

# **MINISTRY OF JESUS**

## **Self Study and Devotional Guide**

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You need a Bible, a notebook and a pen to do these devotions. Each lesson you will be asked to write some things down. These will help you learn and remember. They will be important for you to keep for future use and reference, and will be invaluable if you some day teach the life of Jesus.

If you want to send me your answers I would be glad to read them and offer comments or suggestions that might help you. If you don't send them to me that is fine as well. You can write me at [jerry@schmoyer.net](mailto:jerry@schmoyer.net). If you have any questions or prayer requests please feel free to write to me.

### **1. WORD & LIGHT**

READ John 1:1-18

Why was Jesus called the "Word"?

List some similarities between Jesus and a 'word.'

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Why was Jesus called the "Light"?

List some similarities between Jesus and 'light.'

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

In what specific areas do you need a 'word' from God or 'light' to guide you?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Pray for it NOW and quietly wait, being open for God to show you what you need now or later this day.

## **2. BAPTISM**

READ Luke 3:1-23

Be observant and read between the lines here. There is a LOT of information about John the Baptist here. What can you learn about him as a person?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8,
- 9.
- 10.

What was the purpose of John's baptism?

Why was Jesus baptized?

What do you remember most about your baptism?

Summarize your Christian life since you were baptized?

## **3. TEMPTATION**

READ Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was tempted 3 times. What were the temptations?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Satan had a subtle, deceitful trap hidden in each one or they wouldn't have been tempting to Christ. What was the trap, what made it very appealing to Christ?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are Satan's 3 main temptations that he uses against you?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why are THESE so effective against you (think carefully and prayerfully before you answer – this is VERY important)?

#### **4. WINE IN CANA**

READ John 1:19-2:12

Who were Jesus' first followers ? Write what you know about them in back of their names.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How many miracles do you see in this passage?

1.

2.

3.

What are you almost out of or empty of, like they were out of wine?

Does God want you to have it or not?

Support your answer.

If you feel he does then ask Him to fill you with it now!

## **5. TEMPLE CLEANSED**

Read John 2:13-22

Why did Jesus show His anger in this way? Why not pray for God to take care of it or have lightning strike them or something?

How do you know what Jesus did wasn't sin?

How can you tell when your anger is sin or not?

What 3 things bring out sinful anger in you the most & why?

1.

2.

3.

What should you get angry at (sinless righteous indignation) more but don't?

What, to you, is the key to eliminating sinful anger?

## **6. NICODEMUS**

READ John 2:23-3:21

Read this passage several times, very carefully. Observe the details. Write several principles, hints, ideas, etc. about how Jesus witnessed that you can apply to your life and witness.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Did Nicodemus accept Jesus as his Savior here? Support your answer.

Write what you remember most about when you accepted Jesus as Savior.

## **7. JUDEAN MINISTRY**

READ John 3:22-4:4

Compare and contrast John and Jesus. What is SIMILAR about them?

What is DIFFERENT between them?

John said Jesus must become greater and he less (v. 30). This applies to everyone. In what ways are you becoming less as Christ becomes greater to and in you?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

### **SAMARITAN WOMAN**

READ John 4:5-42

Compare and contrast Jesus' witnessing style here with that which He used with Nicodemus.  
What is SIMILAR in how He witnessed to each of them?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

What is different in how He witnessed to each?

NICODEMUS

SAMARITAN WOMAN

Specifically, what does this teach you about YOUR witnessing?

## **9. PREACHING IN GALILEE**

READ Luke 4:14-30

Why did the people reject Christ?

1.

2.

Why do we have a harder time influencing family and childhood friends than anyone else?

What can you do about this?

What relative do you have the HARDEST time witnessing to?



Why?

What can you do about this?

What can't you do about this?

Pray now for that person, that Jesus will bring someone into their life to witness for Him and that they WILL listen.

## **10. AUTHORITY OVER NATURE**

READ Luke 5:1-11

Why did Jesus have them fish at the wrong time and in the wrong place?

What was He trying to teach them?

Why did Peter react as he did in verse 8?

What is Christ showing you to do now that doesn't seem the best way to do it?

What should you do?

What lessons does all this teach you about catching PEOPLE (v. 11)?

## **11 AUTHORITY OVER SATAN**

READ Mark 1:21-34

How did the demon know who Jesus was?

Why did the demon tell everyone who Jesus was?

