



30 Day Devotional to Build Up the Body of Christ

Lord, use this devotional to inspire my thirst for righteousness and justice (Matthew 5:6 & Romans 14:17). Cause my understanding of your heart for the poor and oppressed to grow, increase my (our) perspective of the kingdom of God.

Proverbs 19:17 - He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.

Proverbs 28:27 - He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.

Proverbs 28:5—Evil men do not understand justice but those who seek the Lord understand it fully.

Prior to beginning this devotional, please obtain a notebook where you can write your observations and answers to the questions posed in this short devotional.

DAY 1: Psalm 127:1, Exodus 33:12-17, John 4: 21-26; Hebrews: 3:7-14 & 10:17,
Question: What are some of the foundational principals stated in these verses? What do you (we) want to become in light of these verses? What is the prayer on your heart generated from these verses? Write out *your* prayer in your journal.

DAY 2: Isaiah 58, Isaiah 61:1-11 and Luke 4:16-30
Question: From these passages, what is the mission of Jesus?

DAY 3: Deuteronomy 8, Proverbs 30: 7-9, Timothy 6:17-19, Hebrews 13:5
Question: What is the danger of having too much? What are we to ‘guard our hearts’ against? Are you “rich” or are you “poor”? What does it mean to ‘love money’?

DAY 4: Matthew 25:31-46, Matthew 10: 24, Hebrews 13:2-3, James 1:26-27, 3 John 1:5
Question: Who are the “least” in your life? How can you take a step towards serving “the least of these in your neighborhood”. Remember, to serve them can be an act of worshipping Jesus. Can you write the names of “the least” in your journal?

DAY 5: Job 29:1-17, Deuteronomy 27:19, Psalm 82:4 & 146:9, Proverbs 24:11,
Question: How did Job describe his life and what does he attribute his prosperity to? What observations can you record in your journal from the Psalms and Proverbs?

DAY 6: James 2:1-12
Question: What should be our attitude regarding the poor? Why do you believe the scripture says that God has “chosen the poor” to be rich in faith? List 4 observations from the James passage.

DAY 7: Exodus 22:21-27, Isaiah 1:10- 17, James 1:26, I Timothy 5:3-5.

Question: WHO are the most vulnerable among us and list 5 things they have in common.

DAY 8: Leviticus 25:35-38, Deuteronomy 14:28-29, & 15:7-11.

Question: List five thoughts these passages reveal about the poor.

DAY 9: Micah 6:1-8 and Matthew Chapter 23.

Question: What do these OT & NT verses have in common? List 2-3 practices Jesus warns against from Matthew 23.

DAY 10: Exodus 3:1 – 4: 14

Question: List 5 of the questions that Moses asks God? What is God's response to each of Moses' questions?

DAY 11 Exodus 6:1-9.

Question: What must we first recognize in people before we can expect them to respond to our message? Look up the word oppression in the dictionary. Write out a definition.

DAY 12 Proverbs 31:1-9, Proverb 24:11-12, Proverbs 14:31, Proverbs 13:23, Psalm 82:3-4

Question: What does it mean to be a voice for the voiceless? List a few observations from these passages.

DAY 13: Matthew 9:35-38.

Question: Who are the “multitudes” in Jesus is referring to here? Who are the multitudes in your life that God wants you to look upon with compassion? Who are the sheep without a shepherd in your community? In what ways would you consider them ‘harassed’? Who is ‘harassing them’ In what ways are they ‘helpless’?

DAY 14: Luke 14:12-14.

Question: What is “the party” in 21st century terms? Who are we not encouraged to invite to the party? Who should we invite to the party and why?

DAY 15: Matthew 9:9-13. Romans 12:16.

Question: Where is Jesus and what is he modeling to us in this passage? What does it mean to for us to ask Christ to be LORD of our social life?

DAY 16: Acts 2:44 & 4:32

Question: Why and how was the early church able to release their possessions to those in need is found in community. What will it take for us to do this in our community?

DAY 17: Ecclesiastes 5:8-10

Question: What is your definition of “oppressed”? Who are the ‘oppressed’ in the world, in the USA and in your city? Find a definition of “oppressed” and write it out. Do you know anyone personally who is or has been oppressed?

Day 18: II Corinthians 8:9

Question: Look up the word “poor” in your concordance and spend time reading the verses where this word is used both in the New and Old Testaments.

DAY 19: Act 20:35, Romans 14:1, Romans 15:1, I Thessalonians 5:14, I Corinthians 9:22, Psalm 41:1-3, Psalm 82:3-4, Proverbs 14:21.

Question: What is the common theme in these passages? What is the common expectation for the followers of Jesus here?

DAY 20: Proverbs 3:27-28, 10:15, 28:5.

Question: In what ways have we all been guilty of “withholding good”? How has our “wealth” damaged us from understanding how to help others? What is the sin of “omission”?

DAY 21: John 5:1-18

Question: What was wrong with the way this man was thinking? What did his long term disability do to his thinking? What did he really expect from Jesus? What can we learn from this passage? List 2-3 observations.

DAY 22: Luke 10:25-37

Question: Who is *your* neighbor? In what ways can you identify with the man beaten up on the side of the road? Have you ever been abused or abandoned in this way? Can you identify with the Priest or Levite? If so, how?

DAY 23: Matthew 5:43-48 & Luke 6:32-36.

Question: What kind of ‘perfection’ God is looking for in us? Do you have enemies? If so, why do you think you have enemies? Are they people who don’t like you because of your bad behavior or because you live out your convictions? What is Jesus saying about the kingdom here? List one observation you have.

DAY 24: Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9, John 12:1-8, Deuteronomy 15:1-11

Question: Does the Deuteronomy passage change the meaning of the gospel passage for you? What can we learn about God’s heart for the poor from these passages?

DAY 25: Luke 4:23-28

Why did Jesus give these examples/ stories after he declared His mission? Why do you think the people tried to throw him off the cliff?

DAY 26: Amos 5:11-14.

Question: Can we become too prosperous? What does that look like? What happens to us when we have too much? (See Deuteronomy 8:6-20)

DAY 27: Doing good works is the door thru which we can understand justice: Matthew 5:16, Acts 10:38, Psalm 34:14, Psalm 37:3, Luke 6:27, I Timothy 6:18, Titus 3:1, 8 & 14, Ephesians 2:10. What are the “good works” God has called you to do? List five examples

from your own life of good works you have done. Remember: Good Works are the 'outward expression' of the inward change!

DAY 28: Luke 6:25, Galatians 2:10, James 2:5. What is the comment theme in these verses? List three specific observations you gained from these scriptures.

DAY 29: Psalm 41:1-3. Question: Why does the Psalmist say that there is a blessing upon those who care for the needy?

DAY 30: Knowing God and knowing the suffering of others is inseparable. Question: Why do you think knowing God is so closely associated with 'defending the cause of the poor'? Jeremiah 22:16 & Philippians 3:10-11.

CONCLUSION: I Timothy 4:12. According to this verse, what should be your primary focus and why?



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