

Who needs Jesus? You need Jesus.

Are you wealthy or poor? You need Jesus. Are you religious or an atheist? You need Jesus. Are you guilty or innocent? You need Jesus. Are you a child or an elderly person? You need Jesus. Are you successful or a failure? You need Jesus. Are you a boss or a slave? You need Jesus. We all need Jesus.

Written by Stephen Lebron. Stephen lives in the Middle East trying to be a light for Jesus in the region.



**BIBLE
SOCIETY**

Live light

Scripture taken from *The Holy Bible: ESV*

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
1	And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.	Mark 7:24-26	<p>This woman is not hesitant to approach Jesus, even though she had good reason to be. She risked her reputation and seemingly ordinary way of life to reach out to Jesus, because she was a woman in desperate need. Often, we are the very opposite of this woman: reluctant to approach Jesus; thinking that we don't need him. The truth is that we are more like the desperate woman in this passage than we might like to admit. We need Jesus to heal us, and help us live well into eternity.</p> <p>In what way do you need Jesus? Will you call out to him today?</p>	Lord, please remind me that I need you in all areas of my life. Amen.
2	“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”	Mark 10:14-15	<p>We must not ignore the fact that in recent history, some people in the organised church have used their power to bring harm and abuse to children. But note that Jesus takes the complete opposite approach to children. The kingdom of God belongs to children, not to the powerful, wealthy and respected. And those who are powerful, well they should know that if they don't receive Jesus like these children have (i.e. come running to him instead of making Jesus prove himself to you), then you can't be a part of God's new world order – one ruled by justice and mercy, with true peace that comes from God himself.</p> <p>Will you come in humility, like a child, to Jesus?</p>	Help me Lord to come to Jesus like a child. Amen.

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3	<p>The centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.</p>	Matthew 8:8-10	<p>Power is exhilarating. Being able to boss people around, tell them what to do, how to do their jobs – what power and authority you have to wield! We all have some power, and can effect change and command others to a certain degree. But Jesus’ power is powerful to all degrees.</p> <p>Will you submit to Jesus’ power, and ask him to act in power to save people?</p>	<p>Father, in the limited power that I have, may I always see your power and might and may I never waver from following you. Amen.</p>
4	<p>And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.”</p> <p>So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”</p> <p>As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’”</p>	Luke 19:5-13	<p>Triumph is so much sweeter when the path there has been marked by adversity and pain. In the same way, grace is often much more appreciated where sin has been great. When confronted with Jesus, Zaccheus realises all the fraud and theft he has committed and he seeks to right the wrong. Jesus receives him – not because of how important or powerful he was, but because he came to Jesus wanting mercy and forgiveness. Zaccheus wanted a new, transformed life, and Jesus was more than happy to oblige.</p> <p>What sin is standing in the way of you receiving God’s abundant grace? Will you confess it today?</p>	<p>Please Lord may I seek you and be totally transformed and renewed everyday. Amen.</p>

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5	For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.	1 Peter 3:18	<p>Without Christ, we are all on the wrong side of history. It's the righteous one (Jesus) against the unrighteous (everyone else). But the shockingly wonderful reality of the gospel is that this righteous man (Jesus) died, so that the spiritual bankruptcy of the unrighteous ones (everyone else) could be dealt with. It's truly shocking, isn't it?</p> <p>Does knowing that you were lumped together with the "unrighteous ones" before knowing Christ change how you think about unbelievers?</p>	Father, forgive my arrogance at seeing the sins of other people and not my own. May I remember that Jesus died for all people everywhere. Amen.
6	Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."	John 3:4-5	<p>There is a huge difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus personally. Nicodemus knows that Jesus is a teacher sent by God. Nicodemus knows a lot about the Jewish law. Nicodemus even knows that it's impossible for a man to re-enter his mothers' womb. But he doesn't know that he needs to get to know Jesus the person, if he wants to be saved and live with Jesus forever.</p> <p>Have you fully understood Jesus?</p>	Father, please transform me, so I can know you and live for you. Amen.
7	But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."	Matthew 9:12-13	<p>When my family first arrived in the Middle East, I was an object of scorn because I was an Asian man. Being an outcast is not fun. You are ridiculed and scorned. But Jesus steps towards the outcasts, and dines with them. He formed and solidified relationships with them. Jesus came for the sick and the outcast.</p> <p>In what way are you an outsider? How does Jesus welcome you?</p>	Father, help me to show compassion to those outside my own community, as you have shown me compassion. Amen.