Why didn't Jesus want him to say who He was? (v. 25,34)

Why did Jesus heal Peter's mother-in-law? Think hard, there are several possibilities, don't just write the first thing that comes to mind.

Why did Jesus heal everyone who came to Him?

Why doesn't He heal everyone today who comes and asks? Meditate on this awhile and write a good answer.

## **12. AUTHORITY OVER DISEASE**

READ Mark 1:35-2:12

Specifically, what do you think Jesus prayed about (35)?

Why did Jesus want the healed leper to tell anyone (44)?

How do you know when He wants you to tell someone what He has done for you or to keep it quiet?

Why did Christ go ahead and forgive the crippled man's sins when he only wanted to be healed (5)?

Which do YOU appreciate more and thank God more for: physical healing or spiritual healing (forgiveness of sins) ?

What sins do you have that you'd like to be healed/forgiven of? Ask Him to do just that right now!

### **13. AUTHORITY OVER JUDAISM**

READ Matthew 9:9-17

What did Jesus mean by saying the sick, not the healthy need a doctor (v. 12)

Who do you go to with Jesus' message: those who know they have needs (the ill) or those who don't?

What difference does this make in the results we get?

List some people who need Doctor Jesus and know it. Pick one to contact (visit, call, letter) today.

What does Jesus mean when He says, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice" (v. 13) ?

What do YOU give Him more: inner love and mercy or mere outer works (going through the motions)?

What can you do about this today?

#### **14. AUTHORITY OVER TRADITIONS**

READ John 5:1-47

For what reasons did the Jews try to kill Jesus (18) ? Explain what they thought about each one.

1.

2.

Summarize Jesus' lecture to the religious rulers in a few sentences.

There are some gems in here that apply to YOU today and in the future. List some of them:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

## **15. AUTHORITY OVER DISCIPLES**

READ Matthew 12:15-21

Turn to Isaiah 42:1-2. Matthew quotes this. What is the context of Isaiah 42, what is Isaiah talking about?

How does this relate to what Jesus uses the verses to say?

What does verse 20 mean when it says that He won't break a bruised reed or snuff out a smoldering wick?

How does God treat you in those times?

What does this teach you about how you are to treat others when they go through similar times?

## **16. AUTHORITY OVER DAILY LIFE**

READ Matthew 5:1-8;1 at one setting

Now close your Bible and don't look at it. Think back on what you read. What strikes you most about Jesus' sermon?

Summarize the main idea Jesus was trying to get across in one sentence (10 words or less). Don't look in your Bible, just think back and try to find the main theme Jesus was communicating.

## **17. AUTHORITY OVER DEATH**

READ Luke 7:1-17

Why did Jesus heal the Centurion's servant?

Why did Jesus bring the widow's son back to life?

What was so special about the Centurion's faith?

What kind of faith "amazes" Jesus today (v. 9)?

When does your faith amaze Jesus?

What should you have faith in right now that will amaze Jesus?

Pray in faith about these things.

## **18. JOHN DEFENDED**

READ Matthew 11:2-30

Was John doubting that Jesus was the Messiah?

Why did John ask this question?

How special was John (v. 11a)?

How do we as believers today compare to John (v. 11b) ?

How does what Jesus said about Capernaum and Sodom apply to the United States today (v. 23-24) ?

What is the largest burden you are carrying today?

According to v. 28-30, what should you do with it?

Pray and do that right now!



## **19. THE SINFUL WOMAN**

READ Luke 7:36-8:3

What has God forgiven you for?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

What difference would it make to you today if He hadn't forgiven you?

How much do you appreciate His forgiveness?

What can you do today to show your appreciation? Be detailed and specific.

## **20. IS JESUS POSSESSESSED/**

READ Matthew 12:22-50

Jesus gave several proofs that He was NOT acting by Satan's power. What are they?

- 1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What is the sin against the Holy Spirit that Jesus says won't be forgiven (v. 32)?

Have you committed it?

What did Jesus mean by saying His disciples were His mother and brothers (v. 48-49)?

If you are Jesus' brother or sister, what privileges does this give you today?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

## **21. PARABLE OF THE SOWER**

READ Matthew 13:1-23

List the 4 kinds of ground and the person it represents:

| GROUND | KIND OF PERSON |
|--------|----------------|
| 1.     | 1.             |
| 2.     | 2.             |
| 3.     | 3.             |
| 4.     | 4.             |

Name several people that you know that represent each of these groups.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How should you pray for each of these 4 groups?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4.

