Read through the Scripture for each day & journal about the reading using each day’s question (Begin on the first day of Ash Wednesday):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **READ:**  Day 1  Luke 1:1-38 | **REFLECT:**  Zechariah and Mary both receive a word of promise from God. Zechariah’s first response is one of unbelief. He wanted “proof” of the angel’s declaration. Mary responds with belief. She agrees with God about the promise. Her heart and head both knew that “nothing is impossible with God”. Mary’s words to the angel confirm her allegiance to God and His plans and purpose. In essence, she was saying “All of me belongs to all of You God”. What promise has the Lord given to you? What does God want you to give “birth” to? Will you respond with a “YES” to Him? What does that look like in your life? | **RESPOND:** |
| Day 2  Luke 1:39-80 | Both Mary and Zechariah have hearts that burst forth with song. Write out a song to the Lord for what He has done for you. |  |
| Day 3  Luke 2:1-39 | Respond to this passage as if you were Joseph, Mary, a shepherd, an angel, Simeon, or Anna. Imagine you are reliving this event to another. How would you describe it (from the perspective of the one of the above)? What stands out to you? |  |
| Day 4  Luke 2:40-52 | In this chapter it is written twice that Mary treasured all these things in her heart (verses 19 & 51). What are the things you think she treasured or pondered in her heart? What are some things about Jesus that you treasure in your heart? |  |
| Day 5  Luke 3 | At Jesus’ baptism, His Father in heaven says of Him, “*This is my Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased*” (vs 22). Before Jesus does anything, His Father says “I love you because of who you are, not what you do for Me”. Jesus lived from the place of knowing the love of a Father. Spend a few minutes of quiet, asking the Father to release His love over your life for who you are, not what you can do for Him. |  |
| **READ:**  Day 6  Luke 4 | **REFLECT:**  The last thing Jesus has heard before being led into the desert was the words of His Father, “You are My Son….”. The enemy challenges the Word of the Lord spoken over Jesus and Satan challenges Jesus’ Sonship.  Principle: Knowing who you are breaks off who you aren’t. Your Heavenly Dad (Abba) calls you into destiny! Do you ***know*** you are a son/daughter?  Take a few minutes to go over the following. Talk with the Holy Spirit about the position of your heart. Ask Him to pour over you a Spirit of Adoption (Romans 8: ):  Orphan: doesn’t feel like they ever belong; no direction; convinced that they won’t be accepted; doesn’t know what it means to have a dad  Slave: think they belong because they do something; desperately need approval; talks about what they “do” and what they’ve “done”, not who they are becoming; they believe God is mad at them because they have failed; becomes jealous of others when the spotlight is on them  Son/Daughter: chosen one; gets to enjoy all the benefits of family; knows they are loved and accepted because of who they are not what they do; love is unconditional; serves because that’s what family does for one another; knows what it means to have a daddy | **RESPOND:** |
| Day 7  Luke 5 | Verses 1-11: To live a life of radical obedience to Jesus you have to 1) Do something that seems insignificant (rowing the boat back out to the deeper water), 2) Do something that’s inconvenient (Peter had completed his “shift” for the day). 3) You will be asked to be radically obedient even when it doesn’t make any sense in the natural. 4) We lay it all down for Jesus.  Does all of you belong to all of Him? |  |
| Day 8  Luke 6 | Jesus taught the great reverse: Last is first; Giving is receiving; Dying is living; Losing is finding; least is greatest; poor is rich; weakness is strength; serving is ruling. Jesus tells us we will be BLESSED living this way. This word is a pronouncement of who you are “to be approved” or “to find approval”. God sees all that you do in love for Him. Is that enough for you? |  |
