

# Journey to Easter



DailyLife  
Five Oaks Church

Week 4: March 5–11, 2016

# *Day 1*

*March 7*



IF JESUS WERE to come today, would you be ready?

We know for certain that Jesus is returning someday. We need to be ready for him, even though we don't know when that day is. In this parable that you'll be reading today, Jesus tells us that we need to be prepared for his return.

We might think we are ready for the return of Jesus, but there are many things that can destroy our readiness without our realizing it. When we indulge ourselves in sin, become too preoccupied with our worldly possessions, are lazy in prayer and reading our Bible, we dull our awareness and relationship with God, and we can become spiritually sleepy. We need to put our trust in God and live our lives for him and with him every day.



*Read | Luke 12:35-40*



*Reflect / Read and reflect on the following.*

Jesus could return today. What are you doing daily to be sure that you do not become spiritually sleepy, but are spiritually awake, dressed, and ready for his return at any moment?

## *Day 2*

*March 8*



THE GATE TO salvation is open and available to everyone, but the gate is narrow, requiring strong commitment and love for Christ.

Many people may know something about God and believe that he exists, but many don't have a relationship with him. Simply hearing stories and attending church does not get one eternal life. God does not care about our popularity, status, and wealth on this earth, and we cannot simply do good works to earn his favor. God cares about our commitment and love for him. Just putting our faith in Jesus' death and resurrection is not all God desires of us. He wants us to desire him, have a relationship with him, and diligently follow him, no matter what the earthly cost will be.



*Read | Luke 13:22-30*



*Reflect* / Read and reflect on the following.

Only our relationship with God will allow us entrance through the gate to salvation and God's kingdom. Reflect on your relationship with God. Are you on the inside or outside of his kingdom?

# Day 3

March 9



WE MUST CONSIDER the cost of following Jesus so that we won't give up and will hold strongly to our faith when following him becomes challenging and tough.

In today's reading, Jesus talks of the cost of discipleship. He encourages his followers to think through what it means to follow him and to go all in. Following Jesus means to submit totally to him. He doesn't want us to abandon our life with him because we didn't consider what the costs of commitment to him might be. Christians could be called to give up control of their money, time, careers, and maybe even separation from friends and family. Following Jesus and living a Christian life will not be easy and trouble free.



*Read / Luke 14:25-33*



*Reflect / Read and reflect on the following.*

What things in life are you struggling to give up to be all in for following Christ?

*Day 4*  
*March 10*



GOD'S LOVE FOR us is so deep that he seeks out each one of us and rejoices when we are found. Each and every one of us has value to God.

Today we read two parables: the parable of the lost coin and the parable of the lost sheep. These two parables show us that everyone has value to God. He will continually seek those who are lost, and when they are found, he will rejoice. Christians can help God in his pursuit for the lost by reflecting God's love on those who do not have a relationship with him.



*Read / Luke 15:4-10*





*Reflect / Read and reflect on the following.*

Reflect on how it feels knowing that God loves everyone, and even though he has many followers, everyone is important, and he wants everyone included in his kingdom. How are you helping God in his search for the lost?

# *Day 5*

*March 11*



JESUS WANTS HIS followers to be righteous stewards.

Everything we own is a gift from God; he is the owner of everything, and we are his stewards. We need to make wise choices with our money and be generous with our wealth, using it to help those in need and to help others find God.

How we use our money and worldly possessions is a test of our character and stewardship. God wants us to be faithful to him in the littlest details of our lives. If we are faithful in our day-to-day matters, such as finances, we are more likely to be faithful when it comes to the bigger things, such as our relationship with God and our responsibility in his kingdom.



*Read / Luke 16:1-12*



*Reflect / Read and reflect on the following.*

Money and our worldly possessions cannot come with us to heaven and have no value when it comes to our salvation. Reflect on your finances: Are you doing everything that you can to be a good steward of God's money?

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