Now take the rest of your time to pray for the people you named in the way you said they should be prayed for.

## **22. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN PARABLES**

READ: Matthew 13:24-53

Give each parable a name and summarize it:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Pick one and rewrite it in today's words & analogies.

What "new treasures" (v. 52) have you discovered in these parables today?

## **23. POWER OVER DEMONS**

READ: Mark 4:35-5:20

Why didn't Jesus prevent the storm so the disciples wouldn't be afraid?

What "storms" in your life does God allow?

Why does He allow them?

What should YOU do when you get afraid of them?

Why didn't the people in Gerasenes want Jesus around anymore (v. 17)?

Who does that to Jesus and believers today?

How should we feel and act when people let us know they don't really want us around them?

## **24. POWER OVER DISEASE**

READ: Mark 5:21-43

What miracles did Jesus do here?

In What ways are they similar?

In what ways are they different?

Jarius' daughter died because Jesus didn't get there but was detained. How do you think that made Jarius feel?

How do you feel when you are impatient, thinking Jesus isn't moving fast enough and it'll soon be too late?

What does this passage teach you to do when you feel that way?

Why does Jesus allow that to happen to Jarius and you?

Pray, turning all your impatience over to Him.

## **25. POWER OVER DISCIPLES**

READ: Matthew 9:35-11:1

Why did Jesus now say DON'T go to Gentiles (v. 5) but later command them to go to Gentiles (Mt. 28:19)?

These marching orders of Jesus' apply to us, too. Read carefully and write down all that applies to you today.

- 1.
- 2.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.

- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.

## **26. JOHN DIES**

READ: Mark 6:14-29

Why did God allow His faithful servant, John, to die this horrible way?

Who was responsible for John's death?

Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people? Think this through before answering and write an answer you can turn back to in hard times.

Why does God allow bad things to happen to YOU?

## **27. INSTRUCTION ABOUT FAITH**

READ: Matthew 14:13-36

God met their basic needs (food, safety, etc). What needs of yours has God met or is He now meeting?

- |     |     |
|-----|-----|
| 1.  | 11. |
| 2.  | 12. |
| 3.  | 13. |
| 4.  | 14. |
| 5.  | 15. |
| 6.  | 16. |
| 7.  | 17. |
| 8.  | 18. |
| 9.  | 19. |
| 10. | 20. |

What needs of yours do you think He can't or won't meet:

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |

- |    |     |
|----|-----|
| 3. | 8.  |
| 4. | 9.  |
| 5. | 10. |

## **28. INSTRUCTION ABOUT HIMSELF**

READ: John 6:22-71

Honestly search your own heart for awhile. You should serve God only out of love and devotion, but often it is done because of what we want Him to do for us in return(v. 26). What can you do about that?

In what way is Jesus like the manna?

In what ways is Jesus superior to manna?

Manna is nourishment provided by God. What nourishment do YOU need from Jesus today?

Pray and ask for it right now.

## **29. INSTRUCTION ABOUT LEGALISM**

READ: Mark 7:1-23

Why didn't Jesus keep the religious and social traditions of His day? Wouldn't that have helped Him have a better testimony to others so more would listen to Him?

What religious traditions of yours would Jesus break if He were alive today?

What social traditions of yours would Jesus break if He were alive today?

What traditions of yours do you think you should break or change?

Jesus says sin comes from within a person. What within you is giving you the most trouble lately (v. 15, 20-23)?

What should you do about it today?

## **30. INSTRUCTION ABOUT COMPASSION**

READ: Mark 7:24-8:9a

Why did Jesus try to hide (v. 24)?

Why did Jesus hesitate to heal a Gentile (v. 27)?

Why did Jesus use such a strange way to heal the man in verse 33?

What "strange ways" has Jesus used to bring things about in YOUR life?

Why does He use these kinds of strange ways?

Why did Jesus feed the hungry people (v. 2)?

What more can YOU do to show Jesus' compassion to others? Be specific and detailed.

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### **31. INSTRUCTION ABOUT UNBELIEF**

READ: Mark 8:9-26

What was Jesus trying to teach the disciples that they were having a hard time learning (v.21)?

What is He trying to teach YOU that YOU are having a hard time learning?

Why was the blind man only partly healed at first (23-25)?

Is there something God is healing you of gradually?

What is it?

Why doesn't He remove/correct it all at once? Think this through before answering, and choose your words carefully.