| Day 9  Luke 7 | Verses 18-35 focus: John knew Jesus, he knew who he was when he was baptized Jesus in the Jordan. John is feeling disappointment and discouragement because his expectation was different than what he was experiencing as one in prison. His life isn’t turning out the way he anticipated. Jesus’ response to John’s question “Are You the one who was to come….” Is “Blessed is the man who is not offended by Me”. We need to make a decision of our will to be unoffended by Jesus.  We follow Jesus on His terms, not our own. Respond to Jesus. |  |
| **READ:**  Day 10  Luke 8:1-21 | **REFLECT:**  Verses 4-15: The seed is the Word of God; His Voice; Kingdom teaching which is planted in several different types of soil (hearts). Soil 1: **Hard heart**—this heart is dull; an unbelieving heart; closed ears. Soil 2: **Stony heart**—This heart has no root system; it is shallow, emotional & a self-focused listener. Soil 3: **Thorny heart**—The ground of this heart was plowed but weeds were not pulled out; this is a wandering mind and heart; seed is choked out by busyness (self-focus) and worries, riches & pleasures of this world; naturally minded, not spirit-minded. Soil 4: **Fruitful heart**—The ground of the heart is plowed and there is rich soil; the seed (Word) germinates in this heart; multiplies fruitfulness  Sowing the Word into our hearts gives us capacity to hear and receive more. Inquire of the Lord and wait for His response*: What do You want to say to me right now?* | **RESPOND:** |
| Day 11  Luke 8:22-56 | Verses 40-48. In the crowd was a desperate woman who had been affected with a flow of blood for 12 years. She had spent everything she had on potentials cures to no avail. As crowds were pressing in on Jesus, the woman in desperation had faith to know there was power in Jesus to heal. She reached out and touched Him. Instantly the flow of blood stopped. No one ever touches Jesus in faith without His knowing it and without receiving a blessing.  In what area of your life do you need to reach out and touch Jesus in faith? Grab the hem of his garment in faith and expect to receive a blessing. |  |
| Day 12  Luke 9:1-27 | Jesus asks the question of his disciples that every person on earth must answer: “Who do you say I am?” When Jesus first posed this question He asked who the crowds say he was. The response from the disciples was Elijah, one of the prophets. Then Jesus gets personal, “But what about you? Who do you say I am?” (verse 20). Peter’s immediate response is, **“The Christ of God”.** AW Tozer said, “All the problems of heaven & earth; though they were to confront us together and at once, would be nothing compared with that overwhelming problem of God: That He is; what He is like and what we as mortal beings must do about Him.”  Who is it that you say Jesus is? |  |
| **READ:**  Day 13  Luke 9:28-62 | **REFLECT:**  Verses 28-36. What was on the inside of Jesus was manifest on the outside. Read Revelation 1:13-18 to see the appearance of Jesus as John witnessed him. Verse 32 tells us that the disciples were very sleepy and it is when they became fully awake that they saw Jesus’ Glory.  Ask the Lord to wake you up from your slumber so you can see Jesus rightly. | **RESPOND:** |
| Day 14  Luke 10 | Verses 38-42. There is a difference in the heart attitude of Martha and Mary. Verse 40 tells us that Martha was “distracted” (which means ‘spinning around going nowhere’). This passage is not telling us that Martha’s preparations were wrong, but her heart motivation was wrong. She did not discern the moment that was upon her~ the visitation of the Savior. In Martha’s distraction, she was “upset about many things” (she was robbed of God’s manifest Presence in her midst). Mary “chose what is better and it will not be taken away from her” (verse 42). Mary made a choice of her will to do that which was to her advantage (sitting at the Lord’s feet). This time in His Presence will never be removed or cut out of her life.  Have you been robbed of a visitation of Jesus’ Presence in your life due to worry/distraction? |  |
| Day 15  Luke 11 | Verses 1-13. There are seasons of Divine Delay~ when breakthrough doesn’t come immediately. We push past, having confidence in the character of our Father. The Law of Perseverance is this~ DON’T QUIT! God opens the door because we keep asking. This is a Holy Boldness that honors the Lord. This is the same as Jacob wrestling (Genesis 32) when he says, “*I will not let you go until you bless me”*. God’s heart is moved by our perseverance.  Are you in a season of Divine Delay now? How do you see perseverance operating in your life? |  |