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8	And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"	Matthew 9:9-11	<p>It's easy to have a high opinion of yourself and low opinion of others. This kind of self-righteousness partly stems from a lack of self-reflection. Self-reflective people will have a more established knowledge of themselves, often knowing something of their own sin. Self-righteous people need Jesus and his mercy, not judgementalism.</p> <p>Are you self-righteous or self-reflective?</p>	Father, may your good news expose me for what I am and may your good news redeem me from judgementalism. Amen.
9	One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."	Luke 23:39-43	<p>I think most of us would want to say that we love justice. We want to see criminals serve time in prison, and we want those who inflict widespread bloodshed to face up to the consequences of their actions. But I do wonder whether we would love justice so much if we understood where we truly stood before the God who is just. We often just want help to get out of the mess without doing the time. This is akin to corruption. We may not have murdered someone, but without Christ, we are still enemies of God. If God directed his justice toward us, there is no way we could stand. We need to be sheltered from his justice, by standing in the grace Jesus bought for us in his death. On the cross, one criminal says to Jesus, "Save us!" The other one says, "I stuffed up and I need help". Only one of them receives the grace he so desperately needs.</p> <p>Do you want God to pour out his justice on you, or his grace?</p>	Father, help me to see my guilt and shame so that I can come to you in repentance and faith. Amen.

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10	And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.	Mark 10:21-22	<p>It’s no big secret that worldly possessions like money, clothes and property can get in the way of loving God properly. But we need to keep reminding ourselves that these can be real barriers to worshipping God. A good litmus test of whether we are worshipping our possessions instead of God is whether or not we’d give it all up to follow Jesus. It’s a big call for Jesus to make, but he is more valuable than all the possessions in the world.</p> <p>Would you give up everything to follow Jesus, if he asked you to?</p>	Father, help me love you more than anything else. Amen.
11	God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”	Luke 12:20-21	<p>There is something extremely satisfying with working hard, achieving a goal, and being rewarded for it. But we are deluding ourselves if we think that this is the meaning of life. Rewards expire, and even the products of our hard work can fall apart, over time. There is only one thing that lasts: the treasures we have in heaven.</p> <p>What will it mean for you to work hard, but not find meaning in earthly rewards?</p>	Lord, help me to store up treasures in heaven by having you as king over my life. Amen.
12	Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”	Luke 7:47-50	<p>We all fail. At work, at home, at school or university, in our communities, in friendships, and even in failing to meet our own expectations. The good news is that there is forgiveness for all the times we fail. Jesus’ blood covers all. The woman in this passage knew she was a failure and she needed help. She needed her failures to be wiped clean. And it was so, because Jesus declared it.</p> <p>Will you come to Jesus with your failures?</p>	Thank you Jesus that you accept me, especially when I fail and seek your forgiveness. Amen.

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13	“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.	Matthew 6:19-21	<p>You could be rich today and poor tomorrow. Or poor today and rich tomorrow. Either way, wealth and treasures will expire. There is only one thing that will not: treasure in heaven. Focus on Jesus and the grace he gives, and invest your heart in that.</p> <p>What do you need to cull in this life in order to cling to the next life?</p>	<p>Please Lord give me wisdom and insight into my life so that I know what to let go of in this world and live for the next. Amen.</p>
14	When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.	Mark 6:34	<p>Jesus saw the people with him and noticed that they were like sheep without a shepherd. Poor, hungry, oppressed and spiritually poor. Not only were they physically hungry, they were also spiritually hungry. Yet Jesus provided for them, showing that he can, and will provide for them one way or another. He is trustworthy and reliable – he is the good shepherd who looks after the poor, not only physically, but also spiritually.</p> <p>Will you turn to Jesus and ask him to look after you?</p>	<p>Help me Lord in my spiritual poverty! Help me to turn to you as my great shepherd. Amen.</p>