### **32. INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT MESSIAHSHIP**

READ: Matthew 16:13-28

Why weren't the disciples to tell people Jesus was the Messiah (v. 20)?



Was it an advantage or disadvantage to Jesus to know the details of His death (v. 21)?

Support your answer.

Did Peter know Satan was using him to tempt Jesus to sin (v. 22-23)?

What should you do about it?

What is YOUR cross (v. 24)?

Memorize verses 24-27 today. They are worth knowing by heart!

### **33. INSTRUCTION ABOUT HIS GLORY**

READ: Mark 9:2-32

Why couldn't the disciples bring victory to the demon possessed boy (v. 18)?

What should YOU do when you fail to have victory over Satan.

Why didn't the disciples understand what Jesus said in verses 31-32?

What should YOU do when you don't understand something Jesus seems to be telling you?

Peter was walking when he should have been listening (v. 7). Spend your prayer time today just listening, no talking or thinking about other things. Learn to listen to the Creator of the Universe!

### **34. INSTRUCTION ABOUT HUMILITY**

RED: Matthew 17:24-18:35

In what ways should you as a Christian be like a little child?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

What does it mean to YOU to "cut off your hand or foot" if it causes you to sin(8-9)?

Search your heart: is there anyone you need to forgive (v. 21-35)? List them and what you haven't truly forgiven them for.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Now pray about each one of these, forgiving them and asking God to help you drop all hate or bitterness.

### **35. JESUS REJECTED**

READ: John 7:2-52

Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem (v. 10) after saying He wouldn't go (v. 6-9)?

Why did Jesus wait until half way through the feast to teach in public (v. 14)?

What do you think He was doing during those days He didn't teach in public?

Where WAS Jesus talking about going in v. 33-36?

In what way is the Spirit within like a stream of living water (v. 38)?

What is stopping or slowing the flow of God's Spirit through you?

What do you need to do today to clean up the flow?

### **36. JESUS RESISTED**

READ: John 7:53-8:59

What do you think Jesus was writing in the sand (6-8\_)?

Why didn't anyone condemn the woman (10)?

What works of Abraham is Jesus talking about in v. 39?

What does Jesus say about Satan in v. 44?

- 1.

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Which of these does he most use against you and how?

Rewrite v. 51 in your own words.

How does this apply to YOU?

### **37. JESUS THE LIGHT**

READ: John 9:1-41

What difficulties have you faced that God allowed so He would be glorified (v. 3)?

Why did Jesus seek the man out the second time (v. 35)?

Do a character study of this man. List some strengths and weaknesses. Write a description of him.

Was he saved or not? Support your answer with facts.

### **38. JESUS THE SHEPHERD**

38. READ: John 10:1-21

Name as many similarities as you can between Jesus and a shepherd.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

- 9.
- 10.

Jesus says He came to give us life to the full (abundant life). Is your life full and abundant? What is missing most?

What would your life be like if you WEREN'T a believer? Answer in detail and be specific.

### **39. JESUS THE LIFE-GIVER**

What orders to the 72 apply to us as servants of Jesus today (v. 1-16)? List them and tell how they apply to YOU.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Rewrite the parable of the good Samaritan as Jesus would tell it in 20th Century America.

### **40. MARY & MARTHA**

READ: Luke 10:38-42

who do you know who is like Mary? How are they similar?

Who do you know who is like Martha? How are they similar?

Which are YOU most like? Why?

What is the "better" thing Mary chose(42)?

Do you always choose this?

Why or why not?

What keep you from it?

What can you do about that TODAY?

## **41. PRAYER**

READ: Luke 11:1-13

How do you know when you are being persistent in prayer (8) or when you are just impatiently nagging God out of lack of faith?

What is the difference between ask, seek, and knock (9-10)?

"ASK"

"SEEK"

"KNOCK"

If you truly believe God does answer prayer (v. 11-13), then spend extra time in prayer today. Write out a prayer of faith in assurance God WILL answer it. Ask, seek, and knock in faith.

## **42. RULERS REBUKED**

READ: Luke 11:14-54

What does verse 23 mean? Be specific, give examples.

What does "woe" mean?

Verses 24-26 are strong, serious verses. Are there any areas of your life which you committed to God at one time but which He isn't in control of now? Watch out! Satan will really move in and claim them again! Confess any sin and recommit them all to God before doing another thing!