| Day 16  Luke 12 | Verses 22-34. The title of this section in my Bible is “Do Not Worry”. I pose these questions to you as you meditate on this section of Scripture:   1. In what ways is life more than food and the body more than clothes? 2. How does Jesus’ statement challenge my view of what life is all about? 3. According to this passage, what truths about God and about life make worrying foolish? 4. Where is my treasure? |  |
| **READ:**  Day 17  Luke 13 | **REFLECT:**  Jesus uses a parable of a mustard seed and the yeast because there is a similarity between them. The mustard seed is considered one of the smallest seed which was slightly larger than a grain of salt and yet it would grow into a large garden tree.  A pinch of yeast kneaded into dough was enough to work through the dough and cause the dough to rise during baking.  Therefore, the similarity between the mustard seed and the yeast is that something seemingly small can end up having a big effect on its surrounding.  How have you seen this parable in effect in your Spiritual life? | **RESPOND:** |
| Day 18  Luke 14:1-24 | Verses 7-14. As Jesus entered the Pharisee’s house, he noticed how the guests were maneuvering for the places of honor at the table. They were seeking prominence, position, and prestige. Jesus taught the people that it is better to be moved to a higher place of prominence than to grasp that place and later be removed from that place. Humility is rewarded~ it is the upside Kingdom principle. “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Verse 11).  What is the Holy Spirit saying to your heart as you meditate on that Scripture? Where would you be around the Pharisee’s table? |  |
| Day 19  Luke 14:25-35 | “*And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple*,” verse 27. Before becoming a disciple of Jesus, one must ask “is the cost worth it?” The western church has sold a lie that Jesus will make your life happy and give you abundance. When trouble comes, how will we respond?  Have you counted the cost? Have you picked up your cross to follow Jesus? |  |
| Day 20  Luke 15:1-10 | Luke 15 gives us the assurance that God enjoys us, even in our weakness. The way we view God’s heart toward us in our sin and weakness affects how we approach God.  What can you learn about the Father in the 2 parables (lost sheep & lost coin)? |  |
| Day 21  Luke 15:11-16 | What do you learn of the younger son in this passage?  Can you see yourself in his story?  His hunger increases desperation. How have you seen your hunger lead you to repentance? |  |
| **READ:**  Day 22  Luke 15:17-20 | **REFLECT:**  What do you learn of the son in this passage? What about the father? The father eagerly has his eyes on his son. 1) He saw (earnestly watching for his return), 2) He had compassion (tenderness, not anger), 3) He ran (undignified to reach his son), 4) He embraced him (he’s not disgusted with him), 5) He kissed his son (signified restoration of favor).  Respond to God. | **RESPOND:** |
| Day 23  Luke 15:21-24 | The father interrupts the son’s confession and restores him completely into the family. He 1) gave him the best robe (statement of honor), 2) ring on his finger (authority of the family name), 3) sandals on his feet (only family members wore sandals), 4) fattened calf (a calf was killed only for treasured guests to show honor), 5) celebrating (the father rejoiced and enjoyed the prodigal on the day that he repented, even though there would be many areas in his life that needed to be changed). God feels gladness over His returning “prodigals” and restores them to favor.  Respond to this truth. |  |
| Day 24  Luke 15:28-32 | The father pursues the older son. What is the son’s heart attitude? He does not know what it is to be a “son”.  Have you ever felt like an “older son”? Receive the sonship of a loving Father. Feel the Father place the robe of righteousness over you, place His family ring on your finger, and sandals on your feet. Hear His voice rejoicing over you. |  |
