jesus give them? If we study those signs and compare them to the current events, we should conclude that the end is closer than we realized. In fact, the reality is that there are no other signs yet to take place. Every sign Jesus mentioned has already taken place, so the next event on the Biblical calendar is His return. It was crucial for the disciples, knowing the end was at hand, to be ready. Jesus wanted them to live each day as though it were their last. Are you ready for His return? What areas in your life do you need to change before you are ready to meet Jesus? Make a list of the steps you need to take in order to be ready for His return. Who can you talk to about this?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

MARK 13

What request did Jesus give to His disciples in verse 34? Why did He want them to keep watch for Him? While we always think about the physical suffering Jesus endured at the crucifixion, we often forget about the emotional pain of moments like the one in today's reading. That might be the key reason Jesus wanted them with Him. Think about it. First, He was betrayed by Judas, whom He had loved for three years. He was really hurting and told those close to Him that He was "overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." He asked those who were close to Him to pray for Him during this very emotional time. They not only failed to pray for Him, but fell asleep two times. When He needed their support and encouragement, they failed. Have you ever felt like Jesus must have felt at that moment? You may have been really discouraged and needed prayer and support, but no one seemed to care. It is a great comfort that Jesus knows exactly how you feel. When no one else cares, He always does. He is never too busy or too weary to help. He is always available. Are you? Who needs your encouragement today?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

MARK 14

What character in this passage stood out to you? While we may think about Jesus right away, notice the servant of the High Priest. Because of his position with the High Priest, he must have overheard many conversations about Jesus, all of which had to be negative. We can only imagine how he must have felt about Him. With that in mind, put yourself in his shoes. You followed the High Priest to the garden and, just as you had anticipated, there was resistance. One of Jesus' men drew his sword and cut off your ear. The actions of the disciple would confirm who you thought Jesus was and that the punishment coming was well deserved. Then, to your amazement, Jesus rebuked the one who cut off your ear and put it back on your head. That must have confused the servant at the very least and surely had to have an unbelievable impact on him. Do you impact people the same way? When people seek to hurt you, do you respond with such kindness and love it shocks them? What opportunities do you have each day to be kind?

SAY WHAT?

What responses have you seen in others that have amazed you?

SO WHAT?

Why did they amaze you?

NOW WHAT?

What situations have you recently faced where your response could have impacted people this same way?

THEN WHAT?

What do you need to do to respond like Jesus did in this passage?

EXTRA READING

MARK 14

What did Jesus Christ go through in this chapter? How many different ways did they punish Him? See if you can list them all. Of all the ones on your list, which one do you think was the most painful? It is amazing to realize that Jesus Christ went through all that for you. Everything in this chapter was for you. His beard was ripped out for you. A crown of thorns was pressed into His head for you. That is amazing love! How do you respond to such love? With a life of apathy? Today, the page has been designed to help you list the things from this chapter that Jesus endured and how you should respond. Read over it a few times and simply meditate on how much Jesus Christ loves you. Then think about how you need to respond to such incredible love. What will you do in light of what you've just read?

SAY WHAT?

List the different things that happened to Jesus in this chapter.

SO WHAT?

What do those things say about Jesus' love for you?

NOW WHAT?

How should you respond to Jesus in light of all He's done for you?

THEN WHAT?

What are three ways you will show Him your thankfulness this week?

EXTRA READING

MARK 15

What instructions did the angel give to Mary in today's reading? Why do you think he added the phrase, "and Peter?" It would seem that when Jesus sent the message, he especially wanted to comfort and encourage Peter to take a stand for Him. How thrilling it must have been, after what Peter had done, to know that Mary was to specifically tell him. Could it be that Jesus wanted Peter to know that his failure had been forgiven and that He still loved him? Could God have added that small but significant phrase in this chapter to communicate to us that no matter how badly we fail, He still loves us and wants to use us? Jesus had not given up on Peter. He knew that Peter was hurting because of his denial. Jesus wanted him to know that he was not forgotten, but was still useful to Him. Have you allowed past failure to hinder you from being used by God? Use this passage to remind yourself that no matter what you have done, God still loves you and still desires to use you when you seek His forgiveness.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

MARK 16



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I BAPTIZED YOU IN WATER,
BUT HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU
IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.
MARK 1:8

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