Did you spend more time on your outer or inner cleanness today (v. 40)? Spend time NOW making sure you are cleaner inside than out.

What do you have to most watch out for to stay clean inside - where does most of your 'dirtiness' inside come from?

What can you do to prevent that today?

### **43. FAITHFULNESS**

READ: Luke 12:1-59

What is similar between yeast and hypocrisy (v. 1)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What does Jesus say in v. 1-2 that can be of help to you as you live for God today?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What does v. 22 to 34 say about worry that applies to YOUR worries? Be specific and detailed.

Are any of these things Jesus talked about slipping into your life:

HYPOCRISY (v. 1)

GREED (15)

WORRY (22)

Pray and kick out anything you find creeping in!

### **44. REJECTION & ACCEPTANCE**

READ: John 10:22-39

In what ways are believers similar to sheep?

How should we as sheep respond to our Shepherd (25-30)? Be specific.

What does this passage say about losing your salvation?

Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus?

Why weren't the Jews able to kill Jesus?

What evil can happen to you without God's approval?

#### **45. SINNERS SEEK THE SAVIOT**

READ: Luke 13:22-14:35

Do you hate your mate, children and parents as Jesus says you should (25-26)?

What more does Jesus expect of YOU in this regard?

Jesus says we are to "count the cost" before following Him (28-33). What has it cost you so far to follow Him?

What costs will be coming up as you continue to follow Him?

Have you given up "everything" to follow Him (v. 33)?

what is hardest for you to give up?

How can you have victory over this?

#### **46. THE SAVIOR SEEKS SINNERS**

READ: Luke 15:1-32

In the parable of the lost sheep, who is  
The sheep owner:

The sheep:

The friends and neighbors:

In the parable of the lost coin, who is

The woman:

The coin:

The friends:

In the parable of the prodigal son who is

The prodigal son:

The Father:

The older son:

what is Christ's main point in giving these 3 parables about lost things?

How does this apply to you today?

#### **47. PLAN AHEAD**

READ: Luke 16:1-31

What "little things" has God entrusted to you for you to be faithful (10-12)?

How are you doing faithfully being responsible in these areas?

Which of these do you like the LEAST and why?

Why does God want you to faithfully stick to it anyway?

What does v. 15 mean to you? Write it as if God were saying it to YOU?

#### **48. FAITH & HUMILITY**

READ: Luke 17:1-10

Are there any ways in which you lead others to sin (v.1), especially think of things with your mate or children?

What are they?

What should you do about them?



What is Jesus teaching in the parable in v. 7-10?

How does the attitude of the servant in v. 10 compare with your attitude as servant?

What should you do today to improve your attitude? Write several specific steps:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### **49. LAZARUS RAISED**

READ: John 11:1-54

Why did Jesus wait and let Lazarus die before going to help?

How do YOU handle it when it seems Christ waits too long to come to your rescue?

Why did Christ weep (35)?

What does this tell you about Him?

Do things today still make Him cry? If you said yes, name some of the things:

What was Caiaphas really prophesying about Christ (v. 50)?

#### **50. ENTERING THE KINGDOM**

READ: Luke 17:11-18:14

If the leper was already healed, what was "made well" by Christ in v. 19?

How do verses 22-29 compare to today? Give specific examples:

What does v. 32 mean?

What does v. 9-14 teach you about YOUR prayer life?

Write a prayer for you to pray based on the tax collector's prayer and what these verses say about prayer.

## **51. FINDING ETERNAL LIFE**

READ: Matthew 19:1-20:16

Why is it so hard for a rich person to get into heaven (19:23-24)?

What was Peter's motive behind 19:27?

What do you do when you have thoughts similar to this one of Peter's?

What does 20:1-15 teach about God?

What does 20:16 mean to you personally?

## **52. TRIP TO JERUSALEM**

READ: Luke 18:31-19:28

Why was the truth of Christ's coming death hidden from the disciples' understanding (v. 18, 34)?

The Psalmist says God will give us the desire of our heart, like He did with the blind man (40-42). What deep desires of yours has God already given you?

What deep desire hasn't He given you yet?

Why hasn't He, do you think?

What is the main desire of your heart NOW? Pray and ask Him for it right now.

If you have completed this study please let me know. I would enjoy knowing what your thought of it, what you learned, and what I can do to improve it. Thanks and may God continue to bless you as you serve Him. Jerry Schmoyer [jerry@schmoyer.net](mailto:jerry@schmoyer.net)