| Day 25  Luke 16:1-15 | Jesus said, “*So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches*?” (verse 11). All of the wealth of this world is unjust/unrighteous; this world runs on a tainted system; it is passing away. How we use our money shows who/what we trust. We have to look differently from the world in how we do everything, including how we use our money. Am I a friend of the coming Kingdom?  **Money is a heart issue**. Explain that statement. |  |
| Day 26  Luke 16: 16-31 | The choices of this life determine our eternal destiny, and once death has taken place, that destiny is fixed. In verses 19-31, Jesus shares an account of 2 lives (this is not a parable). The repentant heart enjoys the pleasures of the Kingdom of heaven forever and ever in relationship with Jesus and others who have known Jesus. Without repenting, life will be eternally separated from God.  What does this passage speak to you? |  |
| **READ:**  Day 27  Luke 17 | **REFLECT:**  Verses 11-19. 10 men who have the worst disease of their day: leprosy. It attacks the body leaving sores, missing fingers/toes, damaged limbs, a loss of sensation to the nerve endings, leading to more damage. Emotional pain would be worse for a leper~ they were removed from their family and community. No contact with children, spouse, friends, etc. Lepers tended to roam together, looking for food, begging from a distance, learning to yell in loud voices when they entered an area “Unclean, Unclean” so people could flee. What would that be like? Jesus in His mercy and love, speaks healing over these 10.  10 men encounter Jesus and are told to go show themselves to the priest (which was the law according to Moses). These 10 needed to begin walking in faith before the miracle happened. Surely as they went, bodies were healed. The priest was the one to give the clean bill of health through inspecting the body. To announce the person healed, he would be restored to his family, work, and community.  After receiving their miracle, 9 of the men went on their way. Only 1 man went to praise God! What a lesson for us. Keep thankful hearts for all that God does for us, in miracles of provision; healing; restoration of relationships; jobs; finances; etc.  What can you give God praise for today? | **RESPOND:** |
| Day 28  Luke 18:1-6 | What is the point that Jesus will using this parable for? Persevering is an expression of faith. Do not relent! |  |
| Day 29  Luke 18:7-8 | God loves it when we cry out to Him. He sees unrelenting prayer as an expression of faith. What is it that you are crying out for that you want God to bring justice to? |  |
| Day 30  Luke 18:9-17 | Jesus is looking for hearts that are humble and childlike. Is the attitude of your heart humble (like the tax collector) or haughty (like the Pharisee)? Can you receive the “sinners” in their cry of repentance? |  |
| Day 31  Luke 18:18-43 | Verses 18-30. The rich ruler was following the rules, but he wasn’t following Jesus. He did nothing wrong, but he did nothing right either. Jesus saw what was hindering the rich man from inheriting eternal life. “Jesus looked at him….” This look of Jesus will require breaking your heart away forever from allegiance to any other person or thing. What in your life could Jesus point to as something that is preventing you from fully receiving/embracing HIS Kingdom? |  |
| **READ:**  Day 32  Luke 19:1-27 | **REFLECT:**  The Parable of the 10 Minas: Jesus gives a story to adjust their mindset. The King gave each of the servants a seed. What we do in small things mirrors what we will do with big things. The promotion of servant to governor (verse 17) happens in process; daily stewardship; prepared them for the bigger things.  What has Jesus entrusted into your hands? | **RESPOND:** |
| Day 33  Luke 19:28-48 | This chapter ends with these words (verse 48), “…*because all the people hung on His words.”*  Do you hang on Jesus’ words? |  |
| Day 34  Luke 20 | Verses 1-8 of this chapter show the authorities questioning Jesus’ authority.  How do you see Jesus’ authority questioned in the culture today? |  |
| Day 35  Luke 21 | Jesus tells about the signs of the end of age. He gives us sign posts that increase as we get closer to the end of this age. Jesus’ challenge to us is to: 1) Be alert, 2) Be full of courage, & 3) Be prayerful.  What are the signs of the end of the age? |  |
| Day 36  Luke 22:1-38 | Verse 31. The “sifting” season: Jesus gave permission to have Peter sifted because he needed to have things sifted out of his life. There were things that had to go. (Jesus is always concerned about the heart).  Have you experienced a “sifting” season? When? What came from that season? |  |
| Day 37  Luke 22:39-71 | Verses 39-46. “John Piper writes, ‘God sent His Son to be the ‘wrath absorbing’ propitiation for us. As our substitute, Jesus ‘does not cancel the wrath, he absorbs it and divests it from us to himself’. Now do you see why blood squeezed out from Jesus’ pores when He prayed in the garden? He dreaded the CUP, but something far deeper than fear motivated Him. Love compelled Him to come. Edwards said, “Those great drops of blood that fell down to the ground were a manifestation of an ocean of love in Christ’s heart.” (p. 66) Undone by the Revelation of the Lamb by Sandy Davis Kirk  Ask the Lord to carve a “love wound” in your heart, as He has for you. |  |
| **Read:**  Day 38  Luke 23 | **Reflect:**  The crucifixion: “God has rolled all the sin of the ages down on the innocent Lamb, just as He had planned in the Godhead in the great covenant of redemption before the creation of the world. ‘*God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us’* (2 Cor. 5:21). *‘He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities” (Isa. 53:5). Indeed, He is ‘the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*’ (John 1:29).” (p. 73)  “God’s eternal judgment against sin mounts like a massive tsunami wave. It swells and crests. Then it breaks and bursts down over Jesus. Wave after wave after wave of God’s furious wrath slams down upon the Son of God. Watch now as this furnace of wrath opens over Jesus, and God casts Him, like a Passover Lamb, into the roaring flames. See His body hanging rigidly as the fire of heaven rushes down on the burnt offering. Watch the bush burn with fiery judgment as the eternal wrath tumbles down upon the Son. See the lake of fire empty out upon Him as hell crashes and burns against the Lamb. Look on as the Father baptizes His Son in wrath. It is just as the Scripture says, ‘All your waves and breakers have passed over me’ (Ps.42:7). ‘He was smitten and afflicted by God; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him,” (Isa.53:5). (p.75-76)  “Billy Graham explains, ‘Jesus’ suffering was not simply that of a man dying a cruel and painful death—terribe as that was. His greatest suffering was the spiritual agaony He endured as He took upon Himself the death and hell you and I deserves. Yet by allowing His Son to suffer the pangs of death and hell, God demonstrated how much He loves us.’ Do you see? This is all for you and me! He is taking the punishment we deserve for sin. Spurgeon said, ‘O Christian, pause here and reflect! Christ was punished in this way for you! O see that countenance so wrung with horror, those horrors gather there for you!’ How then can we neglect so great an act of our Savior?” (p.78-79)  Undone by the Revelation of the Lamb by Sandy Davis Kirk | **Respond:** |
| Day 39  Luke 24:1-12 | The reaction of the women and the disciples tells us that they were not anticipating the resurrection, even though Jesus had told them what was going to happen. Verse 9 says, “…then they remembered his words”.  What has been your response to the words of Jesus in your life? |  |
| **Read:**  Day 40  Luke 24:13-53 | **Reflect:**  “*Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us*?” (verse 32)   1. What has been the place been called in your life when you have been walking away from Jesus?  * The disciples were on the road to Emmaus * Moses was on the road to Midian * Jonah was on the road to Tarshish * Paul was on the road to Damascus * Peter was on the road to go fishing  1. Do you recall a time when Jesus walked along with you, but you didn’t recognize Him? 2. “….but we had hoped…” How have your expectations been misplaced or disappointed? 3. What is your hunger level? Jesus feeds the hungry. 4. Do you have a burning heart?   Ask the Lord to give you an increase of a burning heart. Where ever your heart hunger is, ask for more…. | **Respond:** |